

Blackness.

ON SCREEN: July 3rd, 2042 Colorado

FADE IN:

AN ENDLESS SKY AT TWILIGHT

Lightning reaches into the clouds. Plains barren and vast with snow that stretch for miles into the horizon. Falling sleet.

MILES OF CURVED HIGHWAY

Two lanes, a lone truck speeding ahead. Creased mountains in the clouded distance.

DAVE (V.O.)

Hey Lily, it's me. I know I haven't written in a while and I'm sorry for that.

DILAPIDATED FARM HOUSE IN THE SNOWFALL

Abandoned rusted tractor in a field. Cut fences.

DAVE (V.O.)

How's Sue? I think about you both constantly. I've been working on getting better. It's hard. A few good days are manageable but hard to come by. I've learned that I have to get out of my own head and get busy for my own distraction.

ENDLESS HIGHWAYS

Pothole plagued asphalt. Woodlands in the distance and lakes in the valleys.

DAVE (V.O.)

Sometimes I feel that everything blends in. I miss us like we used to be. It won't be like this forever. Soon you will be in my arms and little Sue will be doing great and we will all be happy. Good things are worth fighting for Lily. Don't forget that. Think of us this way, David.

BARREN LONELY HIGHWAY

A lone pickup truck drives southeast into heavy wind.

ON SCREEN: COLORADO RIVER

WINDING FREEWAY

Hours later, the pickup truck drives on. We see DAVE(male, 40's) struggling at the wheel, trying to keep his eyes open.

INTERSTATE OUTSIDE OF TOWN

A herd of antelope are grazing. ISAAC(male, 50's) and SUE(female, early teens) and AMELIA(female, 50's) look out to see aspens covered in snow along with broken fences and abandoned tractors.

Sue peers at a patch of Delphinium surrounded by concrete bricks.

A VACANT DOWNTOWN

Passing through they see on either side of them stark businesses with red and black painted X's on the wood and on

the tile.

INT. INTERSTATE - TRUCK - DAY

Dave coughs holding the wheel and stubbornly rubs his red streaked eyes while turning the dial on the radio.

ON SCREEN: ARKANSAS RIVER

BRIGHTENED SKY

The sun rises over the distant mountain peaks.

WE SEE: Sue and Amelia look out the window to see lines of douglas firs and blue spruces.

INT. INTERSTATE - TRUCK - DAY

Their pickup is stocked with clothes, heating units, books, maps, emergency equipment and wool blankets.

Music stored on a flash-drive and PLAYING on the RADIO.

MILES OF OPEN ROAD

Endless cow pastures that form an eventual white void.

Dave drives them on.

LAKESIDE BEACH AT DUSK

Dave stops off at a lake and they set up camp with two tents on a sandy beach.

Dave and Isaac go fishing.

They roast cheap hot dogs on pieces of white bread over a wooden fire.

They sit at the beach and play cards under the moonlight as the frogs croak and the crickets chirr in the darkness.

Dave calms for the night and they sleep with blankets by the water warmed by fire.

EXT. INTERSTATE - TRUCK - DAY

Headed south Sue watches as they pass by a trailing group of survivors with their bent thumbs in the air.

These people drag along worn suitcases: the entirety of their possessions in their hands.

WE SEE: the survivors start to run at the vehicle for a ways until stopping and Sue sees one of them fall down from the passenger side mirror.

WE SEE: Dave continues on, struggling to think of a safe location. He thinks of his father and remembers a place.

Dave can't help but look back at them amid the growing snow building alongside the roads.

EXT. INTERSTATE - TRUCK - DAY

ON SCREEN: New Mexico

A HILLTOP OVERLOOKING THE SNOW-COVERED LAND ENTIRE

Sue studies for a moment the desolate plains blasted by wind holding sprouts of jagged cacti and then the crested mountains off to the northwest.

A lone station sits empty.

Dave isn't sure. A suspicious zero vehicles.

They have been parked sitting on atop a hill off the road a half-mile from the store waiting.

ISSAC

What are we needing again?

DAVE

I told you we need fuel... I don't feel comfortable waitin for the next one. Do you see anyone?

ISAAC

I don't.

DAVE

Okay, does everyone remember the plan?

ISAAC

I got it.

AMELIA

Yep

DAVE

We are gonna pull straight up to the pump closest to the door. Everyone is gonna stay and guard the truck while I get us gas and then we are gonna jet out of here.

SUE

I said I got it, dad.

DAVE

You remember what I said about that?

ISSAC

Yes.

DAVE

Okay.

Dave retrieves his revolver from under the floorboard and stows it in his jeans pocket, shifting the truck in gear.

AN ABANDONED FUEL STATION STANDS IN A BARREN SNOWY VALLEY

Dave pulls in and parks at the pump closest to the entrance. The station has some dust on the walls and the lights on top of the roof are flickering in and out.

WE SEE: the card service isn't working and the pump handles, although worn, are in decent shape and without dust.

This only confuses Dave further as he leaps out of the truck and rushes into the store.

INT. FUELING STATION - DAY

He opens the door sending a TONE RINGING OUT in the store.

The checkered tile floors look like they've been cleaned in the last day or so and Dave looks to the CLERK (Male, dirt on his face, 30's) standing at the end of the counter.

The man walks over to the cash register.

DAVE

I need a hundred on pump two, please.

CLERK

Anything else for you?

Dave goes to leave but remembers they could use some supplies.

DAVE

Do you have any gallon jugs of water?
Beef jerky?

CLERK

Yea. Right here.

The man walks around the counter and looks in the locked shelves under the coffee makers.

Sue watches her dad through the glass windows of the store.

A thin woman standing against the far wall of the store leans over before she BOLTS towards the truck.

She hits up against the driver's side door before opening it and that is when she is at once propelled away on her back in the parking lot.

Dave hears the shot, pulls out his revolver and sprints out past the doors of the store.

Into the parking lot he sees a bloodied woman lying on the asphalt almost blown into two pieces, her bottom jaw is WE SEE: broken and hanging there.

WE SEE: Dave looks up to find Isaac clutching a shotgun and quivering in his seat.

Sue is holding unto Amelia in the backseat. Dave checks behind him before stepping over the woman and he leans into the truck taking the gun away from Isaac.

DAVE

It's okay. It's okay... give me one second. I gotta bring back some supplies and then we are getting outta here, alright.

ISAAC

What?

SUE

No daddy, c'mon!

Dave runs into the store where the clerk has two gallon jugs of water and several packets of jerky sitting up on the counter.

Dave walks out the door as Isaac is gassing up the truck.

Everyone suddenly hears a sharp WAILING coming from the far wall of the store and they eye each other for a moment.

Dave loads the water and jerky into the back and Isaac finishes with the fuel until the lever falls through with a CLICKING and they load up speeding away, sending bloody snow in the air.

WINDING ASPHALT IN THE SNOWFALL

A fading light draws closed in the snowy valleys.

At dawn they drive west along I-20

They follow endless voids covered in snowfall.

ON SCREEN: TWO YEARS SINCE THE ERUPTIONS.

ON SCREEN: HIGHWAY 16, TEXAS.

RUBBLE OF INTERSTATE

Truck drives down the road.

WE SEE: Everyone staring out the windows.

WE SEE: Plains riddled with cacti intertwined with thorny mesquite clusters and the bloodied bony remains of abandoned cattle, feasted on by wild boar and wolves.

Faded white dashes along the road and Dave can't keep his eyes open. What's left of the light is quickly falling, turning into dusk and his hands start to twitch.

A GRAVEL ROAD TURNS INTO A DARK FOREST

Dave leads them on as their headlights reveal endless pastures with standing oaks and pines.

A CLEARING ENCIRCLED BY OAKS AND A FLOWING RIVER

The clearing is nearly flat, holding pockets of buffalo grass while a dilapidated barn sits perched up against a large oak tree.

Pastures filled with bits and shards of rusted metal from old tractors buried in the grass and red clay.

EARLY MORNING FOG

Dave and Isaac take turns using the ax to cut bundles of firewood.

Amelia and Sue organize the supplies and work by parking their vehicles together.

Taking off the inside doors, they tie a large tarp above and down the bottom so that it remains tight against the grass floor, letting in little wind.

ON SCREEN: First two weeks, November.

Bitter cold and the fire keeps going out.

Dave holds Sue covered in blankets.

ROARING CAMPFIRE IN THE DARKNESS

They sit huddled together.

The sky turns bright colors that none of them have ever before witnessed.

LARGE TRAIL OF AN EXTENDING HORIZON

Clouds hum across the sky.

INSIDE OF THEIR LARGE TENT

WE SEE: Sue cheer when they sit down in their tent eating from collected snickers bars, oatmeal bars, apples and bags of chips, drinking from rationed amounts of water.

