Beyond the Rim

Cooper Pasque
BEYOND THE RIM

BLACKNESS.

VOICE
This is the greatest cross country team in America.

CUT IN:

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - SUMMER - SUNRISE

The bearded, grisly face of COACH CLARK.

COACH CLARK
And the reason for that is because of what's right behind me.

The sunrise lights up a fierce mountain behind him.

COACH CLARK
Right now, you stand at 7,500 feet above sea level, and you only go up from here today.

He is speaking to a group of about 40 skinny college-aged runners. Ten of them are wearing black tank-tops and standing to one side. The others are wearing red.

COACH CLARK
(to the runners in red)
For those of you trying out, this run is your one chance to prove yourself.

Coach Clark motions to one of the runners in black, REECE.

COACH CLARK
You'll be following Reece. He's the fastest runner in our conference. Today, you run where he runs and you stop when he stops. If you stick with the boys in black, you join the team.
(a beat)
Go.

Reece begins jogging on a dirt road leading up the mountain. The pack follows.

Coach Clark motions to LENNY, a team manager with Down syndrome. The two of them get into a truck.
EXT. DIRT ROAD IN THE WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

The runners are hitting a steady pace on a slight incline. The pack is remaining together.

One boy in the back glances at another runner in red, BLAKE.

RUNNER
This isn't too bad...

At that moment, Reece bolts off the dirt road and onto a trail leading into the woods. The pack follows.

Reece and several runners in black begin to move ahead. The pack starts to spread out. The trail is unforgiving - weaving left and right but steadily rising.

Some boys in red attempt to keep up with the lead runners. Reece increases his pace and leaves everyone behind.

The woods open into a clearing, where the trail goes up the side of the mountain for at least a mile. The red runners, seeing the steep incline, begin to slow down.

Blake, however, still near the back of the pack, increases his speed...

TOP OF THE TRAIL

Coach Clark emerges from his truck. Lenny hands him a pair of binoculars.

LENNY
They comin', Coach?

COACH CLARK
I see them... Who's that?

From Coach Clark's POV, he sees Blake surging ahead of the other boys in red.

THE TRAIL

Blake passes the last-place runner wearing black, TIM. Tim looks at Blake with some surprise. Blake passes another runner in black, JON.

JON
(scowls)
Got a ways yet...

Blake doesn't look at Jon or slow down.
TOP OF THE HILL

Coach Clark is watching the race through his binoculars.

    COACH CLARK
    He can't hold that pace.

    LENNY
    Come on, guys!

THE TRAIL

Reece is working steadily up the trail. He glances over his shoulder and double-takes when he sees Blake about six runners back. He looks ahead and quickens his pace.

Blake continues his relentless attack. He passes an older-looking bearded runner, SHANE.

    SHANE
    Good man...

The trail becomes steeper. Blake grinds past the last runners between him and Reece. About 200 yards remain.

Blake moves up behind Reece. The hill grows steeper, but their legs churn like pistons.

    LENNY
    Almost there, guys! Come on!

Reece kicks in his last reserves and pulls ahead of Blake at the finish. Both of them stop and gasp for air.

    LENNY
    Water?

Lenny hands Reece and Blake cups of water. Reece glances at Blake with some confusion and then moves toward a ledge nearby to catch his breath. The others slowly trickle in, struggling to breathe.

    LENNY
    Good job, guys! Good finish!

Shane finishes and turns to encourage the remaining runners.

    SHANE
    Home stretch, fellas! Finish hard!

Jon and Tim finish and put their hands on their knees.
JON
(to Blake)
What was that?

Blake doesn't respond. Coach Clark moves over to him with a clipboard.

COACH CLARK
What's your name?

BLAKE
Blake Storm.

COACH CLARK
Where are you from?

BLAKE
Durango.

COACH CLARK
Colorado boy... Year?

BLAKE
Freshman.

The boys who hear this look up surprised. Reece remains with his back to Blake, catching his breath and listening.

COACH CLARK
What high school did you run for?

A beat.

BLAKE
I didn't run.

COACH CLARK
Didn't run cross country? What about track?

Blake shakes his head.

COACH CLARK
Play any other sports?

BLAKE
Some baseball.

COACH CLARK
Do you run road races?

Blake shakes his head again. Coach Clark just stairs at him.
SHANE
Where did you learn to run then?

A beat.

BLAKE
Just... Growing up in the mountains...

A beat. Coach Clark extends his hand.

COACH CLARK
Welcome to the team.

Blake shakes his hand. Lenny offers his hand as well.

LENNY
My name is Lenny, team manager. Nice to meet you, Blake!

Shane, Tim, Jon, and the other boys in black greet Blake with handshakes and pats on the back.

Reece turns to face Blake. Their eyes meet. Shane notices the tension between them.

SHANE (V.O.)
My name is Shane. I want to tell you the story of how my friends and I discovered what was beyond the Rim.

CUT TO BLACK.

SHANE (V.O.)
It started with a war between two young men driven by very different motivations.

CUT TO:

INT. REECE AND SHANE'S DORM ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Reece's alarm goes off at 4:30 a.m. He gets out of bed and begins to dress in workout clothes.

SHANE (V.O.)
I had never met anyone as driven as Reece. From the time he woke up...
INT. GYM - EARLY MORNING

Reece is in a plank position on the floor with one arm and one leg in the air. His body is shaking. Sweat is dripping off his face.

    SHANE (V.O.)
    He was focused on one task...

INT. GYM - EARLY MORNING

Reece is doing squats. He stares intently at himself in a mirror.

    CHUCH (V.O.)
    ...Training his mind and body to bear pain.

INT. LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Reece is studying at a table with Tim. He finishes reading a book and begins to pack up his belongings.

    SHANE (V.O.)
    He saw his classwork as a necessary evil...

EXT. - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Reece emerges from the library. He makes eye contact with a beautiful girl walking by. She smiles at him. A slight smile crosses Reece's face as she passes by, but then it fades.

    SHANE (V.O.)
    And viewed girls as dangerous distractions...

Reece mounts a bicycle and begins pedaling hard.

INT. DORM COMMON AREA - NIGHT

The cross country team is sprawled in a common area watching a movie. Shane is passing out some bowls of ice cream. Reece shakes his head when Shane offers him a bowl.

    SHANE (V.O.)
    Every little decision in Reece's life was geared toward his goal.

Reece stands up to leave the room. Jon notices.
JON
Where are you going?

REECE
To bed.

JON
It's Friday!

Reece smiles slightly but exits the room.

EXT. CROSS COUNTRY RACE - DAY

Reece is leading a pack of runners.

SHANE (V.O.)
More than anything in the world, Reece wanted to win.

With a huge effort, Reece pulls ahead of the lead pack and crosses the finish line first.

SHANE (V.O.)
Why? As his closest friend, I believe I know.

A crowd cheers him at the end. Reece beams.

SHANE (V.O.)
He yearned for the attention.

EXT. AWARDS PODIUM - DAY

Reece steps onto the first place podium and receives a medal.

SHANE (V.O.)
He loved the awards.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - DAY

A wall covered in the school's sports records bears Reece's name in several places. Coach Clark places Reece's name in another spot.

SHANE (V.O.)
And he craved to know that he was the best.

CUT TO BLACK.
SHANE (V.O.)
And until Blake came along, he was.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - MORNING

Reece is running through some fog around a lake. Blake emerges from the fog behind Reece and pulls up beside him. Reece increases his pace, but Blake matches him stride for stride.

SHANE (V.O.)
In every practice that fall, Blake was breathing down Reece's neck.

EXT. WOODED TRAIL - MORNING

Blake and Reece are weaving their way through woods.

SHANE (V.O.)
Practices turned into battles.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - MORNING

It is raining heavily. Blake finishes a run just ahead of Reece. Lenny offers Reece some water, but he slaps it out of Lenny's hand and walks away, breathing hard.

SHANE (V.O.)
And the tension between them mounted.

Shane finishes and looks at Reece.

SHANE
Reece...

Reece doesn't turn around. Shane looks over at Blake, who is watching Reece walk away.

SHANE (V.O.)
Why, then, did Blake want to win so fiercely?

Shane moves toward Blake, but Blake turns around and walks away as well.

SHANE (V.O.)
At the time, that was more difficult to determine...
INT. CAFETERIA - DAY
Blake is eating alone.

SHANE (V.O.)
Blake preferred to be alone...

EXT. MOUNTAIN LAKE - MORNING
Tim and Jon are pestering Blake with questions as the cross-country team walks back to their cars after a workout. Blake merely shrugs.

SHANE (V.O.)
And he refused to share much about his past beyond the simple facts we already knew.

EXT. CAMPUS - MORNING
Coach Clark is giving some directions to the boys.

COACH CLARK
We have a big meet this Saturday. Take it easy today.

SHANE (V.O.)
One thing was clear...

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - LATER
The boys are running in a pack at a comfortable pace. Reece begins to push ahead of them. Blake emerges from the pack and remains with Reece.

SHANE
Blake was just as fierce a competitor as Reece...

CUT TO BLACK.

SHANE (V.O.)
We later learned that something was chasing him - something from his past.

FADE IN:
EXT. MOUNTAIN TOWN RESTAURANT - NIGHT
Reece, Shane, Jon, and Tim emerge from a car.

INT. MOUNTAIN TOWN RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER
The boys are sitting at a booth eating.

SHANE
Our team is better because of Blake.

JON
(smiles slightly)
Reece's ego isn't.

Reece shakes his head.

SHANE
Only Blake is close enough to you to push you.

TIM
You know coach is going to pair you up with Blake on Saturday.

SHANE
Which means you need to learn how to work together.

REECE
I've tried.

JON
(under his breath)
Not very hard.

REECE
You can't talk to him. Have any of you had a conversation with him?

JON
I asked him once what he likes to do for fun.

REECE
And...

JON
He just said... running.

TIM
Nice conversation.
REece
Exactly. He's impossible.

Shane
Then don't talk to him. Just work with him - as a teammate.
(a beat)
I'm going to invite him on our camping trip.

 Reece
That trip isn't for freshmen.

Shane
It's for varsity runners.
(a beat)
If you want to be a baby about it, you can stay.

Reece looks down at his plate.

ext. colorado springs - race course - morning

We are in a park next to a river in Colorado Springs. Pike's Peak is in view. Runners from a dozen teams stride out from the starting line to loosen up. Reece leads his squad onto the field. They form a circle. Coach Clark joins them.

Coach Clark
Adams and Western are out for us. Stay in your pairs. Run smart at the beginning and leave them behind after mile three. Understood?

The boys nod.

Coach Clark
Hands in.

The boys put their hands into the circle.

Coach Clark
What do you leave on the course?

Team
EVERYTHING!

The team turns to run back to the starting line.

Coach Clark
Reece. Blake.
The two boys stop. Coach Clark pulls them together.

**COACH CLARK**
Wind is from the north. On your way back, alternate taking the wind for each other. Understood?

Reece and Blake nod. They lock eyes for a moment as they part from Coach Clark and join the team.

A starter raises a gun and fires. The mass of runners surges forward. Reece pulls up behind a large pack. Blake gets on his shoulder.

Then Reece surges toward a pack at the front. Blake follows. The race winds its way down to a dirt road that follows the river. Blake and Reece run by Coach Clark.

**COACH CLARK**
Easy does it, boys!

But Reece holds the grueling pace. He doesn't let up. Nor does Blake. They move ahead of the lead pack.

The boys reach the halfway point. They U-turn around an orange cone and turn into the wind. Reece appears exhausted, so Blake pulls ahead. Reece tucks in behind him.

The wind is blasting Blake. He is getting tired fast. Reece just keeps drafting. The boys pass Coach Clark again.

**COACH CLARK**
Work together, now, work together!

Blake is gassing. He can't keep up their grueling pace into the wind. He glances back at Reece.

**BLAKE**
You're turn!

Reece puts on a surge of speed. He blows past Blake and puts some distance between them.

The boys enter some woods. To Reece's surprise, Blake pulls up on his shoulder again. He passes Reece.

But then Reece suddenly swipes at Blake's legs from behind. Blake stumbles and falls, and Reece sweeps past him.

Several runners stream by Blake as he pulls himself up. His face is etched with anger as he resumes running. The finish line comes into view. Blake puts on a surge of speed.
Blake passes Reece right at the finish line. The two boys stumble through the finisher's chute gasping for air.

LENNY
Good finish, guys!

Lenny smilingly pats Reece on the back, but Reece shoves Lenny and walks from the finish line. Lenny looks surprised and hurt.

LENNY
Reece, what's wrong?

INT. REECE AND SHANE’S DORM ROOM - EVENING

It is raining hard outside. Shane and Reece have just returned from the race. Reece sits to untie his shoes. He looks out the window and sees Blake begin running.

EXT. TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

The rain is pelting relentlessly. Blake is jogging on a trail. Reece comes into view behind him.

REECE
Blake!

Blake looks back at Reece. He ignores him and keeps running.

REECE
STOP!

Blake slows to a halt. He turns to look at Reece.

REECE
Who are you? (a beat) Where did you learn to run?

Blake doesn't respond. Reece is getting frustrated.

REECE
Look, the whole, "I'm a big mystery" thing is getting old.

Blake takes a step toward Reece.

BLAKE
The whole, "I'm afraid of how Blake is ruining my identity as the best runner who's ever lived" thing got old a long time ago.
REECE
We can work together.

BLAKE
Like today?

REECE
I was wrong. I'm sorry--

BLAKE
You just regret that it didn't work.
(a beat)
And I don't have to answer your questions..

Blake turns to continue running. Reece reaches forward and grabs his shoulder to stop him--

Blake turns and socks Reece in the face. Reece falls back into the mud. He jumps up and tackles Blake to the ground. The two boys struggle for a moment in the mud.

But then Blake gets the advantage. He punches Reece hard several times in a rage.

Then, in a flash, Blake grabs a nearby stick, breaks it over his knee, and rears back with the sharp end ready to skewer Reece in the chest. Reece is terrified.

But Blake stops himself. He is breathing hard. He stares at Reece for a moment, and then he tosses the stick to the ground and stands.

BLAKE
I'm not here to be your friend.

Blake turns from Reece and continues jogging down the trail. Reece, face bloodied, sits up in shock at what just happened.

INT. DORM BATHROOM - NIGHT

Reece dabs several cuts on his face with a wet washcloth. Shane enters the bathroom and pauses when he sees him.

SHANE
Reece--

REECE
Don't say a word.

A beat. Shane starts to leave but then stops.
SHANE
We have our camping trip next weekend.
   (a beat)
I invited Blake to come.

A beat.

REECE
And...

SHANE
He wasn't down for it at first. But then I mentioned it would be near St. Mary's Glacier and he... said it sounded good to him.

EXT. CROSS COUNTRY DORM - EARLY MORNING

Reece, face bruised, emerges from his dorm with his backpack and begins walking sullenly toward campus.

Lenny, wearing workman's clothes, is working hard with a shovel to scrape goose poop off a sidewalk in front of the dorms. He looks up.

LENNY
Morning, Reece!

Reece doesn't respond. Lenny walks up beside him smiling.

LENNY
You excited about the camping trip?

REECE
I'm not going this year.

LENNY
What? It's your senior year!

REECE
I need to focus on stuff here.

LENNY
Shane said that I get to go!

REECE
Did you ask mom?

LENNY
I did, and she said I could go if you're going.
REECE
Then you won't be going.

LENNY
(dejected)
I've never been allowed to go! Please, bro.

