

Our Home

By

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Principal characters:

Tom Braden - Kevin Costner type. Strong, Silent, Determined.

Mary - Allison Janney type. Strong, sarcastic, rooted.

Joe Martinez - John Ortiz type. Calm, relaxed.

Bill Harris - John Carroll Lynch type.

David Gunter - Tom Skerrett type.

Wally - Sam Elliott

Sam - Graham Greene

FADE IN:

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - DAY

The apartment is sparsely furnished. Near the door is a duffle bag sitting on the floor. TOM BRADEN comes walking from the back of the apartment, turning out lights as he moves towards the front. Tom stops and looks around the living room. Tom takes out a set of keys, removes one and places it on the table holding the TV. Tom picks up the duffle bag and walks out closing the door behind him.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT - DAY

Tom walks up to his truck, drops the duffle back into the back and gets in.

Tom backs the truck out of the parking spot and drives out of the parking lot.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Tom's truck turns off a country road and drives up a gravel driveway. An old mailbox sits at the intersection of the paved road and gravel driveway. A barbed wire fence runs along the road. The pickup truck disappears over a hill.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Tom's truck drives up the gravel driveway. In the distance you see a large farmhouse with a barn and a shed sitting behind it.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom's truck pulls up and stops next to the farmhouse.

Tom gets out of the pickup truck and walks towards the farmhouse. A sign over the porch reads "Our Home". Tom walks up the steps and onto the porch.

Tom looks down the porch at a row of eight mismatched chairs.

Tom walks to the door and stops, he reaches up and pulls down a key from above the door. Tom unlocks the door and enters the farmhouse.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom enters the farmhouse and stands there for a moment looking around. Tom draws a deep breath to smell the air.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Tom enters the kitchen, walks to the sink, picks up a milk jug and begins to fill it with water.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom exits the farmhouse and walks along the porch watering dying plants in pots.

EXT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom walks up to the large barn doors, opens one and walks in.

INT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom enters the barn and stands there looking around. A few chickens move around the floor of the barn. A horse sticks its head out of a stall. A few sparrows dart around in the rafters of the barn. Tom draws a deep breath to smell the air.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

It's morning and the sun has just come up. Tom comes walking out of the farmhouse with a cup of coffee and sits down in a chair on the porch.

You hear a vehicle coming up the driveway. Tom looks and sees a pickup truck driving toward the farmhouse. The pickup truck drives up and parks behind Tom's truck.

Mr. THOMPSON gets out of the truck. Mr. Thompson is an older thin man with overalls on. Mr. Thompson walks towards the porch steps and stops when he sees Tom sitting in the chair.

Mr. Thompson gets a questioning look on his face.

MR. THOMPSON

Tommy?

Tom sits there for a moment.

TOM

Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson walks up the steps and on to the porch.

MR. THOMPSON

What are you doing here?

Tom pauses and takes a drink of coffee.

TOM

Didn't you hear, Martha left the farm to me.

Mr. Thompson scratches his head.

MR. THOMPSON

Why would she do that?

Tom gives Mr. Thompson a stern look.

MR. THOMPSON

No disrespect, but I remember when you left. Martha said she woke up ready to celebrate your 17th birthday and you were gone. You haven't been back since, have you?

TOM

No, I haven't.

MR. THOMPSON

Well, I came by to look after the animals. I've been doing it since Martha passed.

TOM

That won't be necessary.

Tom sets his coffee cup down on a small table next to the chair, gets up and walks towards Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson becomes nervous. Tom walks over and holds out his hand.

TOM

I appreciate what you have done.

Mr. Thompson takes Tom's hand and shakes it.

Mr. Thompson turns, walks off the porch and back to his truck.

TOM

Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson stops and turns back towards Tom.

TOM

I saw a horse in the barn. Who does it belong to?

MR. THOMPSON

Someone gave it to Martha a few years back. So, I guess, it belongs to you.

Tom just stands there silent. Mr. Thompson gets into his pickup truck, turns the truck around and drives down the driveway.

INT. TOM'S TRUCK - DAY

Tom is driving down a country road with the windows open when a car pulls out in front of him. Tom can hear music coming from the car as they speed down the road ahead of Tom.

INT. TOM'S TRUCK - DAY

In the distance Tom can see the car turn onto the driveway and stop. The driver gets out, retrieves the mail from the mailbox, gets back in the car and proceeds down the driveway.