BRIGHT AFTERNOONS IN THE FRONT YARD AMID THE FIELDS

Dave and Isaac work cutting and shaping wood, tightening what screws they have against the elements like panels of cut oak coming together with everyone helping to assemble.

Amelia and Sue use knives and the ax when free to cut leading patterns into the soil for a garden and WE SEE: the planting of cabbage, potatoes, soy beans, carrots, garlic, mushrooms, onions and eggplant.

BLUES SKIES RIDDLED WITH SPECS OF CLOUDS

Trees without leaves or color lay bare across the pastures and forest.

AS THE BLEEDING SUN GOES DOWN

Dave stands out in the field viewing the earth to himself as the crickets chirr in the growing darkness.

HUDDLED AROUND THE FIRE

They sing songs with Dave's old guitar.

Sue's eyes sparkle in the starlight as the flames twitch while they eat chicken noodle soup out of tin cans with plastic cutlery.

Sue hears the rustling of dried leaves as a mature doe runs away in the dark and she turns to see her father eyeing it.

ON SCREEN: 23rd Day.

The exterior and interior boards are in place along the walls and forming mud used of wet clay is left to dry.

A GROWING CABIN IN THE WORKED FIELD AMID THE FOREST BEYOND

Dave and Isaac work building the roof from more panels of cut wood and cover them with dried limbs that they tie together with string.

DAVE'S BEDSIDE

Dave lays awake at night thinking about Lily.

He ponders until his mind drifts and he dreams of new and fast, creations of his own making.

A DREAM

The boy looks out at the field of light and tanned color, seeing the coming dark and sits by himself.

He gets up suddenly and runs as fast as he can toward the sphere flecked sky and yells into the light that escapes off in the distance, that vast wilderness.

FADE TO BLACK.

Blackness.

ON SCREEN: August, 2037 Comanche County, Texas.

FADE IN:

THE CABIN STANDS IN THE MORNING LIGHT

Billowing puffs of mesquite smoke come from a cabin dispersing out among the surrounding oaks and pines. Aside the cabin STANDS a small BARN.

SUNLIGHT STIFLED BY FREEZING FOG

Dawn appears as a doe leaves her bedded fawn for some water from the flowing stream nearby.

A TOWN is SEEN in the distance.

A SMALL TOWN LEFT IN RUIN

Abandoned vehicles everywhere.

Darting behind a deserted truck we see SUE(20's)dressed in camouflaged winter clothing as she notices some men guarding the entrance ahead of her.

Their breath is seen as they wipe grease from their mouths pulling tender meat from a cooked pheasant and she sits motionless behind the truck.

The men sit around a large fire equipped with large caliber revolvers when a squirrel notices Sue and bolts up a tree.

One of them pulls his revolver and starts walking over to investigate.

Sue adjusts and quietly circles around escaping into the thickets away from the village without them catching a view.

EXT. TOWN LIMITS - DAY

Snow covered ground. A small camp amongst an abandoned town. Darting behind a deserted truck, SUE(early-20's) hides and waits. She is older and has red hair.

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

STRANGER

Come here girl...where are ya?

STRANGER #2

We know you are here somewhere.

STRANGER

Aw hell...she done run off.

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

EXT. WOODLANDS - DAY

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

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

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Thorny vines and snow.

Sue finally makes it to a clearing.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - DAY

ON SCREEN: TEXAS. TEN YEARS LATER.

WE SEE: a rural clearing.

Sue makes her way out, running through the thickets.

A TWO STORY WOODEN CABIN TUCKED AWAY

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

A small garden with three people working on it.

Dave sees Sue and smiles. Dave's face is grizzled and he has facial hair. Equally covered up, Isaac and Amelia wave hello.

Isaac has gray hair and a large vest. Amelia has darker hair and she wears a hoodie.

ISAAC

Hello!

SUE

Hey guys!

DAVE

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

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

EXT. WOODEN HOUSE (FRONT YARD) - DAY

The house is made from scrap materials with a timber roof.

A medium-sized generator runs with a line toward the house.

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

DAVE

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

SUE

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

DAVE

How many?

SUE

Just two...

DAVE

And they didn't see you?

SUE

No.

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

Sue walks past Issac and Amelia's room.

SUE (CONT'D)

Hey guys, how was today?

AMELIA

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

SUE

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

AMELIA

Shit. Why not you?

ISSAC

Yes Sue! I can't stand another night of burnt baked potatoes.

SUE

Okay fine.

AMELIA

Thank you Sue! You are the best.

SUE

Yea...yea...

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A dirtied sink.

MUSIC is playing over a RADIO on the counter.

Sue walks in and starts cleaning up the dishes.

INT. SUE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bob Dylan and Freddie Mercury posters on the walls.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Isaac is on the couch reading his worn bible.

Dave is seated in his chair reading from a novel. The fireplace is burning.

The radio sits on the table spouting weather reports.

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

Sue walks in.

ISAAC

Morning Sue.

SUE

Morning.

DAVE

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

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

SUE

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

ISAAC

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

DAVE

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

ISAAC

It's mainly for the garden.

Issac walks back to his bedroom.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Yea I bet.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Roaring fireplace. Radio on table.

Dave sits in his chair with blankets and a drink.

Looking at a photo of Lily, he listens to OLDIES MUSIC coming
out of the small radio on the table.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Morning time. Wind is heard outside.

Sue gets up before heading into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Pans are scattered about. Food is on the floor.

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

SUE

Jesus...

Dave rises up, his fingers run across a cut on his eyebrow,
the clotted blood.

He tries to look at Sue.

DAVE

I'm sorry kid, are you alright?

Isaac and Amelia come running into the room in a panic.

ISAAC

Is everything... David?

DAVE

I'm fine. Please, Sue are you okay?

SUE

Yes, dad.

Sue and Isaac attempt to help him up but he shoves them.

He manages his way down on the couch.

Sue goes to the kitchen to get him some water.

AMELIA

You sure you're alright?

DAVE

I'm fine, okay? I appreciate everyone's infinite concern. Goddamn, just leave me be.

Amelia shakes her head.

She and Isaac walk back to bed.

Dave reaches for the radio and turns it on.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

AMELIA

Can you believe that man?

She closes the door behind them.

AMELIA

You need to find his stash and---

ISAAC

And do what? We need to band together right now, not start fights. Just let him be.

AMELIA

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

ISAAC

We all need to be helping each other right now, Amelia. You want to go back to living how we were before?

AMELIA

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

ISAAC

No, not yet.

AMELIA

I don't want Sue to have to see that kind of thing anymore.

ISAAC

Give him a break. We chose to band together, we can't renege on our pact when things get tough.

AMELIA

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

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dave sits in his chair drinking warm water while Sue starts setting the table.

DAVE

Is the food ready?

Sue is in the kitchen.

SUE

Yea, get on over here. Breakfast is ready.

She places distinct red napkins around the table and everyone gathers sitting down.

The radio is still playing in the background.

SUE

So I guess we better dig in for winter, huh?

DAVE

What do you mean?

SUE

Well we gotta get the house fixed. Help you up off the floor.

DAVE

Sue.

SUE

Make breakfast every day and screw
(MORE)

SUE (CONT'D)
around outside as long as we can.

DAVE

Please Sue.

SUE

Until we can't anymore and then we are
stuck here! No place to go.

DAVE

Not today. Please.

SUE

Yea, not today. Not ever.

DAVE

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

SUE

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

DAVE

I'm doing the best that I can.

SUE

Yea, you're doing great dad. Real
good.

DAVE

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

SUE

Don't tempt me!

She gets up abruptly from the table.

DAVE

Sue, please come back?

Sue scrapes her food in the leftover bin and heads off to her room.

DAVE

Sue?

SUE

I don't know what to do anymore!

She slams the door shut.

Isaac and Amelia eat quietly.

Dave tries to eat but eventually succumbs, dropping his fork. He looks down on the plate and buries his face in his hands.

ISAAC

She will be alright. David? She just needs some room to run is all.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

Of course you do.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

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

AMELIA

Maybe you could try not waking up
piss-drunk in the floor? Sue doesn't
need to be worrying about you.

ISAAC

Please.

AMELIA

No, that young women doesn't need that
in her life. She has enough as it is.

DAVE

I'm doing the best that I can here.

ISAAC

We know that.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

David, that's not what we mean.

DAVE

If you two happen to find my parenting
skills to be less than satisfying,
then please help me... help me.

AMELIA

We are trying Dave... we are.

DAVE

I don't know what I should do. I've
gotten us this far but now what? I
can't stand the waiting.

AMELIA

Hey listen to me. It's going to be okay. We are all in this together.