Reece turns and looks at Lenny.

REECE
Lenny, I have a really busy day ahead of me. I think you need to get back to your work.

Lenny opens his mouth to protest. But then he lowers his sad face and begins walking back to his shovel. Reece watches him go. Lenny picks up his shovel and continues scraping goose poop off the sidewalk. Reece shows some remorse.

REECE
(sighs)
Fine, Lenny... We'll go camping.

Lenny's face brightens.

LENNY
Thanks, Reece!

REECE
But you'll need to be quiet on the trip and do what I say.

LENNY
Yes, sir! It'll be awesome!

EXT. DORM - MORNING

A beautiful day. Warm and sunny. Reece and Jon are packing camping gear into the back of an old van. Lenny approaches from behind the dorm. He is carrying a bag.

JON
Where do you think you're going?

LENNY
Camping.

JON
With us? Who said you could come?
LENNY
Shane - and Reece.

Tim looks at Reece, who nods. Lenny smiles and puts his bag in the back of the van.

Blake emerges from the dorm with a large backpack and an additional bag.

JON
Whoa, Blake, too much junk. We only have so much room in the back. Have you been camping before?

Blake nods.

JON
This is just a one-night trip. You don't need that much stuff.

BLAKE
I'll hold it in my lap then.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - MORNING
It is early autumn in the mountains. The aspen leaves have begun to turn yellow. The van winds its way up a mountain road.

EXT. TRAILHEAD - MORNING
The van is parked at the side of a road below a trail that meanders up a hill.

SHANE
Glacier water, anyone?

Blake looks questioningly at Shane. Tim notices and smiles.

TIM
It's a little camping tradition.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - AFTERNOON
Reece, Shane, Jon, Tim, and Blake are running briskly through the woods - up and down hills, over logs and rocks.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LAKE - AFTERNOON
The boys reach a beautiful lake that sits below a tall cliff.
MOMENTS LATER

Shane jumps into the water from a rock below the cliff. He whoops loudly because of the cold. Then he dives under to check out the water beneath the cliff. He surfaces.

SHANE
Looks good! Just flippin' cold!

The boys laugh. Shane swims for the shore.

MOMENTS LATER

Reece is on top of the cliff. With a war cry, he jumps from the cliff and drops 40 feet to the water. Jon and Tim follow. Then Blake. Each of them comes up gasping because of the cold water.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - AFTERNOON

The boys are back on the trail, running. Blake turns up the hill to take on a steeper grade. The boys follow.

They break into a clearing at the top of the rise and stop to catch their breath. In front of them is an odd sight: in the middle of the clearing is a small sapling in full bloom. It is covered in the white flowers of spring.

TIM
Odd... Late bloomer, I guess...

SHANE
Let's get back to start dinner before it gets dark.

The boys turn to go. But Blake remains staring at the tree.

SHANE
Blake?

Blake looks up and turns from the tree to rejoin the others.

EXT. CAMPSITE - EVENING

The boys are sitting around a campfire. Shane tosses foods into a pot over the fire. Lenny sits down with a smile on his face.

LENNY
Smells good, Shane!

Shane pours some beans into the pot.
TIM
Oh, man...

SHANE
Shush. This is my mother's recipe. It'll be delicious.

JON
And explosive.

Blake returns from the woods with several long branches. He pulls out a knife and begins sharpening the end of one of them. Reece looks at him warily. Lenny notices as well.

LENNY
Whatchya doin', Blake?

BLAKE
(shrugs)
Figured we could maybe go hunting in the morning.

JON
(smiles)
Sounds good to me.

TIM
Hunting for what?

BLAKE
Don't know. Whatever's out there.

Jon stands and picks up a hatchet.

JON
I've done some hunting in my day.

TIM
Bet you can't make it stick.

JON
Little did you know, I'm a hatchet-master.
(reels back)
HI-YAH!

He throws the hatchet against the tree. It smacks against the trunk and drops to the ground.

REECE
Maybe next time.
SHANE
Can we return to our discussion?
(a beat)
Legolas or Robin Hood?

JON/REECE
Legolas.

TIM
Robin Hood! Didn't you guys used to watch the Disney movie?

JON
Do you even know who Legolas is?

TIM
He's an elf.

JON
You say "elf" like it refers to one of Santa's helpers. Elf here refers to "I can shoot like six arrows in the time it takes Robin Hood to shoot one."

TIM
Whatever...

Lenny leans in toward Jon. He squints his eyes a bit:

LENNY
What are you sayin' about Santa, mister?

Blake looks over to the horizon, starting to turn red. He continues sharpening the spears.

BLAKE
Did anyone check the weather for tonight?

TIM
We're supposed to stay dry. It'll get down to the forties, but it should be a clear night.

SHANE
My masterpiece is complete! You're all lucky that I'm willing to share this greatness with all of you. Please - partake.
The boys ladle the stew into paper bowls and begin to eat. Jon and Tim, after taking a bite, look at one another: pretty tasty. Shane notices their expressions.

SHANE
Ha ha! That's what I thought, gentlemen. No need to say thanks.

JON
Oh. We'll say thank you later.

INT. TENT - NIGHT
The boys are in their sleeping bags. Someone rips one. Laughs. Another one fires.

SHANE
Ah!

JON
You knew it was coming.

SHANE
I didn't think it'd be this much. You guys have such weak stomachs.

Jon opens his sleeping bag and wafts some of the smell toward Shane, who pinches his nose.

JON
Yes, sir, right there.

LENNY
I liked your stew a lot, Shane.

SHANE
Thank you, Lenny. You're the only one who really appreciates my work.

But then Lenny lets one. The boys laugh. Lenny smiles wide.

BLAKE
Rain.

The boys look at Blake, who points at the top of the tent. The boys look up. A raindrop hits.

TIM
You're kidding.

More rain strikes the tent. Big raindrops.
REECE
Shoes.

Reece and Blake sit up. The rain is increasing fast. They unzip the tent, grab the shoes, and pull them inside.

Flash - lightning. Reece and Blake look up to see the horizon... They pause...

REECE
What the...

TIM
What do you see?

We see from their POV: this is no light rain coming. A massive thunderhead riddled with lighting is pushing through the valley.

REECE
I think we need to leave.

JON
What?

Shane pulls himself up to look through the tent opening.

SHANE
That does look bad...
(a beat)
Let's pack it up.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Reece, Blake, and Shane emerge from the tent to pick up pots and pans while the others pack up sleeping bags inside. The rain is now a downpour. Flashes of lightning come quicker. The sound of thunder rolls through the mountains.

TIM
(to Shane)
Keys!

Shane pulls out the van keys and tosses them to Tim. Tim picks up some of the camping gear and runs down the trail.

EXT. BASE OF THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Tim reaches the bottom of the hill. He is soaked through. But then he stops short. In a flash of lighting, we see fear on his face. He drops the gear.
EXT. CAMPSITE - MOMENTS LATER

The boys are breaking down the tent. Wind from the valley is thrashing the cliff-side. Tim sprints into the camp.

    TIM
    (yelling over the wind)
    The car's gone!

    SHANE
    What?!

The boys stop packing.

    SHANE
    What do you mean the car's gone?!

    TIM
    I can't find it! I swear I went down the same trail to where we parked it!

The sound of a HOWL carries over the wind. The boys freeze.

    LENNY
    What was that?!

    JON
    It's the wind!

But then there's another HOWL. Blake takes action.

    BLAKE
    Start putting the tent back up! But get it off the cliff and into the trees!

Blake picks up several spears. He tosses one to Shane.

    BLAKE
    Stay with these guys!

Then Blake tosses a spear to Reece and motions for him to follow.

EXT. BASE OF THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Reece and Blake, spears in hand, reach the base of the hill. In several flashes of lightning, we see from their POV: the car is gone. The road is gone. All sign of civilization is gone. Blake takes a few steps forward, but each flash of lightning tells him the same thing.
REECE
We parked right here and started up the hill! It wasn't that far!

CLOSE on Blake's face. Flashes of lightning: he has realized something. He turns toward Reece. Reece, very frightened, looks at him questioningly...

LOW GROWL. Blake turns quick. His spear is up and ready. Flash: a large wolf stands twenty yards away. Reece also levels his spear and stands just behind Blake's shoulder.

The wolf bars its teeth at them. It remains for another moment, and then it turns to the woods uphill from them. Blake and Reece watch it disappear among the timbers.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

The boys are struggling to set up the tent on some sloped ground in the trees. Jon is getting frustrated with Lenny, who is trying to hammer a spike into the ground.

JON
Give it to me!

Jon takes the hammer from Lenny and pushes him aside to finish the job. Fear suddenly covers Lenny's face.

LENNY
JON!

Jon looks behind him to see three wolves. Shane sees them and levels his spear. The boys back out of the trees and into the clearing. The wolves slowly advance. One advances ahead of the others. Shane shakes his spear at the wolf.

SHANE
Back! Get back!

The wolf doesn't heed Shane's words. The boys continue to back toward the cliff face behind them. The wolf snarls... and then DARTS toward Shane.

SLAM. A spear sinks into the wolf's side. It topples over to the ground and fights to get back up. The boys look: the spear was thrown by Blake. Blake takes Reece's spear from him and charges at the remaining two wolves.

The wolves back away. But then two more wolves arrive. They trot around to cut off the boys' retreat downhill. Blake snaps a glance behind him - sees the cliff.
BLAKE
Start climbing down the cliff!

The boys begin their descent. Blake removes his spear from the now-dead wolf and hands the other one to Reece. He then motions for Reece to follow the others. Reece begins to back down the cliff as well. The wolves close in around Blake.

SHANE (O.S.)
BLAKE!

Shane is looking down: three more wolves have arrived.

SHANE
There's more down here!

Blake's feet are now on the edge of the cliff. The wolves continue to advance toward him. Reece looks over the top of the cliff at Blake. He picks up a rock. One of the wolves jumps at Blake. He wounds it, but then several more charge. Reece throws the rock, turning one wolf away. But then Blake takes a step backward into nothing but air.

Reece reaches out and catches his shirt. Blake also grabs the edge of the cliff and slams into the side. The two boys back down fast as the wolves snap their teeth mere inches from their hands.

They are stuck in between two packs of wolves. The storm is only increasing in intensity. Lightning strikes a tree above the cliff. The wolves flinch, but they remain in place.

Wind and rain thrash the boys on the cliff. They cling to rocks, but everything is wet. Lightning flashes all around, and thunder splits the air.

TIM
Help! Help!

Tim is losing his grip. Lenny, closest to him, tries to make his way across the cliff to help. But then he slips!

REECE
LENNY!

Lenny slides down the cliff to the ground. Blake turns and leaps the rest of the distance - hitting the ground with a roll. He is up quick with spear at the ready.

But something else now stands between Lenny and the pack of wolves. It is another wolf - alone but with its back to the boys. It growls menacingly at the other wolves. One by one, the wolves turn and disappear into the woods. When they are all gone, the
remaining wolf glances back at the boys and trots then advances into the woods in a different direction.

Blake looks above at the top of the cliff: none of the wolves are there, either. He advances forward a few paces and peers into the darkness. Blake motions for the others to come down. They make their way to the ground. Reece and Tim help Lenny to stand.

Blake sees a fallen tree below the cliff. Large branches have made a cave underneath the trunk of the dead tree.

BLAKE
Crawl underneath!

The boys obey. It is muddy underneath, but it is out of the rain and away from the lightning, though thunder still shakes the ground.

Rather than crawl underneath with the others, Blake positions himself against the cliff. The boys see this but do not protest. Lenny, however, pulls himself from under the dead tree. He limps over to Blake and sits down beside him...

FADE TO BLACK:

A long beat as the sounds of the storm fade...

FADE IN:

EXT. CLIFF BASE - DAWN

A tranquil, gray morning. Everything is wet. Blake is sharpening the tip of a spear with a knife. Lenny is sitting beside Blake and is holding another spear.

The boys stir groggily. Tim tries to pull himself out from the overhanging branches. He passes gas loudly and then relaxes into the mud again. Jon pats Tim on the back.

EXT. BASE OF THE HILL - MORNING

POV of the boys: the car is gone. The road is gone. The little mountain houses and towns which spotted the countryside are gone. The boys are silent for a moment, just staring. They are filthy from sleeping in the mud.

TIM
This has to be some very elaborate joke.
EXT. CAMPSITE - MOMENTS LATER

The boys come up the trail to their campsite. They look out at the vast expanse before them and immediately notice a peculiar-looking rock-face that stretches across the western horizon 15-20 miles away.

JON
What is that?

SHANE
I've never seen it before.

TIM
It definitely wasn't there yesterday.

BLAKE
The dead wolf is gone.

Blake is looking at a swath of mud where the wolves dragged it away. Shane and Jon are trying their phones.

REECE
Anything?

SHANE
No reception.

Tim holds up empty bags and tin cans.

TIM
The food's been eaten...

Tim tosses the trash to the ground.

BLAKE
We need to pack everything.

Lenny begins to obey. But the other boys look at Blake.

REECE
Where are we going?

Blake doesn't respond. Jon holds up the tent.

JON
Everything's been torn up. Even the tent.

Jon drops the tent. Blake strides over and picks it up.

BLAKE
We need to take everything.
Blake rolls the torn tent into a ball and hands it to Jon.

LENNY
I say we do what Blake says, guys.

TIM
Could the storm have washed everything away?

JON
Including the road, idiot?

SHANE
We could see so much from here yesterday.
(points)
The city was over there. Houses were up on that ridge. Power lines ran down the valley to our right--

REECE
Blake.

Shane gets quiet. Blake looks at Reece.

REECE
I saw it on your face last night. Down below the hill. You know something.

BLAKE
(shakes his head)
We need to start moving.

REECE
Where? And who made you boss?

BLAKE
We need a wall between us and the outside before it gets dark. Or else we'll have to climb into the trees.

TIM
The wolves left us alone last night. Maybe they moved on.

SHANE
Why did they leave us? We were sitting ducks.

TIM
Maybe they just wanted our food.
REECЕ
Regardless, Blake hasn't answered my question - who made you boss?

In a flash, Blake turns and sweeps Reece's feet from under him and broadsides Reece across the chest with his spear. Reece hits the ground hard.

Blake regains control of himself. The boys stare at him fearfully.

LENNY
Blake!

Blake looks at Lenny, who is pointing down to the valley. From their POV, we see a narrow river. Two dozen wolves have emerged from the woods on the opposite side. They wade into the river to begin crossing.

TIM
That's more than we saw last night.

Blake offers Reece his hand. Reece refuses it and stands up. Shane looks at Blake.

SHANE
All right... Tell us what to do.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY
The boys are moving fast. Blake is leading. Lenny brings up the rear.

EXT. STREAM BELOW ROCKY HILLS - DAY
The boys make their way to a stream.

BLAKE
We'll follow this up...

Blake points.

BLAKE
Into that...

They look up to see a cluster of boulder-strewn hills crowned by fog.
EXT. ROCKY HILLS - AFTERNOON

Clouds have moved in, and the light is already fading. The boys are marching along the stream in single file. Spread out. Getting tired. Lenny is falling behind.

REECE
Lenny... Keep up...

Lenny picks up his pace. Blake climbs a rock and looks at the valley below. His eyes scan back and forth... From his POV, we see a vast expanse... But no movement.

TIM
(exhausted)
Break?

SHANE
What do you see?

Blake shakes his head and motions for them to keep moving. Lenny, more exhausted than Tim, offers him some water. Tim takes it gratefully. Blake moves down from the rock and resumes the march. The others follow.