TOM
What the hell.

Tom turns onto the driveway and follows the car.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

The car pulls up and stops outside the farmhouse. MARY gets out and stands there as Tom pulls up next to the car and parks. Tom gets out of the truck. Mary pauses as she looks at Tom.

MARY
Tommy?

Mary runs up and gives Tom a hug. Tom does not hug Mary back. Mary stops hugging Tom and steps back. You can see she is disappointed that Tom does not share her excitement.

TOM
It's Tom now.

Tom reaches into the back of the truck and pulls out a couple bags of groceries.

Mary walks in front of Tom to the farmhouse and up onto the porch.

Mary walks up to the door, pulls out a set of keys and opens the door.

TOM
You have a set of keys?

Mary opens the door and stands there.

MARY
Some of us never left. JEN and I took care of Martha until she passed.

Mary is no longer in a happy mood. Mary enters the farmhouse and leaves the door open. Tom follows Mary.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Mary enters the kitchen followed by Tom. Tom places the bags on the kitchen table and begins putting things in the refrigerator.

TOM

There was no food here, so I went shopping.

MARY

We cleaned out the refrigerator so nothing would spoil.

Mary leaves the kitchen.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom comes walking out of the farmhouse and finds Mary sitting in a rocking chair on the porch. Tom walks over and sits in a chair near Mary without saying a word. After an awkward pause.

TOM

Wasn't that Martha's favorite chair?

Mary looks at the chair.

MARY

Yes, it was. So, is there a Mrs. Tom?

Tom leans back in the chair.

TOM

No, I never crossed that bridge.

Tom looks at Mary's hand and sees no ring.

TOM

No husband?

MARY

Nope, tried it twice and it did not take. Kids?

TOM

No. You?

MARY

Two boys.

Both just sit there for another awkward pause.

MARY

You left here what, forty some years ago never to return and now that you have, you want to discuss our marital status?

TOM

Is that a question?

MARY

No, you jackass. What have you been doing for all these years?

TOM

The Army got most of them. After that I ended up in Kansas. A buddy and I opened a gun store. He passed away six months ago. The gun store was his family's only income, so I gave my half of the business to his wife.

MARY

I knew all about the Army, Martha kept us up to date when she got a letter from you. But Tom, why did you leave?

TOM

This never felt like my home.

MARY

You know, Martha didn't take in any other kids after you left.

Tom leans forward in his chair and looks at the floor.

TOM

I didn't know that. So, what do you do?

MARY

I'm a nurse at the hospital, Jen and I share a place in town.

Tom smiles a little.

TOM

You mean little Jenny?

MARY

Yes, but she goes by Jen now.

TOM

So, she's not married either?

MARY

No. She was, but her husband was a mean drunk. I don't think a single one of us kids Martha took in wasn't damaged in some way. None of us ended up in a good relationship first time around.

Tom leans back in his chair and looks out over the countryside.

MARY

Since Martha passed, I've been coming out to check on the place and get the mail. Mr. Thompson has been taking care of the few animals left.

TOM

No pigs or cattle?

MARY

No. Martha leased out a lot of the farm for cattle grazing, so there are few hundred head of cattle spread out here and there.

TOM

I saw a horse in the barn.

Mary smiles.

MARY

Ya, she was given to Martha a few years back. I don't know if she knew how to ride or learned after she got that horse, but she loved riding every few days. I take it by the groceries you're staying here?

TOM

I don't know. I really don't have anywhere else to go.

Mary gets out of her chair.

MARY

Ok then, I'll stop back by tomorrow and check on you.

Tom just sits in his chair.

TOM

No need, I can look after myself.

MARY (STERNLY)

I'll stop back by tomorrow.

Mary walks off the porch.

Tom watches as Mary walks to her car, gets in, and drives down the driveway.

INT. MARY'S HOUSE - DAY

Mary walks in and sets her things on a small table. Jen is sitting on the couch watching TV.

MARY

Hey.

JEN

Dinner is all but ready.

MARY

I stopped out and checked on the farm.

JEN

How is everything?

MARY

Fine. Tommy is there.

Jen, surprised, turns to look at Mary as Mary enters the living room area and sits down in a chair.

JEN

Tommy, really?

MARY

He's staying there.

JEN

Did he tell you what he plans to do?

MARY

No. He's the same Tommy, not much of a talker.

JEN

Did he tell you where he's been since he got out of the Army?