AN ENDLESS SKY AT DAWN

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The next morning Dave is eating his breakfast of cooked mushrooms and crackers as he listens to the radio.

Isaac puts his face mask on walking up to the front door with a slight nod to Dave on his way out.

Sue starts out but Dave sees her.

DAVE

Do you really need to go outside right now? Wait until later in the day when it calms down a little bit.

SUE

I'm alright. I'm checking on the animals real quick.

DAVE

Be back no later than ten minutes, okay?

EXT. WOODEN HOUSE (FRONT YARD) - DAY

She walks outside and heavy snow blurs her vision as she makes her way across the field.

She looks out across and spots the small barn with red stripes.

Sue treks out to join Isaac.

She peers out at the quilt of white that fits snug around the bent spears and as she gazes out at the whitened void she spots a figure in the distance.

The snow flurries blur her view.

She is certain that something is out there until she SEES SOMETHING and runs back home.

At the crutch of the door she looks out again past the field and out at the treeline.

The figure is moving in closer towards them.

She pounds violently on the door.

SUE

Man approaching! Man approaching!

DAVE

What?

Isaac retreats to the house, walking inside.

With the door flung open and snow blowing into the house, Dave levels his rifle at the figure, peering through the scope.

He lowers the rifle back down.

DAVE

It's a couple loners heading this way.
They've surely seen enough to come
wanting in.

SUE

Are we going to let them?

ISAAC

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

DAVE

We don't have the space or the
supplies.

Amelia and Isaac look at each other and then back at David.

AMELIA

So what? You want to just leave em out
there like that?

The two men are sixty yards out.

Dave lowers his rifle.

DAVE

I don't want... but we have to. We
know nothing about these people.

ISAAC

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

DAVE

Yes I am!

Dave slams the door closed and locks the final bolt.

Sue looks through the peephole and doesn't see anything but white flakes trickling down to the ground.

She turns back to see Amelia, Isaac and her father.

AMELIA

Dave, they can stay in our room okay?

ISAAC

Please just wait a minute.

DAVE

I say they can't come in.

Sue leans upward and places her eye around the little lens and focuses, seeing TWO LEERING FACES at the door and she jumps back SCREAMING.

They all three turn their attention to Sue.

A strange voice bellows.

STRANGER

Hey you in there. Can we please come in?

Everyone remains still, looking to each other as the voice comes again.

STRANGER

Please, its cold! I've heard you in there, please let us in!

Dave gets up and heads to the door but doesn't open it.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

Just let them in David, goddammit!

The two of them eye each other.

They stand locked like fierce statues as the two men outside start YELLING and POUNDING on the wooden door.

SUE

Maybe we should let them in, dad.

DAVE

If we let them in we can kiss all of this goodbye in a matter of weeks or less! Is that what you want?

Dave goes back to the door.

DAVE

Son of a bitch... you aren't welcome.
Now leave!

The pounding stops and so do the voices.

Silence.

Sue goes to speak when gunfire cracks past her face.

Amelia, Isaac and Sue dive for cover.

Hot lead pierces through Dave's leg and he scrambles away from the door hollering in pain.

Sue screams as pistol fire burst through the walls.

The door is kicked open with two men falling in the doorway.

The man with the pistol goes to shoot again, pointing and aiming his gun at Amelia but the clip clicks empty just as she reaches for behind the couch and raises a small snub-nosed .38

Amelia points the barrel squeezing the trigger with a deafening blast that punches through the stranger's throat spewing dark liquid across the wooden floor.

He falls clutching himself with gargling sounds that stick in Sue's ears.

The other stranger eyes his dying friend - shrieking in horror before darting back outside into the cold.

Dave manages to limp his way to the front door and takes a short moment looking through the scope before the crack of gunfire sounds again and the runaway falls dead in the snow powder.

Sue is in shock while Amelia disposes of her pistol on the couch like someone letting loose of a slimy snail.

Dave sinks to the floor with trembling hands from adrenaline and looks down when feeling the stickiness, seeing that his leg is wet - bleeding profusely. The others see it too.

DAVE

Yea, let's let 'em in, huh?. We see how that would have went.

ISAAC

You crazy bastard! What did you do?

DAVE

I saved our lives! You want to chastise me or help grab something to tie this off with?

Isaac goes to the kitchen rummaging for some long rags as Sue appears out of her room with some bandages and peroxide.

She sits down beside her father laying out everything with precision and careful timing.

Sue looks at Amelia who is still in shock.

SUE

Hey! Snap out of it.

Isaac returns with the rags and starts to tie his leg off with force and Dave cries out in pain.

Isaac goes for the peroxide but Sue swats his hand away, grabbing the bottle herself and administers just enough liquid.

It foams up cleaning the wound, causing Dave to grit his teeth and pound at the floor with his fist.

DAVE

Jesus Christ! I believe I can feel that. Ike, man, can ya hand me the tequila?

SUE

No! Not yet. Your leg will never stop bleeding if you start that up. You have to wait a while until we can get this under control.

Dave groans while his daughter continues her work on his leg.

Amelia gets up to go into her room.

ISAAC

Amelia?

Isaac follows after her.

Sue stays wrapping his leg and bites at the roll of tape to seal before looking behind her.

SUE

Do you think she's gonna be alright?

DAVE

Not sure. But I know this isn't near over. It isn't.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - MORNING

MALLARDS FLY OVERHEAD

RED SUN RISES

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sue walks in finding her father asleep in his chair and tiptoes over towards him to check his leg.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

She begins washing four potatoes and starts chopping.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dave wakes in his chair and turns on the radio.

Sue abandons her project and grabs a fresh bandage.

She enters nurse mode again and goes to work.

SUE

Morning. How ya feel?

DAVE

I'm swell.

SUE

Are ya hungry? I'm going to make a big
breakfast and we can all eat together.
I think we need that right now.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Isaac and Amelia lay in bed holding each other for warmth and
for love and he's trying to get her to talk to him.

She is shivering no matter how much or how long he holds her.

They hear music going in the kitchen and he coaxes her out of
bed.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Isaac and Amelia walk into the kitchen to find Sue concentrating hard on a cast-iron pan down on the fire-ring in front of her.

Dave is in his chair.

AMELIA

Hello.

SUE

Hey Mel, I decided we should eat something and sit together. Have some conversation.

ISAAC

That sounds fine.

Sue pours the over-medium eggs atop its desired position on the plate.

SUE

Alright people, let's come eat.

ISAAC

We're already here.

DAVE

Don't worry about me. I'll hobble over there eventually. Save me some at least.

Sue helps her father over to the table while Amelia is sat next to Isaac.

Sue has her dad in place now and starts preparing her plate and the music has been turned down.

SUE

So are we going to talk about what happened yesterday?

ISAAC

There is not much to talk about. We killed two people.

DAVE

After they started shooting at us.

ISAAC

Oh no. We both know they were dead long before they pulled their trigger. They did what they had to because we wouldn't let them in.

SUE

So we shouldn't have a say at all? We should just open our doors to everyone that happens upon our place? That doesn't make sense.

AMELIA

And this makes sense? This, right here, makes sense? Sue, come on.

ISAAC

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

DAVE

We have firewood to keep us through the winter.

AMELIA

What if they had some news of the world, David?

DAVE

We know they had a gun right? We know they were prepared to use it too.

AMELIA

We didn't know shit about them. They were freezing to death and wanted inside a warm place with other people. We denied them entry and they shot you for it.

DAVE

I happen to remember you shooting one of them in response. Am I right? Please trust me that there would have been zero good in letting them in. People cannot be trusted. I made that mistake before. Everyone is out to survive and that includes us. We built this place for us. For our size and for our consumption level. There is no room for anyone else. I'm sorry it has to be that way but I didn't make these rules. I'm just trying to play the game in such a way that I keep us alive for as long as possible.

A beat.

ISAAC

What happens when more people find this place, David?

DAVE

I worry every day. We aren't prepared and we don't have enough ammo to keep

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)
a group of any size off of us.

SUE

So what should we do?

Dave peers at the window.

DAVE

Prepare as best we can and pray.

WIND AND RAIN OVER DISTANT PASTURES

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

Cold wind comes through the forest cutting past hanging limbs that look like bent spears in the dark.

Dawn suddenly appears and comes quick revealing the earth grown tall with snow that blinds in the light.

Squirrels and rabbits scurry along the floor of the earth, picking up fallen seeds and emerging herbs.

EXT. WOODEN HOUSE (FRONT YARD) - NIGHT

Stars sparkle in the night that evening as Isaac and Sue are outside in the barn feeding the livestock and bringing in firewood.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dave and Amelia are inside the cabin working on the wall, filling in empty space with mud.

DAVE

Fill it in until you don't feel any
air coming through. Keep packing away.