EXT. WATERFALL IN ROCKY HILLS - EVENING

The boys, weary and sluggish, come upon a 20-foot waterfall cascading over rocks to a little pool that feeds the stream the boys have been following into the hills.

Blake's eyes scan over everything. He climbs several rocks leading to the top of the waterfall. He looks out over the valley... The position commands an excellent view of every approach. The jagged rocks surrounding them provide a natural barrier of defense.

SHANE
Can we drink here?

Blake nods. He then moves down to a cluster of aspen trees beside the pool and disappears from sight behind them.

The boys move to the pool to fill up water bottles. Blake emerges from the cluster of trees.

BLAKE
Follow me.

They move through the trees and come upon a fifteen-foot rock face. Blake kneels and peers under a low overhang beneath the cliff.
BLAKE
Flashlight.

Jon removes a head lamp from his pocket and tosses it to him. Blake turns it on and flashes it inside. Under the overhang is a space about 15 feet wide that pushes back 10 feet under the rock. But it is only 1 foot deep.

EXT. CAVE - EVENING

It's a race against time. The boys are hard at work. Jon and Tim are up to their waste under the rock scraping out dirt with some pieces of wood.

The other boys are collecting rocks and stacking them in front of the cave. Everyone is under tremendous physical duress.

LENNY
Keep it up, guys...

JON
(hefting a large rock)
Shut up, Lenny...

Lenny slips and almost drops his rock on Shane's foot.

BLAKE
Lenny, go keep watch on top of the cliff.

Lenny nods and begins climbing.

CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Lenny sits on the cliff to keep watch. From his POV, we see no movement.

POOL - EVENING

Jon and Tim are at the pool lapping water into their mouths. They pull themselves up and return to work.

CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Blake is on his belly in front of the cave examining its depth, which is now about 18 inches. Blake nods: good enough. He begins stuffing packs into the space.
CLIFF - DUSK

The sun is below the horizon. Darkness is falling. Lenny still watches the approach.

CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The boys have dawned head lamps for their work. Blake directs the placing of rocks around the mouth of the cave. The wall is almost complete - except for a small opening.

CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Lenny shivers from the wind. His eyes strain into the darkness...

WOLF. It walks slowly around a boulder a hundred yards below the pool. Tall and scraggly.

LENNY
(hoarse whisper)
Blake!

Blake looks up.

LENNY
They're here!

Blake motions for the boys to crawl into the cave. The boys start to climb through the hole.

Lenny slowly climbs down from the bottom of the cliff. He notices several empty water bottles lying nearby. He grabs them and moves through the trees toward the pool. No one sees him going.

Blake slips down into the cave. He tries to pull a boulder over the hole to seal it - but it keeps falling backward. He can't keep it in place.

POOL - CONTINUOUS

Lenny is kneeling by the pool filling water bottles.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The boys are cramped inside the small space.

REECE

Lenny?
No response.

REECE
Wait! Where's Lenny?!

Reece pushes past Blake and looks out the hole.

REECE (hoarse whisper)
Lenny!

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Lenny pushes his way through the trees.

LENNY
Here!

Lenny passes the water bottles to Blake. He then lays down to climb inside. But he can't. The hole is too small.

LENNY
I won't fit!

Blake and the boys reach up to pull him in, but they don't have enough space to create the leverage needed. So Lenny pulls himself from the hole. He turns around and picks up the boulder that Blake was going to use as a sealer.

LENNY
Look out!

REECE
No, Lenny!

Lenny SLAMS the boulder into place, thus sealing off the entrance.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The boys speak in hoarse whispers.

REECE
Lenny!
(to Blake)
You really couldn't pull him in?!

SHANE
Shut up!

The boys grow silent... Shane sees something through a peep hole in the rocks... We hear a twig SNAP... The pitter-patter of feet
in front of the wall... Sniffing... A low growl... Something scratches at the rocks... And then... Silence.

REECE  
(to Blake)  
Move. I'm going out there.

Blake shakes his head. Reece pushes toward the exit.

REECE  
He's my brother--

Blake shoves him back. Reece struggles with Blake to get out - he even pushes at the rock wall in front of him. Jon reaches from behind to hold him back. Blake also reaches forward to restrain him. Reece stops fighting. But he stares hatefully at Blake. Tears are in his eyes...

FADE TO BLACK...
FADE IN:

EXT. CAVE - DAWN

The rock that seals the cave is slowly pushed away. Blake's head emerges. Seeing everything is safe, he pulls himself out from the cave. Blake picks up a spear from the ground and looks down at the dirt... Hundreds of wolf prints are faintly visible... The other boys emerge.

REECE
Lenny!

No response. Reece looks up to the cliff.

REECE
Lenny!

Reece pushes through the trees. The other boys grab spears and fan out to search.

POOL - CONTINUOUS

Reece circles the pool toward the waterfall. And then he sees Lenny huddled down on some wet rocks behind the waterfall. He looks up feebly at Reece.

REECE
I FOUND HIM!
EXT. CAVE - LATER

Shane stokes a large fire. Lenny sits wrapped in a sleeping bag, but he still shivers. Tim dips a bottle into a pot of water placed close to the fire and hands it to Lenny.

LENNY
Thanks, Tim...

Blake is sharpening a slender spear with his knife. He has split the end into three prongs, each sharpened to a point.

JON
What now? We can't just stay here.

SHANE
How do we get past the wolves?

TIM
We were able to keep ahead of them well enough yesterday--

SHANE
Does anyone else remember what we saw? Car gone, road gone, civilization gone - or was that just a dream? I think we need to wait a while--

JON
For what? We have class tomorrow. Fort Collins meet is next weekend. And I have smoking hot girl waiting to go on a coffee date with me this evening.

Shane remains quiet. Reece looks at Blake.

REECE
What are you doing?

Blake finishes his spear. He reaches to the ground and picks up two small spades fashioned from fallen tree branches. He tosses them to Jon and Tim.

BLAKE
We need to pull back all the rocks, use the spades to dig the cave deeper, find bigger rocks for tonight, and make sure the opening is big enough for Lenny.

Blake picks up a regular spear, his new three-pronged spear, and a backpack.
TIM
Where are you going?

BLAKE
Food.

LENNY
Do you need help?

Blake shakes his head. He turns to leave. Reece stops him.

REECE
You gonna tell us what's going on?

BLAKE
I have a few guesses, but we have more important things to do right now.
(a beat)
I suggest you get to work on the cave.

Blake turns and makes his way through the aspens. The boys look at Reece.

REECE
I'm heading higher up for a better look. Shane, you're coming with me.

SHANE
I don't think that's a good idea.

JON
What about Tim and me?

REECE
Stay with Lenny.

TIM
I'm fine with that.

SHANE
Blake seems to know what he's doing.

Reece reaches down to grab a spear.

REECE
He's also hiding something from us.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

Blake sits beside a stream and removes his shoes. He rolls up his jeans and then stands to enter the frigid water with his three-pronged spear to search for fish.
EXT. WOODS - DAY
Reece and Shane are walking through the woods to higher ground.

EXT. CAVE - DAY
The boys are still by the fire. Lenny stands.

JON
Where are you going?

LENNY
Blake said to work on the cave.

Lenny begins prying rocks from the cave wall. Jon and Tim look at one another. They stand and begin to work as well.

EXT. TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY
Reece and Shane emerge into a clearing on the top of a mountain - the same one they came upon during their run two days before.

They despair at the sight before them: no marks of civilization are visible. Nothing but tall forests and jagged hills as far as the eye can see. Shane pulls out his phone and tries to get reception.

Reece stairs at the rock-face that stretches across the horizon in the distance.

REECE
(sighs)
I just don't get it...

Reece shakes his head and looks at the ground in front of him. He noticed the little sapling they saw the day before on their run, but now it is dead, its leaves and flowers drained of life and falling from droopy branches.

EXT. CAVE - EARLY EVENING
Blake returns to find Lenny, Jon, and Tim digging sluggishly in the cave. Lenny sees Blake.

LENNY
(smiles at Blake)
We dug it deeper!

BLAKE
Where are Reece and Shane?
TIM
Reece wanted to get a better look higher up. He took Shane with him.

Blake's eyebrows furrow. He sets his pack by the fire and begins removing trout, berries, and roots. Lenny smiles.

LENNY
Nice, Blake!

EXT. WOODS - EVENING

Reece and Shane are trekking through the woods again. It is quiet. Reece is leading.

SHANE
You sure we're headed back the right way?

REECE
(a bit unsure)
Yes...

SHANE
Shhh... Did you hear that?

The boys stop... They hear leaves crunching and branches snapping. The noise comes from behind them. Something big.

SHANE
What is that?

Reece turns and looks back. His eyes get wide. It is a large male MOOSE. Huge antlers. Shane sees it as well.

REECE
Just keep walking...

The boys nervously continue their trek downhill. But the moose increases its speed toward them. Reece sees this.

REECE
Go... GO!

The boys break into a run downhill. The moose smashes through branches as it chases after them.

Two more moose break through the trees in front of them. They charges straight at the boys.

REECE
Up! Up a tree!
Reece and Shane turn to the nearest tree and begin to climb. Just as Reece's feet get above the ground, a moose slams its antlers into the trunk on the other side of the tree, nearly shaking Shane loose.

The moose circle the trees and stomp the ground with their hooves in frustration. One of them opens its mouth and gives out a loud, deep bugle.

A wolf's HOWL rises somewhere in the distance.

EXT. CLIFF ABOVE THE CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Lenny is sitting on the cliff, looking down at the approach to the cave. He looks up as he hears the wolf's howl.

CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The wall sealing the cave is back up. The boys are sitting around the fire. They hungrily watch as Blake stirs his trout in a pot. He tosses in roots and berries as well.

LENNY
Do you think they're okay?

Blake picks up a water bottle and dips it into the stew. He slurps some of its contents.

BLAKE
We'll go looking for them in the morning if they don't come back tonight.

CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Lenny sighs and looks around with a worried expression.

FADE TO BLACK...

INT. CAVE - MORNING

The rock at the entrance is pulled from its place. Blake startles awake. He sees Shane's face in the entrance.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The boys emerge from the cave. Reece and Shane - bedraggled and exhausted - sit beside the smoldering fire. Tim and Jon grab wood to stoke it back to life.
TIM
What happened?

SHANE
We got chased into some trees by some
ticked off moose. They didn't leave
till this morning.

JON
There was more than one?

SHANE
Four.

TIM
Did you get to higher ground?

Shane nods.

TIM
What did you see?

SHANE
Nothing. And still no cell reception.

A beat.

TIM
You think people will come looking for
us? We were supposed to be home last
night. Elizabeth was expecting Jon to
meet her.

REECE
WE'RE STUCK!

Tim looks startled.

REECE
We've walked off the map.
   (looks at Blake)
And I want to know why.
   (stands)
This is clearly unnatural,
supernatural - whatever you wanna call
it. Are we just hallucinating? Is it
something we ate? Is it aliens, magic,
some sick punishment from God - WHAT
IS IT?!

Before Blake can respond, Reece continues his rant with even
greater intensity.
REECE
I don't deserve to lose everything!
I've run my tail off, studied my brains
out, served as a good leader - I deserve
the things I have coming to me! This
year is supposed to be my year. It's
supposed to be the year when I get to
enjoy my achievements, the things I've
worked hard for!

Blake reaches for his knife.

SHANE
Blake--

REECE
But ever since you showed up,
you've threatened those things. And
something in me thinks you're
responsible for all this!

Blake draws his knife. Lenny steps in between Blake and Reece
with his hands in the air. Blake stares fiercely at Lenny. He
slowly calms himself.

BLAKE
Everyone grab a spear and follow me.

EXT. FOREST BELOW THE CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Blake leads the group to a cluster of trees by the stream leading
down from their cave. He halts in front of a tree trunk that
has words roughly carved into it.

BLAKE
I found this yesterday.

Shane steps forward to read it.

SHANE
"You have come to a world between
worlds... Your coming here is hard to
explain... And your escape will be
difficult... But there is one way
out... You need to get to the Rim and
find the cave that will take you home...
But beware: the path to the Rim is full
of danger... And watched by many
enemies..."

They stare at the tree for a moment, mystified.
TIM
What's the Rim?

Blake points to the west, where the large rock face stretches across the horizon.

BLAKE
I assume it's that.

JON
That looks really far away...

BLAKE
Other than what's written on this tree, I know nothing about why we are here or what's going on.

REECE
You swear?

BLAKE
Yes.

(a beat)
But I will say that I know how to keep us alive. Like I've told you before, I grew up in the mountains, in a place like this. And I can tell you now that we need better shelter and more food - at least for the next few weeks--

JON
Weeks?

BLAKE
If the tree tells the truth, we need to get to cliff over there, and it doesn't sound like that trek is going to be a jog through the park. We need to prepare. We've already been attacked by wolves and moose. If they really are our "enemies" in this place, then I think we are in a poor condition to go for it now.

(a beat)
We have to turn into a machine. Everyone will have jobs: strengthening the shelter, making weapons and tools, fishing, hunting, and even preserving food in case...

SHANE
In case what?
BLAKE
In case we need it when it starts to get cold.

REECE
We won't be here for that long.

BLAKE
(frustrated)
I hope not, Reece. But you're a fool if you don't face the facts right in front of us.

No one responds for a beat.

SHANE
All right... Show us what to do.

SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. CAVE - DAWN

The boys are fast asleep. Blake reaches in with a rock in each hand and begins slamming them together. The boys are startled by the noise and then stir groggily.

BLAKE
Up, up, up!

JON
I was having a good dream!

Lenny pulls himself up and taps Jon on the back.

LENNY
Come on. We're burnin' daylight!

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

Lenny and Jon are digging out the cave. Reece is using the hatchet to cut down some aspens.

Blake is showing Tim and Chuck how to weave the aspens horizontally from tree to tree. This is, in effect, making a wooden palisade around their campsite: an extra wall between them and the outside.
EXT. STREAM - DAY

The boys stand at the edge of the stream below the cave. Blake is in the water with his spear poised to strike.

SPLASH. Blake lifts up a trout from the water and tosses it to the bank. Lenny places it into a bag. Blake resumes his position over the water.

BLAKE
Cloud cover is best - no shadow. The water distorts the location of the fish. So always strike a bit below. Other than that, it's just patience. And letting your feet get cold...

SPLASH. Blake pulls up another trout.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

While Shane, Lenny, and Reece glean the forest below the cave for roots and berries, Blake is showing Jon and Tim how to set a snare. He trips the mechanism to show them how it will work. Then he resets the trap and places a pile of berries and acorns in the middle of the noose.

SHANE
Blake!

Blake looks: a pack of wolves is running over a hill across the stream... The boys watch the wolves until they are out of sight. They nervously return to their work.

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

Reece and Lenny are digging in the cave. Tim is working on the palisade. Hands are blistered and bloodied. Shane and Jon are working on the placing of a door made from aspen trunks.

Blake puts a handful of dried worms into a bowl and begins to mash them with a piece of wood. Lenny curiously watches him from inside the cave. When the worms have been turned into a powder, Shane pours them into a stew. Lenny grimaces.

SHANE
(smiles at Lenny)
Protein.
EXT. FOREST/STREAM - DAY

Blake, Shane, Reece, and Lenny and are taking turns rocking a dead ten-foot tree back and forth. It grows looser and looser at the roots.