AMELIA

C'mere and help me hold this.

She uses a pocket knife to clear away the excess.

Dave hobbles to his chair when the front door opens:

Isaac and Sue come in shivering.

They both promptly close back the door.

DAVE

Well isn't it nice to see y'all back
safe and sound. How's the weather?

ISAAC

Piss off.

He goes to his room.

Sue sees a glass of whiskey by her father's chair.

SUE

What is that?

DAVE

This is bourbon. Sadly, we're out of
the tequila.

SUE

I told you to wait!

DAVE

It's okay. My leg is feeling better.
Look here... Amelia has fixed the hole
in the wall. That will help keep the
temp in here.

Sue rushes off to her room as Isaac saunters back in his pajamas.

Dave sits in his chair and the fire burns while the RADIO PLAYS.

Isaac walks over to the couch and sits down with a blanket.

DAVE

How about a game of chess?

ISAAC

That would be fine.

Dave hobbles over to the small desk by the door and grabs a wooden box.

He unfolds the board that lets out all of the pieces unto the table and Isaac eagerly starts the game.

The fire is crackling behind them as they set up the board and Isaac moves first: moving his pawn forward.

ISAAC

I've been reading on something.

DAVE

Of course you have. Which quote today?

ISAAC

The second woe is past; and behold,
the third woe cometh quickly.
Revelations 11:14.

Dave grabs a pawn on the corner of the board and moves it forward two spots.

DAVE

The end comes quickly for us all,
Isaac.

ISAAC

Is that right?

DAVE

It says that we won't know the date of
His return. Says it right there.

ISAAC

Yes, but it says that we will know the
season, and, it might as well be upon
us.

DAVE

Oh yea?

ISAAC

What Revelations tells us is that..

DAVE

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

Dave takes one of his knights now and places it towards the right hand side of the board.

Isaac, in turn, moves the pawn that frees up his queen.

ISAAC

I guess, some things are out of our control.

DAVE

Well hold on now, Isaac, I thought things were under control?

ISAAC

What do you mean?

DAVE

According to you, things are well under control. We just have to understand the actions that were taken.

ISAAC

I don't presume to understand the actions that He takes. I just try to learn from them.

DAVE

Well I get tired of learning.

ISAAC

What?

DAVE

I find myself starting to get bored of all this, Isaac.

ISAAC

How can you say that? You have a daughter?

DAVE

I love Sue... but I can't imagine what's out there. What is waiting for us? I just want to face it and be done.

Dave moves his knight to the right side suddenly taking a pawn from Isaac and they exchange glances.

ISAAC

You dirty bastard.

Isaac rises up and walks over to the dish strainer where he picks up a small glass and sits back down beside his roommate.

ISAAC

I wouldn't mind a pour.

Dave smiles and gladly pours a swill of spirits that swirl until filling the glass.

Isaac takes a whiff causing a sort of snort that Dave finds humorous.

They sit and stare at the board listening to the wind rushing, the stirring flames among the shadows as a warm flush feeling starts to wash over the two men.

DAVE

What are you thinking?

ISAAC

I'm thinking of how good that breakfast was this morning. Sue is a really great cook.

DAVE

Yea, she's a talented kid. Gets it from her mother.

ISAAC

Was she pretty good?

DAVE

Yes, much better'n me. Better'n me at a lot of things.

ISAAC

People close to us usually have traits that we admire.

Dave moves his rook forward to block the queen's assault and has him flanked with his knight from a previous move.

DAVE

Got you now... it's more than that Isaac, she was just good at staying calm... always very mellow.

ISAAC

I know you miss her.

Isaac takes his queen and moves it ahead.

DAVE

You know before Sue came along, Lily and I were trying... and it wasn't working. It took quite a while. I was working nights at that time and so I would have to sleep during the mornings and afternoons. Well she woke me up one day, telling me that she thought it was time... she thought she was having the baby.

ISAAC

What did you do?

DAVE

I ran out of bed and put on my clothes and started packing up everything in a bag so fast that my brain wasn't keeping up with things. I tried to help her out of bed but she got real still and she... and she told me it was just a false alarm and that things were going to be alright. I wanted to go to the hospital but she said it wasn't needed.

Dave squirms a bit in his chair as Isaac looks at him squarely.

ISAAC

So she was calm.

DAVE

Yea... she was.

ISAAC

Did you take care of it?

DAVE

I made us go to the doc the next day and she told us that Lily had went through a miscarriage.

A long moment passes as the flames occasionally stir.

ISAAC

Ya know, I've never heard you speak of prayer until today. A little under ten years now and I haven't heard a word.

DAVE

So what? Things have gotten tough.
People need things to hope for.

ISAAC

You didn't say hope, you said to pray.

DAVE

Well Isaac, do what you want. You
always have.

ISAAC

I just felt like we could talk about
it.

DAVE

So talk.

Isaac finally looks down back at the board now and sits
thinking.

Dave knows how to combine his rook and knight and has been
able to dig in on Isaac's right flank.

After a long moment Isaac shifts a pawn and Dave manages to
move his knight further up the board closing in.

Isaac smiles and looks up:

ISAAC

So what are we gonna do, David?

DAVE

We are going to keep doing what we
have been. Live out the winter and
collect more come spring. I think
that-

ISAAC

C'mon, no bullshit.

DAVE

Do? I think that... we are... I don't think there's much we can do.

ISAAC

So, what?

DAVE

I'm just being a realist.

ISAAC

Every pessimist says that.

DAVE

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

Isaac moves his queen to the right side of the board and takes one of his knights.

ISAAC

Just humor me, David.

Dave blinks at the capture and slightly pauses as he shifts in the wooden chair, mentally jogging.

DAVE

I'm... I'm worried about what's in front of me.

ISAAC

And you believe this is all there is?

DAVE

I don't know what I believe, Isaac. Is that a good enough answer for you? I'm
(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)
just trying to keep us safe. Believe
whatever you want. If that book in
your hand keeps your spirit alive then
I say have at it, but don't you
question me like this and try to
undermine my work, Isaac.

ISAAC

Undermine?

DAVE

That's what I said.

A beat.

DAVE

You know I... I used to be a lot more
optimistic.

ISAAC

Oh yea?

DAVE

It's just that after a while man, you
know... you can't help but know, right?
That things don't last... people grow
old and times change. With and without
you. It's like... we are all born
pure, replete with admirable traits
but then brutally shaped and molded by
this environment. More than corrupted
though, we are sort of crucified,
right? Society and these lands have
their ways with us all and no child
comes out unscathed. Isaac, can't you
see? We might as well be some sort of
twisted version of... like surrogates
of Christ being put to death again and
again and again. All of us coming to
our inevitable conclusion like some
rite of passage before moving on. But

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

if being born is like some sort of divinity reentering the world, then what of this world? And what of his place in it?

ISAAC

I'm not sure about all of that. I will agree that this world shapes us... with varying degrees of permanence. But it is up to us to choose which attitude and direction to take with our lives. No one else can do that for us, and for good reason. You can dwell on the negative all you want, David. I mean, we've seen plenty of people like that haven't we? I think you're better than that.

DAVE

I'm not so sure.

ISAAC

Just try to really see and appreciate what we have, instead of what we don't have.

DAVE

I j- just keep having this feeling like I'm supposed to keep chasing after something... and I have no idea what in the hell it is.

ISAAC

And what would you do if you found it?

DAVE

Exactly man, it's like chasin after a ghost.

ISAAC

Yes, maybe so. But you still have a purpose.

DAVE

A what?

ISAAC

You still have your daughter to protect.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

What happened?

DAVE

Some teenagers came breaking in because they were starving and cold. This world that we live in. They took Lily from me. From us.

ISAAC

I'm sorry, David.

DAVE

The kid who shot her talked about a burden that we owe for living here. We all have to pay the price sooner or later.

ISAAC

A man pays what is owed in this life whether he knows it or not. I suppose I do believe that.

DAVE

What are we going to do about Sue?

ISAAC

What we can, I guess.

DAVE

We can't let her go hunting anymore.
It's too dangerous... okay?

ISAAC

Well what do you expect? She goes her
own way, you know that.

DAVE

I expect her to do as I ask... she knows
I don't want her to get hurt.

ISAAC

She isn't worried about that.

Dave moves his knight into place on the board and takes his
opponents queen, now having Isaac's king trapped by both his
knight and rook.

DAVE

Checkmate.

Isaac smiles and takes a sip while studying the board over.
Finally satisfied he looks up:

ISAAC

What happens when more people find
this place, David?

Dave meets his glance and pauses for a quick moment.

DAVE

I'm going to take care of it.

The two men sit with the music hovering above them.

Isaac sits down his empty glass and turns off the radio before going to bed.