Nearby, AT THE STREAM, Jon and Tim are fishing. Jon strikes. He smiles as he pulls up a trout. Lenny looks over from the tree.

LENNY
Attaboy, Jon!

Jon puts the fish in a bag strapped to his waste.

AT THE TREE, the boys back away as it topples with a crash. Blake and Shane pick up clubs fashioned from aspen trunks and begin bashing off the tree's branches. Lenny begins collecting the wood in his arms.

AT THE STREAM, Tim strikes at a fish - failure. Jon strikes - he pulls up another fish.

JON
Timmy boy. It's time to join the club.

TIM
Hush - I'm working.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Tim and Lenny dig the cave deeper. Tim looks at his blistered hands. They are wrapped in bloody cloth.

TIM
I can't believe we're doing this again...

LENNY
Ah, it's not bad...

Blake looks inside.

BLAKE
If you make it down to six feet, we'll be finished.

Tim and Lenny look at each other: incentive. Lenny smiles.

LENNY
Let's do it to it, Tim.
EXT. FOREST/STREAM - DAY

Blake and Shane are checking the traps. They discover several small game, including rabbits and squirrels.

AT THE STREAM, Jon, Tim, and Reece are in the water. Tim strikes and pulls up a large fish. He smiles...

    TIM
    I am such a man!

Just then, a wolf HOWL goes up. The boys look to a hill across the stream. A lone wolf stands watching them...

EXT. CAVE - EVENING

The boys look at the entrance to the cave. Jon and Lenny look out from the hole. Just their heads are showing.

    JON
    We're standing on our feet.

EXT. POOL - EVENING

The boys, stripped to their underwear, are showering in the waterfall. Each stays in just long enough to scrub off.

    TIM
    COLD! COLD!

Tim runs fast for the warmth of the fire pit.

CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Blake and Tim are cleaning small game animals. Several pelts are already stretched out between two wooden posts. Lenny watches with fascination as Tim examines the insides of a fox.

    TIM
    That's the liver... The pancreas... And those are the intestines...

EXT. CAVE - EVENING

Blake is climbing into one of the aspens. He is holding a bag made from a piece of the tent and begins tying it to the top of one of the trees.
Below him, Shane and Tim are placing pieces of dry meat into small boxes made from birch bark. Lenny passes the boxes up to Blake, who places them into the bag. From INSIDE the bag, we see him seal the top - DARKNESS.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

FADE IN:

EXT. POOL - DAY

Lenny is gathering some firewood near the pool beneath the waterfall. He trips and falls, scattering the firewood on the ground. He sits back and grimaces, holding his knee.

As he sits there, Lenny notices at a small flower beside the water. He smiles slightly and leans closer to it - fascinated by its vibrant colors.

And then it grows - just a few centimeters. But it makes Lenny's eyes get wide. He continues staring at the flower - and it grows again! This time an inch. Lenny winces slightly when it does.

He sits back, startled. Jon and Tim emerge from the aspens holding spears. They notice Lenny sitting down.

JON
Sitting down on the job, Lenny?

Lenny pulls himself up and begins to pick up the firewood.

EXT. CLIFF - EVENING

The sun is setting. Reece is sitting on the cliff and staring out at the untamed expanse. He shivers from cold.

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Reece enters through the palisade door and shuts it for the night.

The fire is ablaze - illuminating Jon and Tim, who are sporting new rabbit-skin underwear. Blake is at work sewing more skins together. Jon and Tim obnoxiously offer to help Shane as he prepares the meal.

SHANE
All right - that's enough...
Doug and Tim stop their antics. They put their regular clothes back on - but with the new underwear still on.

**JON**
Shane. Fresh underwear.

**TIM**
Your pair is out there right now...
Chewing on some patch of grass--

**REECE**
(to Blake)
It's getting colder.

The boys grow serious and look at Reece.

**BLAKE**
We'll be heading to the Rim soon.

Reece circles the campfire and sits across from Blake.

**REECE**
You know, I had a thought about that. We came into this place from the opposite direction. Going to the Rim seems like going further from home.
   (a beat)
Why don't we try hiking east? We can follow the river.

**BLAKE**
I don't think we would find anything that way.

**REECE**
How do you know?

**BLAKE**
The markings on the tree--

**REECE**
The tree does say something, but we don't know who carved that message. If think about it, whoever it was could have been a little more specific if they were really trying to help us.

A beat.

**BLAKE**
Regardless of where we go, I still have several weapons that I need to make--
REECE

Look, we're very impressed with all your survival skills - however you acquired them - but like I said... It's getting colder.

(a beat)

And I'm tired of playing around out here.

A beat.

BLAKE

We'll try soon.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Blake, Jon, and Reece are on the move, checking traps. Reece checks one and finds a rabbit. He pulls it from the trap and tucks it into a bag. He then resets the trap.

Reece looks over to see that Blake and Jon are frozen still. Reece follows their stare: a small buck is caught in one of the traps on the top of a small rise. It is struggling to get itself free. Blake levels his spear and begins to move closer. Jon and Reece follow... They inch their way forward...

A WOLF SLAMS INTO THE DEER FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE HILL. It goes straight for the deer's throat. Immediately, three more wolves crowd around the deer to bring it down. They tear it from the trap. Jon and Reece begin to back away.

But Blake does not. He is angry. His teeth clench. He makes a sudden run on the wolves and throws his spear with a yell. The spear pierces into the largest wolf. It struggles for a moment and then drops down dead. The other three wolves turn and face Blake.

And then four more wolves arrive over the hill.

JON

Gracious, Blake...

Blake now begins to back away. The wolves do not pursue the boys. Instead, they turn to the carcass of the deer and the dead wolf and begin to drag both away...

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

The boys are sitting around the fire, eating stew.
TIM
I just don't get it.

JON
Me neither.

SHANE
Maybe they're desperate. Like us.

JON
Why would they drag off the other wolf?

SHANE
Maybe they've realized we're competitors, not prey. Now it's a question of who wants it more.

TIM
Then why didn't they just kill us? They probably could've done it today.

The boys remain silent. Tim stares into the fire...

TIM
Think about it... They've had several chances to get rid of us.

SHANE
You're reading too much into this--

TIM
You've seen them. Watching us from the hills. The first time they cross over to stop us from doing something is when we finally get close to scoring bigger game. And then even the dead wolf was taken from us - just like it was the first night--

BLAKE
It's a siege.

The boys look at Blake.

BLAKE
They know winter is coming. They know we need bigger game to survive the colder months.

JON
They have the whole forest out there to themselves - why do they care if we get a deer or two?
BLAKE
What do you think trapped us here?
(a beat)
If I've come to one conclusion, it's this: there is something out there against us - and it's not just nature.

A beat. Blake's words hang on the night air around them.

REECE
I say we go now.

Blake starts to shake his head.

REECE
We pack our weapons and go east as fast as we can.

JON
I agree with Reece--

BLAKE
We don't know what we'll find in the east.

REECE
We don't really know what we'll find at the Rim, either. We just know there are crazy animals and rough terrain between us and it.

A beat.

REECE
We can set up a wooden stockade every night to protect ourselves. Like the Romans. Like the one we have here.

SHANE
What if moose decide to attack?

REECE
We'll get into the trees again.

A beat.

REECE
We're going to die this winter if we don't try something. It's time to go!

Blake is frustrated. He stands and moves toward the cave. But then he turns back.
BLAKE
We're not ready.

Blake dips into the cave and out of sight...

EXT. POOL - DAY

Blake is chopping wood with the hatchet. Lenny sets unchopped wood on a stump and then collects the pieces after Blake splits them.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Reece, Shane, Tim, and Jon are gleaning the forest floor for roots and berries. They are mid-conversation, trying to convince Shane...

TIM
I did the math. With our current productivity and rate of consumption, we might get a month's worth of food before winter hits. That leaves us with almost nothing by Christmas. And that's if we stretch it.

JON
We're not fat mountain men. We're already losing weight.

REECE
We can bring the spears and fishing gear in case we need to go slow. And we can set traps at night. We've been using this stuff for weeks.

TIM
I agree. We're self-sufficient. And we can strip our wall in the aspens of the best wood and carry it on our shoulders for the stockade.

SHANE
What about Blake?

REECE
Leave him.

A beat. Shane looks at Reece.

SHANE
What about your brother?
JON
He'll slow us down.

REECE
I won't leave without him.

A beat. Jon nods.

REECE
We just won't tell him till we're on our way out. We can say that Blake will catch up to us later.

(a beat)
Come on, Shane! Think about it. If we stay, we'll either have to face the winter or some suicide mission to the Rim with Blake.

(a beat)
The stupid animals will let us go if we head east. And this place has to have an end - somewhere out there.

A beat. Shane nods.

SHANE
All right. We'll try it.

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

The boys are finishing up breakfast.

BLAKE
I'm going to work on something in the woods. I want you guys to fish, check the traps, and get more wood. We're burning through it pretty fast now.

JON
You got it, chief.

Blake picks up several tools and a spear and leaves.

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

The boys are hastily packing food and equipment - including their sleeping bags. Jon and Tim are stripping thicker poles off the palisade and placing them into piles.

LENNY
Why are we rushing?
REECE
Cause we gotta go, bud.

LENNY
Where's Blake? You said this was his idea.

REECE
It is. He said he's working on something in the woods. He's gonna catch up to us later.

EXT. STREAM - MORNING
The boys, laden with packs and carrying poles on their shoulders, are moving in single file along the stream.

LENNY
Are you sure Blake knows where we're going?

REECE
Quiet. We'll talk when we stop.

EXT. RIVER - DAY
The boys are still marching by the stream. A river comes into view. This brings relief to the boys.

EXT. RIVER CAMPSITE - EVENING
They are working feverishly on a square stockade with a forty-foot perimeter. Jon and Lenny are digging a ditch and mounding up the dirt on the inside. Tim and Reece follow behind with the poles to plant them firmly in the mound of dirt. Shane is building a fire in the middle.

EXT. RIVER CAMPSITE - DUSK
The sun has dipped below the horizon. The boys finish the stockade. They are tired and filthy, but they are proud of their work. They stand back and look at it together...

EXT. RIVER CAMPSITE - DUSK
The boys are sitting around the fire and eating a solid portion of food. They are exhausted but happy.
JON
First thing I'm gonna do is go to Beau Joe's Pizza and do the fourteen-pound challenge.

The boys smile.

TIM
That sounds so good...

JON
Massive meat-lover mountain pie...

LENNY
Pizza sounds good to me!

REECE
I think you're allowed to have a partner to help - two people in one hour, right?

JON
(nods)
I'm willing to share the glory--

A SHARP BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM. The boys look in its direction: deep into the dark woods beyond their campsite.

SHANE
What was that?

A beat. ANOTHER SCREAM.

TIM
Sounds like someone's dying...

SHANE
That was a a mountain lion.

The boys look at Shane: FEAR. They are totally silent for a long beat - just listening... But they hear nothing else.

JON
Do mountain lions hunt at night?

SHANE
(shakes his head)
Dusk... It should be finishing up.

Shane tosses another piece of wood on the fire.

LENNY
(to Reece)
Is Blake gonna come in tonight?
REECE
I told you. He might catch up to us tomorrow. He knows how to take care of himself.
(a beat)
Two of us are up watching at all times tonight. About two hours each shift. Who's first?

LENNY
I'll stay up. And watch for Blake – just in case.

A beat.

SHANE
Me, too.

INT. STOCKADE – NIGHT

The boys are asleep in their sleeping bags. Shane is also asleep. He stirs... Then jolts up and orients himself – and realizes Lenny is gone. He stands and looks through the stockade: no sign of Lenny.

SHANE
Reece... Reece!

Reece pushes his head out from his sleeping bag.

SHANE
Lenny's gone!

Reece shoots from his bag. The other boys stir awake.

REECE
LENNY!

SHANE
I'm sorry – I fell asleep. It couldn't have been for long. He was gone when I woke up.

Reece looks angrily at Shane.

SHANE
He couldn't have gone far--

Reece shoves Shane into the stockade wall.
REECE
You should’ve woken me up if you were getting tired!

TIM
Why would he leave?

REECE
LENNY!

Shane suddenly takes hold of Reece. He is looking up at the trees... A mountain lion sits in the neck of a tree adjacent to the stockade. It is crouched to catapult itself over the wall. The others pull themselves from their sleeping bags and pick up spears. Reece picks up a stick that is burning on one end. He waves it at the lion.

REECE
BACK!

Something SLAMS into the wall. The posts that were struck are partially dislodged and lean inward. Another mountain lion claws at the posts from the outside – pushing them in more. Jon and Reece put their weight into the posts to keep the lion out. But the lion is relentless.

The lion in the tree LEAPS! Jon swings up his spear just in time to impale it. But it crushes him to the ground. Shane pushes the dead lion off Jon and picks him up. The lion pushing on the stockade finally drives in the posts. Reece manages to stab it. It growls ferociously. Two lions comes into view in nearby trees while yet another slams into the stockade posts.

REECE
OUT!

The boys frantically remove posts on the opposite side of the stockade and push through the opening. A mountain lion leaps into view from around the corner. Reece swings around just in time to bat it over the head. It screams and backs away.

Another lion jumps from the shadows. The boys halt and level their spears. They are trapped against the stream by five lions.

Suddenly, two wolves jump from the darkness and stand between the boys and the lions. They growl fiercely at the lions, who turn their attention to them.

In an instant, the lions have jumped on the wolves. The wolves fight madly – and surprisingly they maims and drive back two of the lions before they are pushed back toward the river by the other three.
Reece leaps forward and stabs one of the lions, who backs away. The wolves, severely wounded, collapse and are killed by the lions, who quickly turn their attention back to the boys.

Tim begins to move toward the water... One of the lions growls. Tim wheels around to run into the water.

**T**IM

Let's go!

**REECE**

Wait! Stay here!

Tim doesn't listen. He wades as fast as he can through the water. He reaches the opposite bank. But another lion emerges from the woods just in front of Tim. He freezes. The lion begins to advance toward him.

But then its flank spins sideways as though it received a kick in its hind quarter. It screams painfully. Tim backs into the water. The lion resumes its attack. An arrow is lodged in its flanks. Another arrow zips through the air and strikes the lion's midsection. It screams again.

Blake emerges from the undergrowth upstream as he knocks another arrow in a newly-made bow. The wounded lion in front of Shane sees him and growls. It begins to charge across the stream toward Blake. Blake focuses hard down the shaft of the arrow—and releases. The arrow lodges in the lion's chest. It bites the water hard just in front of Blake.

Blake knocks another arrow and aims it at the lion nearest to him on the shore. But the lion growls and disappears into the woods. The other two lions also retreat into the darkness. In a different direction, the wolf makes its escape as well. Lenny emerges from the woods behind Blake.

**LENNY**

I found Blake!

Blake picks up the lion from the water and throws it over his shoulders. Reece embraces Lenny. Tim stands and moves back across the stream. He has several cuts that are oozing blood. Shane removes a cloth from a bag and helps Tim bandage his wounds.

Blake wades toward the campsite. His face and hands are covered in ashes. In his hands is a brand new bow. On his belt is an animal-skin quiver full of arrows.

Blake tosses the lion to the ground beside the stream. He strides through the broken wall of the stockade and drags the other lion out. He then proceeds to tie tent rope around the lions' necks.
He attaches the rope to a nearby tree and shoves both carcasses into the water.

Blake then notices the two dead wolves.

**SHANE**
They tried to defend us...

Blake motions for the boys to enter the stockade while he ties up the wolves and shoves their carcasses into the water next to the lions.

Tim takes off his wet clothes and wraps himself in a sleeping bag. Blake helps Shane replace the fallen posts in the stockade. He then turns to the boys in the firelight and is quiet for a long beat.

**BLAKE**
Mountain lions hunt alone. They don't hunt at night. They don't like fire. And the lion I shot should have run. But it just kept coming.
(a beat)
Like I said before, there is something or someone against us here. And I was right - we're not ready to face them yet.

Blake looks at Reece. Reece stares at Blake for a moment, but then he nods his agreement.

Jon notices the bow sitting with an arrow already knocked at Blake's side. Blake sees him looking. He takes the arrow off and passes the bow to Jon.

**BLAKE**
(smiles slightly)
It has friends.

**JON**
How did you make the bowstring?

**BLAKE**
Threads from the old tent.
(a beat)
I think knowing how to use these is going to be what gets us to the Rim. So... we practice... we hunt for bigger game... We get our strength back by eating some meat...
(looks at Reece)
And then we try for it.
Reece nods.

EXT. POOL - DAY

The boys are examining their new bows. Blake strings the last bow. He hands it to Reece.

EXT. POOL - MOMENTS LATER

The boys have knocked blunt arrows in their bows. Blake instructs them on good shooting posture. They take aim and fire at a target about twenty yards away: poor shots. Except for Jon. Blake looks at him with some surprise.

JON
(shrugs)
I've done some deer hunting.

EXT. POOL - DAY

The boys are on the firing line again.

BLAKE
You want to pull the string back to your ear. Not your eye. Harder to aim that way, but it's more stable.

The boys draw their bows and fire again. Tim's misses the target. Jon gives him a smirk.

TIM
This doesn't change the fact that I make better grades than you do.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Blake is stretching out the mountain lion pelts between two poles to dry. The other boys are continuing their target practice. Blake walks over to Chuck to correct his posture. Chuck draws back, aims, and fires. It strikes the bull's eye.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

The boys are creeping through the woods. Bows and arrows in hand - but this time they have pointed tips. We see their prey: several wooden targets. Blake signals a halt. They draw back... And FIRE. All the arrows hit the targets.
EXT. WOODS NEAR CAVE – EVENING

Jon and Tim are taking a squat over a log with two holes cut in it.

JON
Ah... There it is.

EXT. CAVE – DUSK

Shane and Blake are preparing dinner. Lenny is sharpening arrowheads. Reece is putting feathers on arrow shafts. Blake is sewing together a patchwork of small game pelts. Jon and Tim enter through the gate. They close it up for the night. Shane looks up.

SHANE
How was it?

TIM
Wonderful. Except that our latrine is almost full and smells horrible.

JON
Lenny, you didn't dig it deep enough.

Shane looks up, disappointed.

TIM
My poop was green. I need meat.

SHANE
Well, tonight you get your wish.

Shane begins serving the boys some meat in their bowls. Tim takes a bite and grimaces - the meat is tough.

JON
What is this?

SHANE
That's the mountain lion you killed.

Jon looks curiously at the meat.

SHANE
(smiles at Tim)
It's been said that you gain the power of the enemies you vanquish and consume.

Jon takes a big bite...
EXT. CAVE - MORNING

It is a cold morning. The boys are gearing up. They are rubbing ash on their faces and hands. They wear their regular clothes, but Blake hands out simple coats made from a patchwork of pelts. They put these on over their clothes. Spears are strapped on backs. Quivers on belts. Bows in hand.

Blake notices that Lenny is also gearing up. He looks at Reece and shakes his head. Reece turns to Lenny.

REECE
Hey, bud. We need someone reliable to stay at the camp to hold down the fort and keep the fire going. Can we count on you to do those jobs?

Lenny hesitates.

LENNY
But I wanna go.

REECE
We need a guard to stay here.

A beat. Lenny nods.

LENNY
I guess I got work I can do...

EXT. STREAM - MORNING

It is misty, windy, and cold. The boys are moving in single file by the stream. No talking. Bows are in hand.

EXT. WOODS NEAR CAVE - DAY

Lenny lifts the toilet-seat log from over the latrine, but it slips out of his hands and falls into the hole. Feces spatters onto his legs, shirt, and face. He wipes off his face and reaches down to fish out the log with his hands.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The boys are making their way down a slope - deeper into the valley below their campsite. Blake is in front. He glances to the left and sees several wolves on a nearby hill - keeping watch on the boys. Reece sees them also.
Blake spots a clearing ahead. He motions for the others to stay put as he advances alone. He disappears into a cluster of trees. The boys wait quietly in the cold – steam shooting from their mouths.

Blake returns. He moves swiftly to them and motions for them to gather.

**BLAKE**

*(in a low tone)*

There’s a pack of elk in the clearing. We won't have a good shot from the trees, so here’s what we're gonna do...

**EXT. WOODS NEAR CAVE – DAY**

The log, clean of excrement, sits against a tree. Using a wooden spade, Lenny finishes shoveling dirt into the old latrine. He takes a few steps to another patch of dirt and begins to dig a new one.

**EXT. FOREST – DAY**

**BLAKE**

Got it?

The boys nod.

**BLAKE**

If you see any wolves, give a shout. *(shakes his bow)*

And fight back! We have more than sharp branches in our hands now. *(a beat)*

Let's go.

Blake and Reece part from the troop and turn south. They stay low but move fast along the edge of the clearing toward the opposite side.

**CLEARING – CONTINUOUS**

A herd of massive elk. At least a dozen. Huge antlers.

**EXT. FOREST – NORTH SIDE OF CLEARING – DAY**

Shane, Tim, and Jon are waiting. Very still.
SHANE
(whispers)
Go.

Tim and Jon split off in different directions, traveling up opposite sides of the clearing.

SOUTH SIDE
Blake and Reece reach the other side of the clearing and kneel. Blake examines the tree line for a moment. He nods his approval. He and Reece move slowly closer to the clearing. Reece gets a better look at the elk...

REECE
You sure about this?

EAST SIDE
Jon stops on the east side of the clearing and moves closer.

WEST SIDE
Tim also stops and positions himself to see the elk.

SOUTH SIDE
Blake positions himself behind a tree. Reece does the same. Blake knocks an arrow in his bow and places three more securely against the tree in readiness. Reece follows suit.

CLEARING
The elk can smell something... Several of them look up.

NORTH SIDE
Shane has knocked an arrow in his bow. He takes a deep breath and moves toward the clearing. He breaks through the trees and begins to run.

One of the elk catches sight of him. It flinches and bolts toward Jon on the east side. Jon breaks from the trees and hollers. The herd of elk turn southward.

Jon pulls off a shot, but it barely goes over. Shane also takes a shot, but the arrow disappears in the grass.
The elk begin to veer toward the west. Tim pushes through the trees and gives a loud war whoop. The elk, now faced with enemies on three sides, turn again toward the south.

Shane, Jon, and Tim pick up their pace to full speed, running with the elk through the clearing.

Several of the elk barrel into the woods at the corners of the south side, but most head straight toward Blake and Reece. One of them suddenly stumbles and falls to the ground hard.

**SOUTH SIDE**

Blake is knocking another arrow. Reece releases — and another elk bites the dirt just outside the trees. Elk break into the woods and begin to storm past the boys. Reece pulls in as tight as he can behind his tree.

But Blake steps out and shoots his arrow into the last elk. It reels hard and slams into a tree at the edge of the clearing.

The rest of the herd keep moving into the woods to the south and disappear from sight. The runners reach the southern edge of the clearing. Reece and Blake emerge from the woods. They all behold their kill: three tremendous animals with arrows buried to the feathers in their chests.

**JON**

I can't believe that worked!

**SHANE**

That's a ton of meat...

For the first time since slipping into this world, the boys are joyful. They pat one another on the back as they behold their work. Reece shakes Blake's hand with a smile.

**REECE**

Good work.

**BLAKE**

Likewise.

**JON**

Blake!

About 10 wolves have emerged from the woods nearby. The boys quickly prepare their bows.

**BLAKE**

Don't move away from the elk. We stay right here.
For a tense moment, the boys and the wolves remain motionless across from one another - just staring, waiting.

But then, as quickly as they arrived, the wolves turn and run back into the woods. The boys lower their bows with relief.

Jon nods his head with a slight smile.

JON
They saw what we just did! They're afraid of us now--

BLAKE
(cutting off Jon)
Let's get these on poles and get back to the cave.

EXT. WOODS NEAR CAVE - AFTERNOON

Lenny is about four feet down in a new hole. He stops digging, breathing hard. He sets his shovel on the ground beside the hole and leans against the side to catch his breath.

He notices a small sapling, just a foot tall. His eyes lock onto it. His breathing steadies and it happens again - the sapling begins to grow. This time it is more than the flower by the pool. The little sapling grows another foot, sprouting new branches and leaves as it goes.

But this hurts Lenny. He grimaces and clutches his chest. He looks away from the tree and puts his hands on his knees for a moment.

Lenny hears voices. His head pops up from the hole. Excitement washes over him.

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Lenny meets the boys as they walk up the trail toward the pool. The elk carcasses are tied upside down to long poles that are being carried by the boys.

LENNY
Great job, guys! Look at those things!

EXT. CAVE - EVENING

Blake and Shane are happily roasting fat portions of elk meat over the fire. We hear hooping and hollering OFF SCREEN.
EXT. POOL - CONTINUOUS

The other boys are showering in the waterfall. They scrape off blood and dirt quickly and then sprint toward the cave.

JON
WHOO-HOO-HOO-HOOOOOO!

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The boys are feasting around a blazing fire. Blake appears more relaxed than usual.

SHANE
It could use some salt and seasoning, eh?

Lenny looks up with grease all over his cheeks.

LENNY
I think this tastes GREAT, Shane.

Shane smiles. Tim swallows his last bite, puts his hands behind his head, and sits back.

TIM
I thought up a poem on our way back today.

SHANE
Let's hear it!

TIM
For a long time now, we've been easy prey.
But with bows in our hands, all of that changed today.
The wolves showed up thinking they could take away our prize.
But they got close to us and saw that a new predator is on the rise.
Now that we are hunters, we have power to strike out and roam.
And before we know it, we're going to be on our way home.

Tim smiles.

JON
Yes!

The boys laugh heartily - but Blake interrupts their laughter.
BLAKE
My orders for tomorrow...

The boys grow silent and look at Blake.

BLAKE
Are to sleep in.

Blake smiles. The boys cheer rowdily.

BLAKE
(growing more serious)
Because in a couple days, we're going to try for the Rim.

EXT. CAMPSITE - BEFORE DAWN

It is a cold morning. The boys are preparing for battle. They are quiet as they arrange their bows and arrows, strap spears to their backs, and tie their running shoes tight.

Reece pulls Lenny aside.

REECE
Hey. This might get pretty tough.

LENNY
I'm a pretty tough guy.

REECE
I know that. But today you'll need to be really tough - especially if we start going fast. If anything comes at us, you stay right behind me, okay?

Lenny nods.

EXT. STREAM - DAWN

The boys are moving swiftly along the stream.

EXT. RIVER - MORNING

They reach the river. Blake creeps to the edge of the water and peers across to the opposite bank. There is no movement on the other side. He signals for the others to follow him across.

The boys wade into the river. The frigid water becomes almost chest deep, but everyone remains silent - even Lenny.
They emerge on the opposite side and follow Blake into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Everything is quiet. The boys are in a line advancing steadily through the trees.

Blake turns his head sharply and orders the others to kneel. They follow his gaze, looking over their shoulders to the river behind them.

Four wolves, three mountain lions, and a moose have emerged from the river and are standing along the bank.

TIM
   (panicked whisper)
   God, they're behind us--

   BLAKE
   Shh...

Blake just stares for a moment. The animals are remaining where they are, not advancing closer to the boys.

   JON
   Blake...

Blake follows Jon's gaze to their front. FEAR pierces into the boys.

About one hundred yards in front of them is a massive pack of about 100 wolves. They are standing in a straight line two or three wolves deep.

   SHANE
   What do we do?

   BLAKE
   We're in this now, fellas.

Blake takes a step forward. At his movement, the wolves in front of them SURGE forward.

   BLAKE
   Bows up!

The boys take aim.

   BLAKE
   Fire!
The arrows are released. Several wolves drop - but it hardly makes a dent in their numbers. The boys frantically knock another arrow and draw it back.

BLAKE
Shoot when you have a target!

The boys zip off their arrows. More wolves drop. Lenny, standing behind Reece, is trembling with fear.

LENNY
Reece!

REECE
Stay here, Lenny!

BLAKE
Spears!

The boys drop their bows and begin to pull up their spears.

In that instant, the animals that were standing on the riverbank behind them whiz by and SMASH into the oncoming wolves.

The four wolves, three mountain lions, and lone moose batter the ranks of their enemy.

A SCREAM pierces the air. A dozen mountain lions sprint over a hill on the right and join the wolves to fight against the animals that are supporting the boys.

BLAKE
Bows up! See if you can help them!

The boys take aim and shoot several enemy wolves and mountain lions. One by one, however, their allies are brought down by the horde of enemy animals until only the moose remains, smashing left and right with its massive antlers and hooves.

A moose bugle sounds from their left. Five moose emerge from a grove of trees. At the same time, another 50 wolves appear out of the woods in front of the boys. The allied moose backs away from the fray, panting for breath.

For a moment, the battlefield is still...

SHANE
Blake... Let's go...

Blake doesn't move or respond. The moose turns its head to see the boys. It bugles loudly and then turns toward the 5 moose on the left and sprints toward them at a full gallop.
The 5 moose advance toward him as well. The remaining wolves and mountain lions stare at the boys.

SHANE
It's time to go, Blake.

Blake nods and begins to back away. Surprisingly, the animals do not chase after them.

Their moose ally is overpowered by its enemies and brought to the ground.

The boys reach the bank of the river and begin to wade through it as quickly as they can.

EXT. CAMPSITE – EVENING

The boys, exhausted from the long trek, sit silently around the fire. Snow still falls gently around them, dusting the ground around their campsite. Shane brightens slightly.

SHANE
We know for certain there are animals on our side.

REECE
Not many compared to our enemies.

SHANE
True.

BLAKE
We were spared today.

A beat.

JON
What?

BLAKE
They could have killed us in the end. Easily.

Blake stokes the fire with a stick and stares into the flames.

BLAKE
They drew out our "allies," isolated them, and killed them. And we were spared.

(a beat)
I think we are in the middle of a bigger war.
TIM
So our enemies don't care about us?

BLAKE
I don't think that's the case--

REECE
What do you think is beyond the Rim, Blake?

Blake glances at Reece and takes a deep breath.

BLAKE
Home. Like it said on the tree.

Reece ponders Blake's words for a moment.

REECE
If that is what's beyond the Rim, then that means our enemies across the river don't want us going home, which, unless my logic is mistaken, means they have some motive to keep us here.

TIM
(nods)
That makes sense.

JON
So what could that be?

BLAKE
Perhaps to kill our allies. They know that our friends will come out to protect us when we are in danger. Which brings up another question--

SHANE
Why are there animals trying to protect us?

A beat.

BLAKE
I don't know. But there can't be many of them left. The next time we try for the Rim--

REECE
We're not going to try like that again.

TIM
I agree. That was suicide--
BLAKE
We have to try, though. Winter is around the corner. Food is already harder to find. Our current rations will last us two, maybe three weeks.

The boys look afraid at this prospect.