Only the quiet fury of the fire is heard and the curling shadows dancing against the walls from the burning twisting flames.

STARRY DARKNESS STIRRING SHADOWS ALONG THE FIELDS

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - NIGHT

INT. SUE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Into the night the wind SCREAMS

Sue turns in her bed when a shrill voice SOUNDS in the dark.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dave wakes to screaming and broken glass SHATTERING in the adjacent room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sue runs outside to the hallway and sees Isaac on top of Amelia.

He is making forceful PUMPS to resuscitate.

She is blue in the face and not breathing while he gives her mouth-to-mouth with tears in his eyes.

Fluid and snot running down his nose he looks at Sue and cries

ISAAC

Help! HURRY PLEASE!!

DAVE

Sue, what's going on?

SUE

I don't know dad, just give me a minute!

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

Sue finally finds this box, this medical device, and runs back into the room to start setting up the two patches on her chest.

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

ISAAC

Do it again!

Sue shocks her.

And again.

And four more times.

Sue looks up at him, tears dripping.

Isaac sees this and stumbles backwards before running into the living room with sounds of muffled wailing.

Sue looks up to find a tied piece of rope hanging above their bathroom door.

It looks to have been cut roughly just above the knot and she turns over to their dresser seeing the cut rope where above it hangs a mirror, showing her reflection.

Sue tries to yell for her dad but can't speak.

NIGHTMARE OF A DEMON COMING IN FROM THE DARK

A FACELESS FIGURE CAST FROM THE VOID

It crawls towards her suddenly on all fours out of the mirror and it grips down on her creased shoulders with muscled hands.

She stares into the reflective glass, feeling the forceful insatiable grip of distant life in want.

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

A grave dug in the yard.

Dave is able to dig a shallow hole in the August soil and they place Amelia's body into the cold dirt and cover her.

Isaac is the first to shake away from the holding of hands around her dug grave.

He walks back to their cabin wiping his face and screams so loud that Sue holds hands over her ears as Isaac curses a SILENT SKY.

He wipes his face and slowly retreats indoors.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Isaac sits on the couch.

Sue goes inside and sits close with him, making them a quick potato soup while Dave goes to his room and shuts the door closed.

Sue sits with Isaac while he sits whimpering in the near dark, a lit candle in the corner.

SUE

She wanted out, Isaac.

ISAAC

She what?

SUE

She wanted out. Amelia wanted out.

ISAAC

I still need her.

SUE

I'm sorry.

ISAAC

You - you seem callous to this, why?

SUE

I've lost before.

ISAAC

I'm sorry but you haven't lost the love of your life.

SUE

Maybe not in the way that you think.
My mother. How much does one have to
lose in their life before one deems it
adequate?

ISAAC

So what then?

SUE

I believe that if nature is the holder
of life: than it is possible we must
be some kind of an enemy to nature,
consuming to survive... and if this can
be conceded as a possibility, than it
isn't so far fetched to assume that
this land wasn't made exactly for us.
And if this land wasn't made exactly
for us, than why does anyone bother
praising or cursing someone for it? I
keep going because my father needs me
and I need him. We all need each
other. Loss is part of the journey
Isaac, no matter how much it hurts.
Maybe, in some twisted way... because
of how much it hurts.

ISAAC

I'm sorry you feel that way, Sue. I do
agree we need each other.

SUE

I understand.

ISAAC

No, you don't.

SUE

I'm trying to be understanding.

ISAAC

I don't need understanding.

Isaac gets up and walks to his room shutting the door closed.

SNOW QUIETLY FALLS OUTSIDE

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

We see: rime collecting on the trees and garden

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The three of them sit nestled in the living room covered up in wool blankets.

They listen to the spitting fire as the radio news anchor discusses the alleged forecast.

Sue shivers profusely while Dave tugs at his jacket but Isaac just sits there with a blank expression on his face and reads his bible as their hot breaths project from their lungs.

Pieces of cut oak in the fire crack and fall into place molding with the other coals slowly turning to ash and Isaac sits motionless thinking of his life before the storm.

Dave and Sue play I-Spy, picking random places on the walls with slick shadows flickering.

SUE

Is it the fire?

Dave shakes his head.

Isaac proceeds to the kitchen, pouring himself a cup of warmed water.

SUE

It's the clock!

Dave slaps his book down.

DAVE

Damn.

A voice outside the door booms:

STRANGER

Hello in there!

All three of them look at each other and don't say a word.

The voice comes again:

STRANGER

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

Dave starts moving his arms about in order to convey a message that Sue doesn't understand while Isaac gets up without a word.

DAVE

Isaac, wait!

Isaac walks up to the door and opens it.

We see: a younger gentleman shivering in his denim coat.

ISAAC

What do you want?

STRANGER

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

The young man teeth chatter so loud they can hear it.

He looks all of around seventeen years of age with sandy
brownish hair and a thin nose.

Isaac steps aside as Dave retrieves his revolver.

SUE

Isaac, what are you doing?

ISAAC

I'm doing what we should have done the
first time!

He closes the door behind them.

The young man walks through the door with long oily hair and
his face the same as he stands shivering; trying to take in
this new warmth.

He wears many layers and he takes off the couple beanies that
line his head and holds them with both hands down in front of
him nervously looking around.

DAVE

Who are you?.

RILEY

I'm Riley.

DAVE

How did you find us?

RILEY

I just stumbled onto the place. I smelled the smoke when I got close. Got separated from my group about five miles back.

DAVE

Group? What group?

RILEY

The power finally went out in town and some of us volunteered to go find help. The plan was to go out at daylight and hopefully find something or somebody in time but I got lost and ran my truck way off the road, crumpling two different tires. I couldn't afford to wait around and hope someone found me.

SUE

So you just went walking?

RILEY

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

DAVE

Well don't feel too lucky just yet.

ISAAC

David...

DAVE

No, Isaac. You see what happened to my leg?

RILEY

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

ISAAC

(Pointing
)

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

SUE

No. We can't do that.

DAVE

(standing up
)

I say what we can and cannot do!

Nobody speaks for a long moment and Sue eventually walks over to her father:

SUE

Dad, maybe we should give this guy a chance.

DAVE

Okay, you check him. Now. Make sure he doesn't have a gun. That means taking off all his clothes and patting him down thoroughly Isaac.

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

ISAAC

Sorry, we've had some rough encounters with strangers lately.

RILEY

It's okay. I can appreciate that. I'm just glad to be out of the cold.

ISAAC

He's clean, David.

Sue Isaac and Riley direct their attention to a now seated Dave, who is thinking to himself.

Another hand could be useful in a fight, but what else? He is going to be yet another person that uses up supplies and he didn't bring any himself.

DAVE

Do you think you could find your truck if assisted?

Riley nods. He knows better than to say no.

DAVE

What supplies are in your truck?

RILEY

I have a couple gallons of water. Some camping gear with a little stove. Knives and fishing gear. A pistol and a package of energy bars.

DAVE

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

RILEY

Thank you so much sir. I really appreciate your hospitality.

Isaac scoffs and Dave mutters to himself as Sue helps Riley find a place for all of his clothes, guiding him through their small wooden home.

Sue goes to the back of the house and finds an empty shelf to lay his belongings.

She tells him the different rooms as he follows along.

SUE

So where did you say you were from?

RILEY

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

SUE

You were in Texas before the storm?

RILEY

Yea, I was young though.

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

DAVE

(from the other room
)

Sue. Come in here.

Still looking at one another Sue grins and walks away as Riley follows her.

Entering the living room she sees Isaac gets up from the couch across from Dave and go to his room.

Sue sits down while Isaac tells Riley goodnight before going to bed.

Riley takes a seat beside Sue and Dave scoffs as he starts standing up and limps away to his bedroom:

DAVE

Sue, go to bed.

SUE

I will. Are you hungry?

RILEY

No thanks.

SUE

Seriously? You're not hungry at all
after almost dying?

RILEY

Okay, maybe I could eat something.

She grins and starts shaking her head while walking to the kitchen.

He tells her about himself and she reciprocates as they gently laugh while sharing stories about their lives of old.

Sue gets up to finish dinner and she sighs a breath of relief as she wipes off the small make-shift kitchen counter-top and lets go of the rag. She brings the two plates with her to the sofa.

Riley leans over to turn down the radio as she hands him a plate containing some potato soup with mushrooms.

RILEY

Thank you.

SUE

Your welcome, here is some water.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sue walks in and sets his plate down on his nightstand.

DAVE

Thanks, Sue.

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sue walks in and it still smells of her and Sue looks at pictures hanging on the wall.

SUE

Here is dinner. Hope you enjoy it.

ISAAC

Thank you. I look forward to your meals.

Sue smiles back at him and walks out, closing the door behind her.