JON
Are there other weapons we could make?

BLAKE
Nothing that will bring down as many as we saw today.

CHUCK
Could we distract them? Make some kind of diversion?

BLAKE
Maybe... They have eyes everywhere, though. We never get far beyond here before we're being watched.

(a beat)
We'll just have to keep thinking about it...

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The boys are settling into the cave for the night. Lenny shivers as he crawls into his sleeping bag.

Just before pulling the rock over the entrance, Blake looks up:

Snowflakes...

FADE TO BLACK...

We HEAR a crunching noise... Footsteps in hard-packed snow...

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The world is cold. And white. It is snowing. Three small turkeys walk into view. They peck at the snow here and there.

One of them smells something and looks up. The other two look up as well and stare into the forest. They don't see anything unusual. They never do.
Arrows zip into their chests. They fold onto the snow dead.

Blake, Reece, Jon, and Tim emerge from the forest. They are covered in elk pelts. They approach the turkeys and stare quietly at them for a moment.

JON
That's the most meat we've taken all month.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

It is still snowing. Blake and Reece are checking traps in the woods - all of them empty. Tim and Jon are checking fishing nets made from tent material that have been laid across the stream.

Everyone's movements are slow and sluggish. Tim finishes checking a fishing net that caught nothing but branches.

TIM
Nothin'...

Jon pulls up a net to find a pathetically small trout.

JON
Two good bites, little guy... Thank you very much.

EXT. POOL - EVENING

The pool is frozen over. So is the front of the waterfall.

EXT. WOODS NEAR CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Lenny is gathering wood. His cheek is terribly swollen. He sees the four hunters returning and smiles - and then coughs.

EXT. CAVE - EVENING

A number of improvements have been made. The fire pit is now covered by a wooden scaffold to protect it from the snow. An wooden overhang has been constructed against the cliff.

The boys are skinnier - noticeably drawn and bony. Hair is longer, and all of them have scraggly beards.

Everyone but Shane is sitting around the fire. Blake is stirring a pot of stew. We can tell that even this close to the flames, the boys are freezing cold. Tim notices Lenny's swollen cheek
TIM
That's gotten worse.

Tim reaches over and touches it. Lenny winces.

REECE
Do you know what it is?

TIM
It's just a crazy infection. Antibiotics would make it go away, but... Alas. Our neighborhood Walgreens moved out of town last week.

Blake pours small portions of the diluted stew into wooden bowls. He hands one to Jon.

JON
What's this?

BLAKE
Our little turkeys.

JON
No, I meant that I need more. We hike all day and this is it?

BLAKE
We have to save the rest.

Jon guzzles his stew in a few seconds, and tosses the bowl to the ground behind him.

LENNY
Jon...

Jon looks over at Lenny, who offers up his soup bowl to Jon.

LENNY
You can have the rest of mine. I don't need as much energy right now. I don't have to go out hunting as much as you do...

Jon hesitates. But he is ravenously hungry. He takes the bowl, guzzles its contents, and hands it back to Lenny.

JON
Thanks...

LENNY
I'll take a bowl to Shane...
Blake pours a bowl for Lenny. Lenny stands with both bowls and begins to walks slowly toward the cave.

BLAKE
Lenny...

Lenny turns. Blake reaches into a pouch and pulls out a handful of nuts. He hands them to Lenny.

BLAKE
Here. You need to eat something.

LENNY
(taking the nuts)
Thanks, Blake.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Shane is wrapped in his sleeping bag. He is very pale and has an uncontrollable shiver. Lenny enters the cave and puts the stew bowl on the floor beside Shane. He gently helps Shane sit up and gives the bowl. Shane takes the warm fluid and drinks it thankfully. Lenny looks at the nuts in his hand.

LENNY
Nuts?

Shane nods. Lenny hands him the nuts, and Shane begins to munch on them.

EXT. CAMPSITE - MOMENTS LATER

Lenny emerges from the cave and sits down beside the others.

LENNY
Do you think Shane will be okay?

Tim and Blake make eye contact.

TIM
We'll see. He's been sick for a long time. We don't have medicine. And we don't have enough food to help him get better. His system needs to be pumped with fruits and veggies, but that's exactly what we have nothing of.
EXT. CAVE - MORNING

The boys are sluggishly preparing for their day. A meager breakfast sits in the pot over the fire. Lenny picks up a spear and a bag and moves toward the palisade door.

REECE
Where are you going?

LENNY
I'll be right back.

But as Lenny says this, he trips over the tripod holding up the pot over the fire. Tim reaches to stop the pot from tipping over and burns his hand.

TIM
AHH!

The pot falls over and spills its contents into the fire.

JON
IDIOT!

LENNY
I'm sorry!

REECE
Slow down, Lenny!

Tim shoves his burnt hand into the snow. Lenny, startled by the incident, leaves through the palisade door.

Reece stares at the empty pot lying beside the fire. He turns and begins climbing a ladder to the food cache wedged in the aspen trees.

BLAKE
What are you doing?

REECE
We're hungry.

BLAKE
Get down.

Reece ignores Blake. He reaches the cache and pulls open the door. Blake stands. He puts a hand on his knife.

BLAKE
I'm not gonna ask you again.
TIM
Blake, just let us have some.

JON
We'll hardly get any work done today if we don't eat something.

REECE
(peering into the cache)
I put three boxes of deer jerky up here last week... Most of it's gone.
(looks down at the others)
Who took it? We haven't eaten any jerky the past week, so who did it?

JON
Lenny's still the fattest one here.

REECE
He could hardly climb the ladder with how weak he is now.

Reece looks at Blake.

REECE
It had to be you.

Blake shakes his head. Reece jumps down from the ladder.

REECE
You've been the least tired of all of us.

Blake draws his knife.

TIM
Hey--

BLAKE
That's just because I'm not a pansy like you.

Reece picks up a nearby spear. The volume of their voices quickly rises.

REECE
I bet you're beefing up so you can make a run on the Rim all by yourself!

BLAKE
I'm no closer to finding a way to the Rim than any of us!
REECE
I say we eat all the food we have and try for it again now!

BLAKE
We'll be killed before we cross the river--

REECE
SOMETHING IS GOING TO KILL US!
(a beat)
We are cold, starving, sick, and exhausted! When our remaining food is gone in about a week, we'll soon be too weak to even leave the cave.
(a beat)
We need to try something!

Reece lowers his spear and points it at Blake.

REECE
If you don't agree to this, I say you're done leading us.

Blake reels back to throw his knife.

But in that moment, the palisade door swings open. The boys stop and look over. Lenny is standing in the doorway. He is holding a bag in his hand. His legs are trembling with weakness.

REECE
Lenny...

Lenny steps forward slowly.

LENNY
I brought...something...Shane...

Lenny hands the bag to Reece. Everyone but Blake crowds around and look inside the bag to see an assortment of ripe blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries. The boys are dumbfounded.

REECE
Where did you get these?

Lenny lays down on the ground. Reece hands the bag of berries to Tim and moves to his brother's side. He looks down at him.

REECE
What's wrong?

LENNY
I just don't feel very good...
Blake storms past the boys leaves through the palisade door.

EXT. STREAM BELOW THE CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Blake is walking along the stream. He suddenly picks up a fallen log and SMASHES it against a nearby tree.

He clenches his jaw and fists in frustration and hits his thighs hard several times with his fists. Tears quickly come to his eyes. He slumps down to the ground - weak and frustrated. And cries...

WOLF. Alone but massive. Blake sees it and stands immediately. He has no weapons. He looks around nervously and picks up a rock to defend himself.

The wolf walks down to the stream. Blake prepares himself to throw the stone - but then he notices that the wolf has something clutched in its mouth.

The wolf crosses the stream and slowly approaches Blake. It drops the item in front of Blake. It then looks up at Blake. They stare into one another's eyes for a moment.

Then the wolf calmly turns and begins to trot down the side of the stream.

Blake looks at the item left by the wolf. It is a tattered and dirty pink scarf. He reaches down and picks it up. And recognition suddenly washes over him.

Blake looks up at the wolf, who has stopped and is staring back at him. The wolf howls and then continues on its way down the stream.

Then Blake looks at the water. His eyes follow it downstream. In the distance, in the valley, he sees the river.

Blake's eyes widen. He turns and bolts toward the campsite.

EXT. CAMPSITE - MOMENTS LATER

Shane is preparing a thin stew with a few roots in it. The boys stare at it sadly.

Blake suddenly bursts through the front door of the palisade. The boys look at him with fear.

BLAKE

I've got it! The river - how could we have missed it this whole time?
SHANE
What?

BLAKE
That's our way to the Rim!

REECE
The river doesn't go to the Rim.

BLAKE
But it can take us away from where they expect us to cross. The river angles toward the Rim for a while before it turns south. We can build rafts and use the river to get behind them and then move on foot the rest of the way.

TIM
What keeps them from following us to our landing site?

BLAKE
We'll travel at night.

REECE
Won't they see us making the rafts?

BLAKE
We'll make those inside the palisade--

JON
And then carry them to the river? It's at least five miles away.

BLAKE
(shakes his head)
We'll make sleds. And we'll move them at night. The whole thing will happen at night.

A beat. The boys look at Reece.

REECE
(nods)
We'll try it.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Lenny is asleep in his sleeping bag. The boys are munching on berries. Shane is sitting up, savoring his delicious meal and already looking stronger.
SHANE
Where did he get them?

REECE
He didn't say. He's been out since he came back this morning.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The boys are asleep. Everything is still and quiet.

But then something breaks the silence... Blake opens his eyes. The noise happens again: snow crunching. Reece also awakens. We hear the crunching noise again.

REECE
(whispers)
What was that?

Blake shakes his head and listens... SNIFFING. Near the closed gate of the outer wall. Then the gate SHAKES. The other boys stir awake. The gate RATTLES again.

Blake pushes the rock away from the opening of the cave and darts out to grab several spears and a bow and quiver. He slips back inside the cave and pulls the rock over the opening.

The boys peer through cracks in the cave wall. It is silent. Then something SLAMS into the gate. And then SLAMS again - and the gate swings inward.

A large silhouette fills the opening. It begins to move closer. It steps into the light of the smouldering fire: a massive GRIZZLY.

The bear turns to the aspens holding up the caches of rationed food. It stands on its hind legs and pushes the trees violently. The wood splinters. One by one, the caches are dislodged from the trees and smash into the ground on the other side of the palisade wall.

The sound of ravenous wolves pierces the air on the other side of the wall as they devour the contents of the broken caches.

JON
That's our food!

At Jon's voice, the bear snaps its head toward the cave. It moves over to the cave and pushes its nose against the rocks that cover the cave entrance. It begins to claw at the rocks to pry them loose. Blake knocks an arrow in the bow and moves closer to where the bear is working. The bear pulls back several rocks. Blake shoots the arrow through the hole and retreats back into the cave.
The bear backs away and growls fiercely. It tears at the rocks and rips the wall apart until there is a gaping hole. Reece takes up one of the spears. In a fury, he charges forward and plants the spear in the bear's sinewy shoulder. Blake shoots another arrow into its front, but this only seems to anger it more. Reece retreats back into the cave.

The grizzly pushes into the opening. The boys back up as far as they can. It reaches in with its paws and swipes over and over. With each swipe, it gets closer to Reece, who is furthest out from the boys. Its claws nick his foot. He screams out in panic. Lenny grabs the hatchet and charges forward. He hacks at the bear's paw - wounding it.

The bear pulls its hand back, but then it shoots forward again, takes hold of Lenny, and drags him out. It bites into Lenny's calf and whips his body around. Reece climbs out of the cave and drives a spear into the bear's back. The bear shakes the spear loose, turns toward Reece, and rears back on its hind legs. Blake emerges from the cave and shoots another arrow into its chest.

The bear lunges forward and swipes hard, gashing Reece's arm. Tim, Jon, and Shane climb out of the cave. Tim charges forward to plunge another spear into the bear's side. It looks fiercely at Tim. But then Jon and Shane both drive spears into the bear's other side. It shakes loose from the boys, but this time it is clearly disabled. It ROARS and begins to retreat toward the gate.

BLAKE
Follow - that's food!

The boys arm themselves again and follow the bear as it backs through the gate. It turns to run. The boys charge after it. But then several WOLVES jump out and stand in their path. The boys halt and level their spears on the wolves.

Then we see something terrifying: the bear collapses to the ground. A dozen wolves emerge from the dark trail below the pool and descend upon the bear to devour it. The boys look on in horror and confusion as they retreat through the gate.

When everyone is inside, Blake and Reece swing the door back into place and bar it shut with several logs. Jon and Shane stoke the fire to a roar. Lenny groans. Tim and Reece move to his side. The wound on his calf is pulsing blood.

TIM
Put pressure on it!

Reece obeys. Tim begins to wrap cloth around Lenny's leg.
EXT. CAMPSITE - DAWN

Reece, Jon, and Tim are peeing into a pot. Tim picks it up and carries it over to Lenny, who is awake with his head in Reece's lap. Tim pulls back the bandage on Lenny's leg and pours the urine over it. He follows it up with some water.

TIM
Lenny... I don't think any bones are broken. But we need to sew up your leg, all right? I wish there was an easier way, pal...

Tears form in Lenny's eyes, but he nods. Tim motions for the other boys to hold Lenny down. They take hold of his arms and legs. Tim pulls out some thread and a needle made from a bone. He begins lacing the needle in and out of Lenny's skin to sew up the wound. Lenny grimaces and cries out in pain...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALISADE - MORNING

Blake and Reece are standing just outside the palisade wall. They are looking at the pathetic remains of the broken food caches. Blake turns and walks toward the stripped bear carcass. Reece follows him.

BLAKE
(shakes his head)
Unbelievable...

EXT. CAVE - DAY

The boys are sitting around the fire. They are quiet. Somber. Reece is holding his car keys... Staring at them with a glazed expression.

REECE
We're done.

Reece stands and reels back to chuck the keys into the forest over the palisade wall, but then...

LENNY
Wait...

Lenny stands up feebly. Tim moves to support him.

TIM
You need to rest, Lenny.
Lenny ignores Tim and begins limping toward the palisade door.

REECE
Lenny.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Lenny emerges from the copse of aspens. The other boys follow him. Lenny stares for a moment at the pool, and then he looks up to the sky.

REECE
Lenny?

Lenny turns to look at the boys.

LENNY
Don't be afraid
(a beat)
And don't stop me.

Lenny gets down on his hands and knees.

REECE
What are you doing?

For a moment, nothing happens. Then, just slightly, the ground between Lenny and the boys begins to shift and ripple.

TIM
What's happening?

REECE
Lenny!

Lenny is focusing hard. Out of the ground just in front of him, a green shoot pushes through the snow.

SHANE
My God...

The green shoot swiftly grows into a bush, and from all over the ends of the bush pop out little blueberries.

The boys are astounded. But Lenny isn't finished. Several more sprouts push through the snow and continue growing.

Lenny looks pale. He begins to tremble. His face starts to grimace in pain.

REECE
Lenny...
More shoots come up. One grows into a strawberry bush. Lenny is becoming weaker. Reece takes a step toward him.

    REECE
    Lenny, stop!

Lenny suddenly raises one arm and slams his fist onto the ground. The concussion from this action knocks Reece and the others off their feet. They look up, dumbfounded. Lenny continues his work.

A blackberry bush grows. A grapevine works up the side of the nearby cliff. And then even a small peach tree is made.