He then rolls over and tries to go back to sleep.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dave listens to a rerun of a football game from a radio on top of his clothes dresser in the front of his room.

Clothes are everywhere and Sue marvels upon entry:

SUE

Jesus, dad?

DAVE

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

SUE

Dad, I've seen you getting around just fine. Here's dinner.

DAVE

Hey... are you going to go to bed?

SUE

I am, why?

He looks at her.

SUE

Dad. I need this... ya know? I haven't spoken to anyone other than y'all in years. Years...

DAVE

I know. Are you sure? We don't know him.

SUE

I know that, but how else do you get to know someone? We have to trust him right now... or else we risk never trusting anyone ever again.

DAVE

I could live with that.

SUE

But I couldn't dad... and that's the point.

DAVE

So what are you gonna do?

SUE

I'm gonna get to know him, dad... I'm gonna get to know him.

DAVE

You be careful. Love you.

SUE

Love you too.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sue closes the door and walks back to the living room to find Riley more than halfway done with his plate.

RILEY

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

SUE

Oh no, they do their own thing at night. We usually do group things earlier in the day, like when you showed up.

RILEY

Yea, I was a little nervous your dad was gonna shoot me.

SUE

I was too.

Riley looks at her and she smiles back at him.

They look on at the fire as the radio plays a tune.

MORNING SUNSHINE WARMS THE VALLEY

Early morning comes with force and a rare flush of warmth bleeds into the cabin as the sun rises.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dave limps out the bedroom door into the living room area.

He walks straight to the earthy pit and begins the process of stacking twigs, trying to ignite a flame.

Riley and Sue are laying together with a blanket over the two of them on the couch. They slowly wake up and start moving around at the sight of her father stirring.

Isaac comes walking in:

ISAAC

Can I get a cup?

DAVE

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

DAVE

So Mr. Riley. You want some hot water?

RILEY

Um, sure.

Dave puts the pot back in place over the pit and takes a seat in his recliner by the stone fireplace:

DAVE

Well, you have two legs. It's a waitin.

Riley gets up to pour himself a cup and Dave smiles assuredly:

DAVE

As you can see, my leg has been shot and I've already sat down. Isaac here could have poured you a cup.

Dave looks at Isaac.

DAVE

What's a matter Isaac? He good enough to let in but not good enough to pour a cup for, am I right?

ISAAC

Shut up, David.

DAVE

I just don't understand your hypocrisy is all?

RILEY

(holding up his cup
)
It's alright. I have some right here.

ISAAC

I'm not a hypocrite, David. That's your department.

DAVE

Not the way I got it figured.

RILEY

Please guys, don't fight on my account.

Isaac walks around the kitchen while Dave sits in his chair until saying:

DAVE

Isaac, as rough as I know it might be, we need you to help Riley here find his pickup and gather the supplies back. He said he doesn't have much to haul so a simple pack should do just fine.

Dave turns over to the kid:

DAVE

Riley, we will give you another backpack to take for hauling. Alright?

Riley nods.

SUE

I can go too. I'm the best tracker here.

Dave shakes his head.

DAVE

Sue I would rather you stay here. It's bad enough parting with half of our group, now please just listen to me for once, alright?

Isaac looks at Riley:

ISAAC

I can be ready in less than an hour.

Dave looks at Sue slowly pausing:

DAVE

Okay then. It's settled.

Leaving the cabin Isaac and Riley are dressed up past the point a person normally should be and they open the door to that vast wilderness but Sue can't help but run over to Riley and kiss him goodbye.

Riley smiles.

RILEY

We'll be back soon.

Dave nods at Isaac as he gets ready while Riley covers his face, pulling over his hood before disappearing into the blinding white.

ON SCREEN: September 15th

THE RIVER FREEZES OVER IN THE NIGHT

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - NIGHT

That evening the river slowly freezes over and the cabin sits lonely in the blistering wind.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dave is in the kitchen pouring a cup of heated water when he hears a familiar SHOT in the distance.

We feel: the moment stop in time.

Dave stops what he is doing to listen but hears only once. He sits in his warm chair listening.

Sue walks into the living room with a guitar and starts strumming chords singing a Merle Haggard tune.

Sue plays the song faithfully and accurately until the living room is silent except for the flames turning in the pit.

When she is finished Dave looks at her and forces a smile trying to speak but his throat locks up like grinding gears so he just smiles instead.

Rarely seeing her dad in this state she cocks an eyebrow and then grins back at him.

They suddenly start laughing together with bursts that come straight from the gut, giggling like children in a way that only rarely comes in those moments of true freedom with another person in one's life.

Those instances of forgotten responsibility and a wondrous sense of future, where you forget where you are and the reality you are in.

Dave does so desperately all the while but eventually breaks away and turns on the radio where a news anchor SPEAKS:

RADIO

...to be avoided. I say again, don't
travel by foot. Cities are to be
avoided at all cost. Temperatures are
plummeting in almost every state. If
(MORE)

RADIO (CONT'D)

you are living in a coastal region then you need to seek shelter further inland as quickly as possible. If you are joining us now we have been going over the different temperatures across the nation, similar as they may be, in hopes of communicating to a public that we fear are dwindling.

Unprecedented conditions are occurring throughout not just the United States, but over the entire world. We haven't a word from the President who has been holed up in an undisclosed location for some time now.

Sue and her father look at one another and then back to the radio.

She sees in him the unflinching but unquestionable fear of an oncoming change, a tear that rips through time's delicate fabric, molding once more.

RADIO

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

FALLING AMBER LIGHT STREAKS THROUGH THE SNOWFALL

We see: Time Since They Left: 22 hours

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

Dave is outside gathering some dried wood, stacking kindling among the surrounding oaks and pines.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

He returns inside struggling to shut the door for the wind and works carefully to light a fire.

Sue paces back and forth through the kitchen and living room of the cabin.

Once the fire is caught, Dave sits down in his chair sipping water and chewing on collected pecans and blackberries.

He tries to ignore the sight of Sue's constant movement, stubbornly remaining silent in acknowledgment that she will want to go outside.

SUE

Have you seen anything?

DAVE

No Sue, I haven't. Just try to remain calm. I'm sure they will be back anytime.

He hopes the more he says it the more it might come true. He tries to compromise:

DAVE

Sue, let's play a board game. Something to take our mind off of this. Please, this pacing has got to stop.

SUE

No! I can't sit down, I'm going out to look for them.

DAVE

You are not...

SUE

I am! I have to! They are out there somewhere! They are out there somewhere dad! Where are they? The hell are they?" She starts sobbing and bits of saliva fall from her mouth as she pleads, "Where in the world are we? Huh? Where are we!

DAVE

Sue, please calm down.

SUE

No! You! You told me this wouldn't happen! You told me this wouldn't happen to us, dad!

DAVE

Come here, please. Sue, please come here. It is going to be alright.

She comes forth burying her face in his arms, the warmth calming but not reassuring.

DAVE

I know. I'm sorry, okay?

SUE

Where are they, dad?

DAVE

I don't know, I don't know. But we are going to be okay... you hear me? We

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)
have to start making some
preparations, okay? Can you help me? I
need your help, Sue. I can't do this
without you.

She looks up at him.

SUE

What do you need help with?

A STARRY NIGHT OVER THE CABIN

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Shadows latticed on the walls from the ancient oaks molded by
vagaries of time like enormous towers in the dark.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Both Dave and Sue work to find supplies they have stashed
away in the attic and she sits up in the dust-ridden wooden
compartment looking for any ammunition or feed sacks.

Boxes upon boxes stowed away up in this attic years ago.

DAVE

You find anything yet?

SUE

No, not yet. I said I'd holler out.

She looks around the room with her flashlight and searches

around the cobwebs.

She sees something around the corner, yellow-tinted shells stacked up inside an old cardboard box like mounds of gold.

SUE

Okay, I found something.

DAVE

What is it?

SUE

Looks to be shells for... maybe the rifle.

DAVE

How many?

SUE

More than we had.

DAVE

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

Sue walks back to head down but finds a cardboard box covered in webs and dust, a collection of pictures that are marked: family.

She stares at photos of Lily and her father back when Sue was a small child.

DAVE

Are you coming down or what?

SUE

Yea, I am.

DAVE

Bring that ammunition in here, would you please.

Sue grabs the ammo and hauls it down but goes back up for the collection of photos and stows them away in her room before bringing over the shells to the living room.

She comes over and falls on the sofa, sitting the box down on the table in front of them.

SUE

It's not much.

DAVE

It will do.

SUE

What are you expecting?

DAVE

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

SUE

I ain't scared.

DAVE

We will make it through this.

SUE

I said I ain't scared.

DAVE

Just stick with the plan.