Plants yielding vegetables and nuts also grow - lettuce, corn, carrots, potatoes, beans, peanuts, almonds.

Finally, when all the plants have yielded their produce, Lenny, desperately weak, collapses to the ground.

Reece and the others run forward to him.

    REECE
    Lenny!

Lenny looks up.

    LENNY
    Get to the Rim... Go past it...

With that, Lenny closes his eyes. Tim feels for Lenny's pulse. He looks at Reece with some shock - Lenny is dead. Reece begins to tremble.

    REECE
    No! Oh, God!

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Chuck guides Reece through the palisade door. He is weeping uncontrollably. But we observe this only in silence.

EXT. POOL - CONTINUOUS

Blake is staring at Lenny's corpse. Jon and Tim look at Blake and say something, but we don't hear their words.

Blake sits on the ground in front of Lenny. His puts his hands over his mouth... Rocks back and forth... and begins to cry.
Shane emerges from the copse of trees with several bags and wooden boxes. He looks at Blake for a moment. Then he exchanges several words with Jon and Tim, and the three of them begin to harvest the fruits, veggies, and nuts on the plants around the pool...

EXT. FOREST BELOW CAMPSITE - EVENING

The boys are staring at Lenny's body in the bottom of a freshly-dug hole. Reece, exhausted from weeping, stares blankly at Lenny's body. Chuck and Jon begin to shovel dirt into the hole. Blake turns to head back to the cave. But Reece grabs his arm.

REECE
You think we can make rafts that will float?

Blake smiles...

EXT. CAVE - DAY

It is snowing. The fire is ablaze. The boys are hard at work constructing rafts and sleds.

Shane and Blake are using the hatchet to carve long branches into sled rails. They have already constructed one sled: two beams carved into the shape of skis and connected by a dozen cross beams.

The other boys are working on an eighteen-by-six foot raft. Using strips of material from the old tent, they lash together wood from the palisade in a checkered fashion.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Blake stands in front of a sled. Tim and Jon are seated on the it, and Shane stands behind it. Blake picks up two wooden poles attached to the sled and begins to PULL. Shane, meanwhile, pushes from behind - and the sled moves forward on the snow.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Blake puts some finishing touches on the raft. Then he steps back with the others to look at it...

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

The boys are feasting on the fruit yielded by Lenny's plants. Blake finishes his food and takes several big gulps of water. He then leans forward and looks nervously at the others.
BLAKE
I, uh... Something in me snapped today when Lenny...
(a beat)
I have something I need to tell you. Something I should have said a long time ago.
(a beat)
The carvings in the tree that I showed you when we first came here...

REECE
You made those yourself.

A beat. Blake nods his head. Shane, Tim, and Jon look at Blake with surprise.

SHANE
Why?

BLAKE
I want to tell you my story. The real story.
(a beat)
At the end of my senior year of high school, my two brothers, my sister, and I were staying with terrible foster parents.

FLASHBACK - ROAD INTO THE ROCKIES - MORNING
A car drives up a mountain road.

BLAKE (V.O.)
So it was understandable when my siblings wanted to get away and go camping one weekend.

FLASHBACK - RIVER - MORNING
Blake helps two athletic-looking boys (17 and 15) and a beautiful young girl (12) put on their packs and hit the trail by a river.

BLAKE (V.O.)
I had to stay in Durango to work. But I still decided to take them up and drop them off.

Blake says goodbye to his siblings and gets into the car.
FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

The kids are hiking into the mountains.

BLAKE (V.O.)
I figured my brother Kyle was old enough
to take care of them.

PRESENT

BLAKE
But they were gone when I came back to
pick them up.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

A search is underway. Park rangers scour hills and ravines.

BLAKE (V.O.)
The search for them lasted a month.
Covered a huge radius from where I'd
dropped them off.

FLASHBACK - POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Blake is sitting on a bench outside a police chief's office. It
is pouring rain outside. The chief calls him in. He says things
to Blake that we can't hear. Blake's demeanor sinks.

BLAKE (V.O.)
But they gave up, 'cause there was no
sign of them at all. The police told
me they'd likely been abducted and
taken far away or fell into some crevice
in the rocks. And that we'd never find
them at this point.

PRESENT

BLAKE
But I couldn't let them go that easily.
They were my responsibility, and I
wanted the truth.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

Blake is alone, hiking through the mountains.
BLAKE (V.O.)
So every free day I had, I went into the mountains to search.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - MORNING

Blake emerges sleepy-eyed from a tent. He turns around and sees it - the Rim, stretching across the horizon.

BLAKE (V.O.)
And somehow - I stepped into this place. I saw the Rim one morning when I got out of my tent.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

Blake is hiking closer to the Rim. He spots a carving in a nearby tree...

PRESENT

BLAKE
A few days after that happened, I did find something carved into a tree. It said...

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

Blake stands in front of the tree. We see the carving.

BLAKE (V.O.)
Blake, we're alive. We've been stuck for months. But we're leaving. They are taking us toward the Rim. It will be a battle just to get there. We don't know what is beyond it. We don't know if we will make it. We love you. (a beat) It was signed by my siblings.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

Blake finishes wading across the river. He hikes warily into the woods on the opposite side.

BLAKE (V.O.)
I hiked down to the river and crossed it. But I didn't get far.
A pack of wolves appears on a nearby hill. Blake eyes them warily but continues walking. The wolves begin running toward him.

BLAKE (V.O.)
The wolves tracked me. I tried to run.

Blake, gasping for air, climbs a nearby tree.

BLAKE (V.O.)
But I burned out and had to climb a tree.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

Blake is exhausted. He is barely holding himself up in the tree. A dozen wolves are lying around the base of the tree. Several are staring up at him.

BLAKE (V.O.)
The wolves kept me there for almost three days.

A lone wolf suddenly runs into the midst of the pack at the base of the tree and GROWLS ferociously. In a FURY, it attacks the wolves. For a moment, they try to fight back— but the lone wolf standing in Blake’s defense is too strong. The pack retreats into the forest.

BLAKE (V.O.)
And then... Another wolf came and fought the others away, and the way back was made open.

The lone wolf looks up at Blake for a moment, and then it runs into the darkness.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

Blake is stumbling up a hill toward his car.

BLAKE (V.O.)
I was half-dead from thirst but somehow managed to get back to the river and then to my car.

PRESENT

TIM
Your car was there?
BLAKE
It was. I don't think the road and my car never disappeared.

FLASHBACK - DRIVEWAY IN THE CITY - DAWN

Blake is packing the back of his car with camping gear.

BLAKE
After I had recovered, I went back to the mountains planning to try for the Rim again.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

Blake summits a hill and looks to the horizon where the Rim had been - but it isn't there.

BLAKE (V.O.)
But the Rim had disappeared. The tree with the markings on it was gone.

PRESENT

BLAKE
But I couldn't give up looking. I knew they were out there somewhere. Searching became my obsession. By then I had graduated from high school. I quit my job, left everything, and roamed through the mountains looking for some sign.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

It is cold and windy. Blake clumsily roasts a piece of meat over a small fire.

BLAKE (V.O.)
I learned how to make it out here on my own. It was hard at first, but I gradually became comfortable hunting and gathering my own food, sleeping on the ground, bearing the cold.

FLASHBACK - MOUNTAINS - DAY

Blake, spear in hand, is running on a trail through the mountains.
BLAKE (V.O.)
And I would run. Every day. I knew that if I found the Rim again, my ability to get to it might depend on me being in shape to run - and fight.

PRESENT

BLAKE
But... Nothing ever happened.

FLASHBACK - WINTER

Blake is running on a snowy trail in the mountains. He reaches a rocky overlook and stops to look out at the horizon. His face is etched with despair.

BLAKE (V.O.)
I spent the next two years searching. But I never saw a trace.

PRESENT

The boys stare silently at Blake for a moment.

BLAKE
After those two years, I gave up and decided to move on and go to school. By then, I was a good runner - because I ran everywhere. So I figured I would use it to help pay for school.

(a beat)
But whenever I was running with you guys, I would think of the time when I had to give up, climb a tree, and leave my brothers and sister behind.

(trembles)
And I would get so angry - so frustrated with myself - that I would run like a madman possessed.

(a beat)
I spent over seven hundred days and nights in the mountains looking for my siblings and never stepped into this place. Then the first night I spend out here with you guys, it happens.

(a beat)
I "interpreted" that to mean that... I need your help to reach the Rim--
REECE
Why did our car disappear?

BLAKE
(shakes his head)
I don't know.

JON
So - the way home isn't going to appear if we make it to the Rim.

Blake looks into the fire.

BLAKE
I don't know. The only thing that might be beyond the Rim is my siblings. I'm sorry - I figured that lying would motivated you to help me get there.

A beat. Blake pulls out the pink scarf given to him by the wolf.

BLAKE
The other day when I thought of using the river to get to the Rim, the wolf that has protected us before came to me in the woods and gave me this.  
(a beat)
It belonged to my sister. I don't know if it means she's alive or dead - but... I must to get to the Rim.

The boys remain silent for a moment. They stare at the fire as they process the information that Blake just unloaded on them. Reece stands without saying anything and goes to the cave. Jon and Tim follow him. And then Shane. Blake is left alone by the fire...

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

Blake emerges from the cave. He grabs a spear and his bow and arrows.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Blake is checking traps. Not finding anything. He makes his way up a hill and breaks into a small clearing.

And he finds himself staring at something peculiar - something he has seen before. It is the little sapling the boys had seen before the Rim appeared. Once again, it is in full bloom. But
this time the flowers are red - completely out of place against the stark contrast of the snowy world around him.

Blake looks around him... Realizes something...

EXT. OLD CAMPSITE - MOMENTS LATER

Blake is moving fast. He passes through the clearing that was their original campsite months ago.

EXT. BASE OF THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

Blake reaches the base of the snowy hill, rounds a corner - and stops short in his tracks.

In front of him is the van! The road they traveled on stretches out behind it. And beyond that is a valley spotted with little mountain towns and houses here and there.

EXT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Blake bursts through the palisade door. The other boys, eating breakfast, look up startled.

    BLAKE
    The car! The road! It's all back!

The boys bolt into action, hastily tying shows, throwing on their elk coats, and grabbing spears. Reece jumps into the cave and emerges a moment later with his keys.

EXT. BASE OF THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

The boys are flabbergasted... Reece walks toward the van slowly, unsure... He unlocks the front door and pulls it open. He places the key in the ignition and turns... It clicks several times. He stops. He tries again: it clicks several times and then ROARS TO LIFE.

The boys are overcome with emotion. Shane drops to his knees. Jon and Tim embrace. Blake also is excited. Shane reaches out to shake his hand and pulls him in for a hug.

But then Blake realizes something... And his smile begins to disappear. Reece emerges from the car and notices Blake's changed demeanor. Shane also notices. Jon moves to the car and begins to push the snow off the front windshield.
JON
Come on!

Tim and Shane join him. They soon have the car cleaned off. But then they look back and see Blake. They halt, and grow quiet...

BLAKE
I'm going to the Rim--

JON
That's crazy.

BLAKE
After coming this far, I have to.

TIM
We're all malnourished, sick, and injured - we need a hospital, Blake!

SHANE
What if we get trapped again and can't make it back here?

BLAKE
I have to take that risk.

JON
Even if you get to the Rim, then what? Is there some passageway? Are you going to climb over?

SHANE
And we still don't know what's on the other side.

TIM
Or how we're gonna get back once we're there--

BLAKE
I know! There are a lot of question marks. But I have to try.
(a beat)
I'm sorry for lying to you. For being unkind so many days. I hope each of you can forgive me.

Blake turns to move up the hill.
EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

We are looking down on the road. It is snowing. The van drives into view as it slowly winds its way down the mountain.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Reece is driving. Jon is in the passenger seat. Tim and Shane sit behind them. All are quiet. They round a corner.

And facing them is a WOLF. Reece brakes to a quick stop. The wolf stares at them through the falling snow. The boys are motionless. Reece hears Lenny's voice...

LENNY (V.O.)
Get to the Rim... Go past it...

The wolf turns to the side of the road and disappears into the forest.

EXT. BASE OF THE HILL - MOMENTS LATER

The car pulls back into its former parking space.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Reece leaves the keys in the ignition.

REECE
If any of you don't want to come, the van's running.

Reece opens the door and gets out. Shane takes a deep breath. He exits. Tim and Jon look at one another. They both sigh and exit the van.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Blake is preparing a small pack with his most useful equipment: a spear, bow and arrows, the hatchet, his knife.

He is startled to hear the palisade door open. The four boys step through.

BLAKE
I can't believe it...

Reece steps forward.
REECE
I don't think Lenny died so that we could go just... go back home.
(a beat)
How far do you think it is from the river to the Rim?

BLAKE
About 10 miles. Give or take.

A beat.

REECE
Sounds like a good run.

Reece holds out his hand. Blake takes it.

REECE
You lead the way.

EXT. POOL - NIGHT

The raft has been split into two parts and loaded onto the two sleds. Wooden poles have been wedged in the front and back of the sleds for pulling and pushing.

Blake looks back at their dismantled fortress: their home for many months. He also looks at the frozen pool and waterfall: beautiful and fierce.

He moves to the front of a sled and picks up the poles. The other boys position themselves to push or pull the sleds.

Blake takes a deep breath and puts his weight into the poles. They begin to advance down the trail leading away from the pool. Jon stands behind the second sled. Tim is ready to pull from the front.

JON
All right, you dog. Mush.

EXT. STREAM - NIGHT

The sleds are moving along by the stream well, but the boys are having to put their backs into the work.
EXT. STREAM - NIGHT

The boys are exhausted. The river comes into view. The boys catch sight of it with relief. In the moonlight, we see that the river is still spotted with chunks of ice.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

The sleds have been discarded. Just inside the tree line on the riverbank, the boys are working quickly to connect the two parts of the raft.

EXT. RIVER CAMPsite - NIGHT

The raft is complete. The boys take up positions around the raft and carry it quietly down to the water. They put it into the river - and it floats!

They carefully step into the raft, and Blake pushes them off from the bank. The slow current catches the raft and begins to move it downstream.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RIVER - DAWN

The boys are floating along. They use wooden poles to push away chunks of ice. Something catches Reece's eye on the shore...

REECE

Blake...

Blake follows Reece's gaze to the tree line along the shore: WOLVES - moving just inside the woods parallel to the boys. One of them howls.

This is answered by another howl on the opposite shore. The boys look: another small pack of wolves descends to the shoreline. They also begin to move parallel with the rafts.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The boys, looking exhausted, are still using their poles to push away chunks of ice. In the trees on both sides of the river, the wolves are steadily tracking with them.

JON

Will they ever get tired?
Reece looks down at the water... The current has picked up. He looks at Blake.

**BLAKE**
I can feel it.

The boys look downstream: the water gets choppier.

**TIM**
What do we do?

**SHANE**
We're gonna have to face them on the short eventually.

**BLAKE**
I say we take our chances on the water. We might lose them if we get moving fast enough.

The boys assume a position of greater readiness. Reece is in the front of the raft. Blake is in the back, using his pole as a rudder.

**BLAKE**
Reece, call out ice and rocks.

White caps begin to lap over the sides of the raft. As the speed of the raft increases, the wolves moving along the riverbank begin to run faster as well.

**REECE**
Ice right!

John uses his pole to drive off the ice chunk.

**REECE**
Rock ahead!

Blake leans to the right on his rudder. Tim and Shane use their poles to push off the rock.