SUE

Yea, stick with the plan.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sue stokes the fire while Dave falls down in his chair and he leans over, turning on the radio.

They sit there while the fire pit sits inflamed against the walls as they warm themselves in blankets.

Dave looks over at her, feeling bits of anxiety in his chest.

DAVE

I want you to know something, Sue.

SUE

Yea, what's that.

DAVE

We have to stay here before we can leave, I mean that we have to ride this out.

SUE

I won't stay here while they freeze.

DAVE

Damn Sue... it won't come to that is what I'm trying to tell ya.

SUE

Then you have no reason to worry!

DAVE

Just give em more time.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

In her bedroom Sue lay in bed with a lit candle looking at photos of her parents when they were younger, together in their old trailer home.

We see: Dave and Lily cooking together in the kitchen, smiling.

We see: dancing together.

We see: Lily holding little Sue in her arms.

The pictures show her parents in an unseen light from a separate time in which both of them were almost, to her, different people.

She could just tell, they smiled widely and laughed loudly, looking as if they were living so fully that no one could compare.

This view of her parents from another life breaks Sue just a little bit.

DAVE

Where did you get that?

SUE

I found it upstairs.

DAVE

I haven't seen those in a long time.

SUE

I've never seen them?

DAVE

Yea well... now you have.

SUE

Do you have more of them?

DAVE

I'm sure I do, but I don't want to see.

SUE

Why? Why not?

DAVE

Because I said no!

Dave walks away slamming the door closed.

Something brakes.

Sue hears a pan being tossed around and so she jumps up off the bed:

SUE

What is your problem?

DAVE

Me?

SUE

Yea you... who else is here?

DAVE

I don't have a problem.

SUE

Yes, you do.

DAVE

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

SUE

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

DAVE

As long as it takes.

SUE

As long... what? What does that mean?

DAVE

Exactly what I said.

SUE

Just try and speak regular English please. I know... it's difficult.

DAVE

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

SUE

I don't care!

DAVE

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

SUE

Don't say that.

DAVE

(jabs his finger into her fleshy
cheek)

)

Do you know that? I should slap you
right across the face.

Sue shoves him into the cabinets cracking the wood:

SUE

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

DAVE

Is that what you want?

SUE

Yes, that's exactly what I want. C'mon
- hit me!

DAVE

Sue please.

SUE

C'mon - hit me!

DAVE

Sue stop... now.

She slowly calms reading his face, seeing the resignation:

SUE

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

Dave moves over to his chair and throws a log forcefully in the fire, pushing bits of red hot coal scattered along the floor and she is quick to stomp them out.

He plops down with a blanket, leaning over in his chair ransacking his collection and carefully pulls out his bottle of bourbon, pouring two thumbs worth.

SUE

Yea - have another one, that'll tell ya.

DAVE

I don't want anything from you, Sue!

SUE

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

DAVE

Yes, you can.

SUE

No, dad! I can't.

DAVE

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

SUE

I can go search for them, okay?

DAVE

No. We can't.

SUE

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

DAVE

I do get that Sue, I really do.

SUE

Then what?

DAVE

It's too risky.

SUE

You are always the one talking about risk and reward.

DAVE

I know.

SUE

But where is the reward?

DAVE

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

Sue starts to break down.

DAVE

I know you are tired of being inside... So am I! But we have to stick through this... we have to be together because this world is... I can't... I can't do this without you.

Sue looks on at the hot fire.

DAVE

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

SUE

I won't let it.

DAVE

All we have is each other, Sue.

SUE

Okay.

DAVE

Alright?

SUE

Yea.

Suddenly the door bust open with Isaac and Riley FALLING IN.

Sue feels the chill stricken her skin as the two shiver and fight for their lives, their teeth CHATTERING.

Sue runs over to them and Dave struggles to believe his eyes.

SUE

Where in the - Jesus! Are you alright?
Isaac?

ISAAC

...Blankets ... Sue...

Sue drags them over by the fire and puts another log on the pile.

She throws wool blankets on the two of them as they twist and struggle to get warm.

DAVE

Isaac? Are you all right?

ISAAC

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

Noticing Riley's face, Dave and his daughter look at each other with a quiet warm solemnness.

WARM DAYS AND RAINFALL

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Sue sits by Riley's bedside during these days tending to him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The radio plays while in the living room.

Dave looks over at Isaac:

DAVE

I'm glad you made it back, ya know.

ISAAC

Yea, me to.

DAVE

How many of em were they?

ISAAC

Like I said, three.

DAVE

Alright then... we should let Riley sleep in the back room. You mind, Isaac?

ISAAC

No, I don't mind.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

Okay.

She takes Riley and they head to the back while Dave looks over:

DAVE

You sure you're okay, Isaac?

ISAAC

Yea, just tired.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

Oh, you need me? I didn't see no search party. I have my own room.

DAVE

You know I couldn't do that.

ISAAC

I know.

DAVE

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

ISAAC

I imagine.

DAVE

So... what do you think?

ISAAC

I think, we need to worry.

DAVE

Yea, that's kind of what I was thinking.

A HOWLING WIND IN THE NIGHT

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Their cabin has decidedly held steady.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Inside is music and the residents are swaying along singing the projected melody.

Dave and Isaac are in the living room listening to the RADIO.

Sue smiles watching her father act goofy and happy.

The hot fire burns steady from a fresh piece of green wood.

Sue smiles at the grin on her father's face.

Dave slow dances with his daughter.

She does his best to seize the moment, easing up and relaxing into his arms.

Dave looks at Sue mid-song and leans in close:

DAVE

I love ya kid.

Sue studies him and can't hide the emotions that immediately flood her mind.

They SLOW DANCE till the song is CUT OFF.

A STATIC noise fills the air until it ceases.

Silence.

Sue walks off to her room.

Dave eventually turns peering at Isaac who gazes back at him amid the silence.

WINDS BLOW THROUGH THE SNOWY VALLEY

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sue is standing by the door.

Dave reads a novel sitting in his chair.

Burning wood sinks further down into the pit.

Sue leans against the wall and sinks down crying.

SUE

I don't... I don't remember how to
make her pancakes.

Dave looks at her curiously.

SUE

I was there. That morning and mom...
she told me how to do it and then told
(MORE)

SUE (CONT'D)
me what spices to use and when to turn
em, but I forgot... I forgot.

She struggles to find her voice again and he sits there
waiting for her to continue.

SUE

I can't believe I forgot.

DAVE

Time takes everything Sue... nothing
to be ashamed of.

SUE

Of course you believe that.

DAVE

Why did you stop reading?

SUE

What?

DAVE

You stopped reading when we moved out
here... why?

SUE

I'm not sure, I guess I just didn't
want it anymore.

DAVE

You didn't want it anymore?

SUE

I didn't want the memories. Reading
made me think about mom.

They sit together and Sue feels a flush of calm spool over
her and the two of them sit there real quiet amongst the
pulsing wind heard from outside.

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

Late that afternoon Dave stands outside watching the turning sky while he rolls a smoke and lights it with a match.

INT. SUE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sue is inside looking at pictures and reading letters from her father while laying down in bed.

She comes alert and hears her father speak from the other room:

DAVE

Isaac, come here... quickly.

Something BREAKS as she races out of bed.

A gunshot CRACKS in the other room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sue walks in seeing a hand dripping drops of blood as its reaching through the glass - reaching for the front door handle.

She sees her FATHER take AIM with his revolver FIRING again, splintering the man's hand into a nub with whitened bone glistening in the light which is pulled back immediately with some bright liquid splattering against the wood.

A howling is heard from outside the cabin when a high pitched sound of another glass window breaks from somewhere in the house.

Sue turns to see an arm crumpled over picking at the lock.

Another loud shot echoes out across the room and Isaac fires back into the broken window frame sending glass shards falling unto the floor as a distant man shrieks in agony.

ISAAC

How many?

DAVE

Two so far!

Silence.

Dave positions himself to his door frame for cover and looks around, picking up more ammo by the chair so he can reload his revolver.

He sees his daughter in the hallway:

DAVE

Go to my room... go.

A scratching at the front door.

DAVE

Now Sue! Go!

Sue bolts into the bedroom with her hands around her ears as Dave and Isaac FIRE deafening rounds into the FRONT DOOR.

Dave eventually and silently motions for Isaac to hide off to the side.

Isaac who pulls tightly on the metal trigger of his 38. causing a blast that ricochets against his shoulder.

Dave walks over from behind the door silently aiming at the back of the man's head and pulls the trigger, causing the front side of his skull to shatter loose and it breaks - letting fluid escape down the side of his face as he falls to the floor.

Dave looks over noticing Isaac, who succumbs down in the corner, his chest dark and sopping wet.