The current picks up more. The raft bobs up and down as it is swept further down the river.

The wolves on the bank have fallen back and appear to be getting too tired to keep up.

**REECE**
Ice left!
Shane shoves the piece of ice away, but his pole snaps, and he falls into the water. Tim reaches back just in time to catch his arm. He and Reece pull Shane out of the water.

But then the raft slams into a rock. The sound of wood splintering pierces the air.

Reece and Tim resume their former positions while Shane shivers uncontrollably in the middle of the raft.

The current picks up even more. The boys are unable to control anything. The raft SLAMS into pieces of ice and rock. Parts of the raft begin to break off.

**BLAKE**

Hold on!

The rafts tip this way and that as the current drags them up and down waves that grow in size with every passing second. Then Reece sees something in the darkness ahead... A much larger rock.

**REECE**

GO RIGHT! HARD RIGHT!

Blake pushes left on the rudder as hard as he can, and Reece tries to stave off the rock. But they broadside it.

The raft splits in the middle. The boys topple into the water — along with their weapons and supplies.

The boys swim as hard as they can for the shore, but the current sweeps them downstream. One by one, they make it to the riverbank.

When Blake emerges from the water, he picks up a piece of broken raft and holds it in his hands like a bat. He stares into the forest, waiting for an enemy to emerge.

But nothing comes out to face him. He turns quickly to the others as they reach the shore and stand up, shivering in the cold.

**BLAKE**

Shed any heavy clothing! We have to move!

The boys look miserable. But they know Blake is right. They pull off their heavy and soaking wet elk-skin coats and follow Blake into the forest.
EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

The Rim is much closer now. But they still have miles to go. Blake begins to jog. The others follow suit. The forest around them is quiet and still.

TIM
Should we stop to make weapons?

BLAKE
Just run. Tree branches and rocks will only weigh us down now.

Blake picks up his pace. The others follow suit.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The Rim is much larger now. It towers several hundred feet into the air.

The boys are exhausted but still maintaining a grueling pace. They break into a clearing and come upon a steep incline leading to the base of the Rim.

TIM
Blake, stop!

Blake and the others slow to a halt. They try to catch their breath.

BLAKE
Almost there...

Blake looks behind them. His eyes suddenly get wide.

BLAKE
They're coming...

The boys look behind them to see a pack of about 50 wolves sprinting toward them.

BLAKE
UP THE HILL!

The boys begin their ascent. The grade is torturously steep. Their legs and lungs are on fire, but they continue pressing toward the base of the Rim.

The wolves are gaining quickly on them. Tim begins to fall behind.

TIM
Wait!
Blake looks back. A wolf is getting close to catching Tim. Blake picks up a stone. Tim trips and falls into the snow. The wolf is nearly on him when Blake throws the rock and drills the wolf in the face. Tim is up quick and continues his run uphill.

The boys reach the base of the Rim. But it is just a rock face! There is no opening before them.

BLAKE

Come on!

Blake begins to run along the base of the Rim. The wolves are closing on them fast.

Blake suddenly skids to a halt in front of a thick wooden door in the rock face. Blake turns the handle and uses all his strength to pull it open.

BLAKE

Quick!

Reece, Shane, Jon, and Tim push through the opening. Blake slips inside and slams the door shut just before several wolves reach them.

INT. THE RIM - CONTINUOUS

Blake pushes a heavy bolt across the door to lock it shut. The boys are breathing hard. A faint light from somewhere in front of them barely illuminates their surroundings.

They are in a narrow tunnel cut through the rock. Blake begins to walk forward.

BLAKE

Come on...

The others follow him. As they walk, the light grows stronger. It appears to be coming from a small slit in the ground ahead of them.

As they draw closer to the light, they see that it is another door, and the light is coming from the small space at the foot of the door.

When they reach it, they stop and stare at it for a moment. Blake slowly reaches forward and takes hold of the handle. He turns it, and it opens...
The boys emerge from the tunnel into an entirely different world. Before them is a wondrously green landscape. The sky is blue, and the sunlight is warm on their skin.

Blake looks to the left. He sees a small cottage nestled in a cluster of trees. He begins to walk toward it. The others follow.

The boys cautiously approach the cottage.

BLAKE
Hello?
(a beat)
Is anyone there?

The door cracks open slowly. Two eyes peer out. Then the door swings open.

BLAKE
Amy!

A beautiful girl about 14 years old runs down the steps and leaps into Blake's arms.

AMY
I knew you would come! I knew it!

Blake sets her down and looks into her eyes.

BLAKE
Where are Kyle and David?

Amy's smile disappears.

AMY
I have much to tell you. Come inside - all of you.

INT. COTTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The boys have settled into chairs by a warm fire. Amy brings them bread, fruit, and water. They graciously accept the gifts and begin to devour the food.

AMY
How did you get to the Rim?
BLAKE
We took the river until our raft broke on some rocks. And then we ran to the Rim from there.

AMY
By yourself?

Blake nods.

AMY
Were you chased.

BLAKE
Yes, by wolves.

Amy looks fearful at this.

BLAKE
What is this place?

A beat.

AMY
This is another world. Similar to ours, but... different. You've been stuck in an in-between place. Kyle and David--

BLAKE
Where are they?

AMY
They're dead, Blake.

A beat. Blake sits back in his chair, closes his eyes.

AMY
We arrived in the in-between place almost three years ago.

FLASHBACK – FOREST IN THE IN-BETWEEN WORLD – DAY

Kyle, David, and Amy are searching for civilization, but there is only wilderness around them.

AMY (V.O.)
The way back was shut off from us.

They suddenly come face to face with a pack of wolves.
AMY (V.O.)
But then we met the good animals.

PRESENT

REECE
The good animals?

AMY
(nods)
The ones who protected us, provided for us. There were hundreds of them.

FLASHBACK - RIVER IN THE IN-BETWEEN WORLD - DAY
Kyle, David, and Amy are following the wolves toward the river. They are surrounded by about 100 wolves and several dozen mountain lions, bears, and moose.

AMY (V.O.)
They couldn't communicate much to us. They didn't have to. We were too afraid of them at the time to run away. They placed each of us on a moose.

Three moose lower themselves to their knees in front of Kyle, David, and Amy. A wolf motions the children to mount the moose. They obey, climbing onto their backs. The moose stand and begin to cross the river.

PRESENT

SHANE
Where were they taking you?

AMY
Toward the Rim.

FLASHBACK - RIVER IN THE IN-BETWEEN WORLD - DAY
The animals cross the river and move into the woods on the other side. As they do so, they come into view of several hundred enemy animals aligned across from them in the forest.

AMY (V.O.)
When we crossed the river, we realized why so many of them were with us.
(a beat)
A group of enemies at least twice our number were waiting.

The animals rush forward and CRASH into their opponents. The moose advance forward at a trot. Kyle, David, and Amy hang on as tightly as they can while the moose carry them through the midst of the raging battle.

**AMY (V.O.)**
But our side didn't turn back. They rushed into them head-on, and a terrible battle raged around us. All we could do was hold on.

**FLASHBACK - BASE OF THE RIM - DAY**

A small remnant of animals remain with the moose carrying the three children. They continue to battle back the forces that are desperately trying to prevent them from reaching the Rim.

**AMY (V.O.)**
For miles, we fought our way forward. It became desperate when we reached the base of the Rim. Only a few animals remained with us.

**PRESENT**

**AMY**
That's when David's moose fell...

**FLASHBACK - BASE OF THE RIM - DAY**

David's moose is brought down by three ravenous wolves. Amy looks back in time to see David disappear beneath the three wolves.

**AMY (V.O.)**
And then Kyle's...

Kyle's moose is brought down by two mountain lions and a bear. Kyle picks up a rock and smashes the skull of one of the lions.

**AMY (V.O.)**
I saw him fight to the end...
PRESENT

AMY
(tears in her eyes)
But they killed him as well.

FLASHBACK - BASE OF THE RIM - DAY

Amy's moose and a single wolf are fighting toward the Rim.

AMY (V.O.)
My moose made it to the base of the Rim with just one of the wolves.

The moose collapses in front of the wooden door at the base of the Rim. The wolf claws at the door. Amy gets the clue and moves forward to open it. The wolf meanwhile turns and defends Amy from several wolves that have come up behind them.

AMY (V.O.)
I made it through the door and closed it.

PRESENT

AMY
I didn't know what to do - I didn't know what had just happened. But I walked through the tunnel and came to this place.

Amy catches her breath, caught up in the emotion of her tragic memory.

BLAKE
Why were you brought here? Why were we?

AMY
We came here to receive a story. The story of this place.

The boys are on the edge of their seats. Amy stands and moves to a nearby closet. She pulls out a large stack of books and parchments.

AMY
The story of this world has come to end. It has been written down. When I came to this place, there was a woman who gave it to me. She told me that most
of the animals that brought me here had died and that I couldn't go back across on my own. She told me to wait here... for you.

REECE
For us?

AMY
To come and get me. And take me home.

JON
Why didn't she just take you herself.

AMY
She couldn't. She was leaving - with the rest of her people. Like I said, their story was finished. The last thing she did in this world was give me these...

A beat. The boys take in Amy's words.

TIM
Why is the story so important?

Amy's becomes set, determined.

AMY
It is important. I read these while I was waiting. I can't explain it all to you now, but we must get these back across the in-between world to our own. The reason all those animals fought and died to get us here was for these.

A beat. The boys look at Blake.

BLAKE
Kyle and David didn't die in vain.
(a beat)
Do you have any weapons?

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Amy leads the boys to a shed behind the cottage. She opens the door. Inside is an array of spears, bows and arrows, hatchets - and swords. Real weapons all made with iron.

JON
I'm excited to read these stories...
EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

The boys are well-armed. Each have bows and arrows, spears, swords, and smaller arms strapped to their belts. They are standing just outside the door leading into the Rim. Amy emerges from the cottage. In her hand is a little sling. There is a pouch of small rocks at her side. And on her back is a pack holding all the documents.

BLAKE
(refering to the pack)
Can you carry all these?

AMY
(nods)
I don't want to weigh any of you down. Just protect me.

BLAKE
We will.
(motions to the sling)
What is this?

AMY
(smiles slightly)
I've had a lot of time here waiting for you guys.

EXT. BASE OF THE RIM IN THE IN-BETWEEN - DAY

We are back in the in-between world, still snowy, cold, and bleak. The wooden door slowly opens. Blake's head peaks out. He sees nothing... He opens the door the rest of the way and emerges. The others follow behind him.

EXT. BASE OF THE RIM - MOMENTS LATER

The boys have formed a semi-circle in front of Amy. They are moving swiftly down the hill. All of them have arrows knocked in their bows.

All is quiet. There is no wind, no movement.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

They are still moving swiftly through the forest. No sign of life around them. The Rim is getting smaller behind them.

Then Blake, in the lead, halts.
A MOOSE. Massive antlers. Standing a hundred yards in front of them. The boys remain totally still. The moose just stares at them for a moment... And then begins walking forward. This soon turns into a trot.

Blake draws back his bow, aims, and fires. The other boys do the same. Several arrows strike the moose. Blake quickly knocks another arrow, as do the other boys. They fire again.

But this doesn't stop the moose. It just increases its speed. It is closing the gap quickly now. The boys knock another arrow. Blake draws his back and waits... The other boys hold their fire as well...

The moose gets closer and closer. When it is only ten yards away, Blake fires. The other boys follow suit. The moose crashes to the snow just in front of them.

Their relief is not long-lived. Shane suddenly turns. From the trees behind them, a mountain lion leaps from a branch.

SHANE
Shane!

Shane whips his bow around, draws fast, and releases. The arrow buries into the lion's chest. It gashes Shane's shoulder but falls dead to the ground at his feet.

Two more lions jump from behind nearby trees. Jon turns and spears one to the ground.

The other is knocked unconscious by a stone expertly slung from Amy. The boys look at her with some surprise.

AMY
Let's move!

They begin advancing again.

The boys look to their front, where two dozen wolves have emerged from the woods and charge straight for them at full speed.

They draw their arrows and release. Several wolves drop. Blake drops his bow and pulls off the spear strapped to his back. The others do the same and brace themselves for the clash.

The wolves SLAM into them: some impaling on spears, others slipping in among the boys. In a panic, the boys slash left and right with their spears to drive them back.

AMY
Use your swords!
The boys draw their swords and more easily find their marks with these.

But then several bears join the fray. Mountain lions also arrive. And more wolves join their ranks. The wolves push in to snap at their ankles. The bears rush in to bash the boys before being staved off by swords and spears. The lions leap in to swipe at their arms. The boys are sustaining wounds left and right. Amy is also battered several times All is chaos and panic.

SHANE
RIGHT SIDE!

The boys look. A massive grizzly has emerged from the forest. It growls ferociously. Just as Shane is about to take a shot with his bow, the grizzly reels right and smashes into a group of wolves. It then makes its way to the boys' front to pummel a mountain lion.

AMY
He's one of ours!

Their enemies back away. The boys look with bewilderment at the grizzly. It faces the other animals and ROARS.

The bear then turns to look at the boys. It growls at them. The boys wither in front of its awesome power. But then it turns forward and begins to advance.

With a scream, Amy and the boys SURGE FORWARD. The enemy begins to focus upon the bear, but it fights with a fury that none of them can overcome.

More enemy reinforcements arrive, and the pressure begins to become unbearable.

But in that moment, a handful of other good wolves, mountain lions, and moose arrive on the scene and move to protect them.

The river comes into view.

SHANE
There's the river!

With new energy, they surge forward.

Shane swings his ice pick at a furious speed to crack wolf heads. Several wolves close in around him, but the others drive them off with their spears.

The boys pull up beside Shane and the bear. They begin to push back the storm of animals striving against them.
Each of them is physically exhausted – they have reached the end of themselves. But they still fight with a RAGE. Their enemies also fight with a furry and give the boys wounds from head to toe. But they keep pressing: they cleave left and right, causing the beasts to fall back on themselves.

They finally reach the river. The remaining good animals turn to make a final stand.

Blake takes the documents from Amy and lifts them above his head as they rush into the water and wade across it as fast as they can.

Amy and the boys reach the opposite bank of the river. Each of them is exhausted.

They turn and see the grizzly and the last of the good animals fall underneath the weight of enemies pressing against them.

Blake hands the pack to Amy. He is wounded all over – more so than any of the other boys.

BLAKE
Tim, give me your bow and arrows.

TIM
Why?

BLAKE
I can't go any more...

They turn and see that several dozen enemies are now crossing the river to chase them.

BLAKE
Give them to me now!

AMY
No!

Blake pushes his sister up the hill. He looks at Shane.

BLAKE
Get her to the car!

Blake takes Tim's bow and arrows and turns to face the animals crossing the river.

BLAKE
GO!

Shane grabs Amy's wrist. He turns to run in the direction of the car with Jon and Tim.
But Reece doesn't go with them. He stays with Blake. Shane sees this and turns.

SHANE
Reece!

Reece shakes his head. He picks up his sword and a spear and stands beside Blake. Shane turns and continues running with the others.

SHANE (V.O.)
Blake and Reece, once enemies, stood together on the bank of the river to face the beasts raging toward them.

Blake draws back his bow... And Reece lowers his spear.

SHANE (V.O.)
Their lives were the last of many given to win for us the story that had come into our possession - the story of another world.

FADE TO BLACK:

SHANE (V.O.)
While we do not yet understand why we were chosen for this task, I will say this: the stories are a gift... And one day, I hope to share those with you as well...