DAVE

Isaac!

Another man runs in from outside suddenly tackling Dave and they fall to the floor, wrestling for the gun.

Sue comes out of hiding and sees the chaos:

SUE

Dad!

DAVE

Sue get outta here!

The stranger manages to get on top of Dave and he forces the metal muzzle of his weapon against the flesh of his opponents chest.

Dave fights for his life, breathing through his nose and forcing bits of saliva out of his mouth.

He uses every muscle to keep the gun from his body and just as the weapon is pointed, the trigger is pulled and there is an empty click that resonates with both men for a quick moment...

Until: a loud gunshot CRACKS and punches a hole through the stranger's chest and he slumps over, holding himself.

Dave looks behind him to see SUE standing there, holding the deer rifle.

DAVE

Get back in the room.

A shot rings out and Dave falls to the floor with blood seeping into his clothes but continues to crawl to his room.

SUE

Dad!

DAVE

No, back away, Sue.

SUE

Shut up and get in here. Where are you hit?

DAVE

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

Sue looks around his room and searches while Dave shifts his focus to the supplies now as she grabs the loaded .45 on the table and walks out.

DAVE

Wait... no! Sue!!

She shuts the door behind her.

Lightning and thunder explode outside.

The hallway remains dimly lit as Sue creeps forward, pointing the gun at the front door and she stands by her bedroom as lights flicker creeping forward when a hand reaches from behind her to grab the gun.

Riley suddenly APPEARS from the HALLWAY and runs up TACKLING the stranger to the floor causing the gun and knife to fall to the ground.

Sue falls backwards in shock as they wrestle until the man grabs the knife and strikes Riley repeatedly eventually pushing the blade to Riley's throat.

Sue comes from the bathroom to see Riley helping her father take Isaac's body outside.

They come back in and unsuccessfully shut the broken door and Dave sits in his chair while Riley and Sue lay down on the couch as she realizes how much her father is bleeding.

Sue runs over to him, putting pressure on his wounds.

Dave is breathing hard so she turns him over and he tries to stand up but can't.

SUE

It's okay dad, I got ya.

DAVE

Close the door.

She goes over and attempts to fix the broken lock on the door but can't and comes back over, carefully lifting her father up on the couch, bringing him his revolver.

DAVE

In my closet, you will find a package of shells for this thing. Grab that medical kit also.

We see: numerous bullet casings and blood strewn across the floor.

She goes searching through his messy closet, pulling items out and throwing them on the floor, she eventually finds the kit and bullets, realizing her father's eventual fate.

DAVE

Just relax, Sue. I need the bigger sized bandages. Those one's right there. Yes. Just take them and apply them right here on my back.

SUE

I'm trying dad, give me a - a break.

DAVE

You are right, just be steady.

SUE

You will be fine.

QUARTER MOON SHINES OVER THE GARDEN AND FRONT YARD

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - NIGHT

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Riley slowly drifts unconscious from his wounds and Dave looks out the window as they try to keep warm.

The radio rings out amongst the warmth of the fire.

Dave and Sue feel a pressure mounting against them.

DAVE

I'm sorry I lead us astray.

SUE

You didn't, you... saved me.

Sue leans back with her blankets and stares into space.

Dave looks at her and lies back in his chair and they listen to the fireplace and the radio.

Dave sits thinking to himself, a finally realized smile coming over him now.

He listens to the music and slowly falls asleep.

The snow and sleet fall outside and the temperature drops to lethal digits as they lay still in the darkness.

MORNING BREAKS AWAKE

INT. SUE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The next morning Sue wakes early.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

She stands staring out through the windowsill.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

She turns to her father in his chair.

WE SEE: Dave with his head and gray beard downward but he isn't breathing, color drained from his face.

Sue sees and places another log on the fire.

INT. SUE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sue walks into her cold room and closes the door behind her.

She leans over her nightstand and searches for a particular worn letter.

Sorting through them in the candle-lit shadows, Sue grabs one and opens its contents.

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

That night she dreams of a gang of men after her. Chasing her. She sees them sitting on wooden stools around the bar inside a dusty saloon.

EXT. RIVER SIDE/DREAM - DAY

She walks along a river.

WE SEE: a saloon in the distance.

She stands atop a grassy mound that overlooks a rushing riverbed with snowy mountains creased in the distance.

INT. SALOON/DREAM - DAY

The men have their pistols holstered and drink whiskey at the bar. They don't speak.

They can't seem TO speak. Can't seem to understand their place.

They see something coming towards them out past the glassed fogged windows and the men moan and holler like fevered animals, churning over each other to get to the door.

EXT. RIVER SIDE/DREAM - DAY

She walks frantically across the crunching snowcovered trail.

She sees out in the distance the saloon with smoke floating up into a slight vanilla sky.

Sue crouches along a ledge that lay close to the water's edge and watches as:

WE SEE: a few whistling women come slowly walking out past the swinging doors of the saloon over towards her as if they are in dance.

These sly women carry forward like mirages wearing only slim hides from local kills and have the look of angels as they carry translucent wings behind them.

They come spilling from that place lustful and malevolent though she can't turn away from the horrifying beauty.

They take her in their arms leading her inside before she is at once outside again.

EXT. RIVER SIDE/DREAM - DAY

Sue stares around to find that she is alone and beside a flowing creekbed full of rainbow and brown trout.

WE SEE: she is suddenly kicked in the back of the head.

Her neck gripped by heavy calloused hands and dragged until her face is pushed into the roaring water.

WE SEE: the piercing of steel, her voice lost in the flowing.

They drag her body out of the riverbed.

She trembles from the pain.

STRANGER

Here girl... c'mere.

He grabs at her legs and cuts deep in the flesh with his blade.

She SCREAMS but her voice lost, unheard.

The men crowd together now with her blood and fluids seeping down the flow of the river.

The men see her shallow breathing as they stand together hovering over her with knives and smiles.

She suddenly escapes and dances off into the forest.

She runs through soft petals of buffalo grass before looking back to find the men dragging her body inside and pushing the oak door closed.

Sue runs on towards home into the woodlands before disappearing without sight or sound into those distant pines.

WILD WIND AND RAIN OVER THE CABIN

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sue and Riley sit on the couch huddled together while endless rains pelt the roof.

The radio PLAYS.

Dave's chair sits empty.

Sue starts to shake and Riley leans in close against her.

They sit huddling together wrapped in blankets and watch the heated flames dance against the walls and door.

SUE

Ya know, my dad used to talk about something he called the continuation. He said that it wasn't so much new life that is born into the world as it is our ancestors being brought back into the fray for another round. And then us. Then our children, and their children - forever. An eternal reign of violence between light against darkness.

RILEY

We're gonna be alright, Sue. We'll get through this together.

SUE

I'm scared.

Riley holds her close as they lay on the couch.

The brightened coals turn in the fire, glowing as he speaks softly.

RILEY

I won't let anything happen to you. Do you hear me? I made a promise to your
(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

father.

SUE

Well, he's dead now so you don't have to do anything.

RILEY

My word means something. I'm not going anywhere.

SUE

Bullshit.

RILEY

It's not bullshit. I meant what I said.

He stands still and his stubbornness sends her into a rage.

SUE

Just go! Just go! Everyone goes eventually so just leave! Please!

RILEY

If you wanna leave then we can. Where you wanna go?

SUE

Go to hell.

RILEY

Sue. I'm sorry about your father. I really am. But he wanted me to stay here with you. A man with a world view like he had, wanted me to keep you safe and alive in this place.

Sue returns to the couch and pulls the blanket over her head.

Riley slowly moves down beside her, calmly thinking until finally he gets her to take her head from under the covers.

Riley tries his best to smile and though he feels it somehow trite, she absorbs the gesture and looks at him now, viewing the man she is starting to see.

RILEY

Because your father knew that one's only salvation is to live well in spite of the suffering, Sue. To rage against it.

She scoffs wiping her face. Riley leans in and brings his forehead against hers and they both close their eyes, taking in the moment.

INT. CABIN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Inside the cabin small slits of shaded light come beaming through like slivers of life itself.

Shadows that sprawl across the cabin walls.

On the table in front of the couch sits a novel and it is without dust, containing creased bookmarks in the riddled pages.

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

Sue walks with a handmade basket through the garden and works collecting crops.

Riley swings a sharpened ax, chopping wood in the remaining sun.

Stemming from the blistered surface throughout their worked field are seedlings sprouting out forth like fireflies in the

dying light.

They keep on and on, growing larger and taller.

Every seedling sap, every beating heart.

Until their day is done, glowing and dying. Glowing and dying. Plagued by dreams.

They keep on and on until their day is done and on that way forever until the cabin itself fades softly from sight.

WE: FADE OUT