MARY

Kansas, he opened a gun store.

JEN

Kansas, and he couldn't come visit?

MARY

Tommy wasn't much for relationships.

JEN

Tell me about it.

MARY

What are you talking about, you were closer to him than any of the others?

JEN

Just because it was our job to feed the animals does not mean we were close.

MARY

I'm going back out there tomorrow, do you want to come?

Jen sits there in thought.

JEN
I'll let you know.

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tom is lying in bed asleep. Tom rolls his head back and forth a few times. You hear a distant gun shot and Tom jerks to a sitting position. Tom looks around the dark room disoriented and breathing heavily. He realizes where he is and then slowly lays back down.

EXT. FARM - DAY

Mary and Jen drive up in Mary's car as the sun is setting. Tom comes walking out of the barn.

Jen gets out of the car and runs towards Tom.

JEN (LOUDLY)
Tommy.

Mary gets out of the car with a few bags and walks towards the farmhouse.

Jen runs up to Tommy and jumps into his arms. Tom wraps his arms around Jen to keep from falling down.

Tom puts Jen down and they begin to walk towards the farmhouse. Jen grabs Tom's hand and holds it as they walk. Tom is uncomfortable with holding hands.

Mary comes walking out of the house as Jen and Tom get to the top of the stairs. Mary points to them holding hands.

MARY
Wow, back to old times.

Tom pulls his hand out of Jen's hand.

TOM
What do you mean?

MARY

You two always held hands coming in
from the barn. Don't you remember?

Tom stands there with a confused look on his face.

JEN

We brough dinner. I hope you like
Chinese food.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tom, Jen, and Mary are sitting at the table eating dinner.
Tom looks at Jen.

TOM

I remember now, you always wanted to
hold my hand when we were walking in
from the barn.

Jen gets a surprised look on her face.

JEN

You better remember again. You would
not let me carry the light to see where
we were going, and you made me hold
your hand so I would not get lost.

Mary looks at Tom and Jen.

MARY

You're both wrong. Martha told Tom to
hold your hand after dark and keep you
safe.

TOM

I want you both to know the lawyer
contacted me and told me that Martha
left me the farm in her will.

JEN

We know.

Tom looks at Jen then at Mary. Mary nods.

TOM

Well, if there is anything you want,
feel free to take it.

MARY

Martha already gave us the things she
wanted us to have. We spent a few weeks
while Martha was alive fairing things
to the others as well.

Mary looks at Jen as if something is going on, then back at
Tom.

MARY

Everything here, Martha wanted you to
have. What do you know about Martha's
sons?

Tom thinks for a minute.

TOM

She had three. One died in Korea and
the others in Vietnam.

Mary looks at Jen.

TOM

You know I could use your help.

MARY

With what?

TOM

Cleaning out Martha's bedroom, her
things, and clothes.

Mary looks at Jen then back at Tom.

MARY

Tom, you know Martha, she didn't like
clutter and she wasn't going to leave
decisions to others. Her bedroom has
already been cleaned out. Her clothes
went to a women's shelter as Martha
wanted. The rest was pretty much gone
before she passed.

JEN

Did you keep in touch with anyone else?

TOM

No, just a letter to Martha now and then. How many are still alive?

JEN

All seven of us. One is in prison, and the rest of us are scattered around.

Mary finishes eating and leans back in her chair. Mary looks around the kitchen and spots the board in the doorway with many graduation marks leading up the board. Mary points to the board.

You can see a board in the doorway with markings and writing.

MARY

Remember that?

Jen and Tom look at the doorway.

MARY

Every birthday, Martha would mark our height on that board along with our name and the date. Yours was at the top until my 17th birthday.

Mary smiles.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Jen and Mary come walking out of the house carrying leftovers in bags. Tom follows them. Jen and Mary walk to the bottom of the steps and stop.

MARY

If you need anything, there is a note pad on the kitchen counter with phone numbers and information.

Tom raises his hand and waives goodbye.

Jen and Mary get into the car and drive down the driveway leaving Tom standing on the porch.

INT. BARN - DAY

Tom is walking through the barn carrying a bucket. Tom opens the door to the horse's stall, steps in and hangs the bucket on the wall. The horse walks over and begins to eat out of the bucket. Tom steps out of the stall and closes the stall door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom comes walking out of the barn and walks towards the farmhouse. Tom walks up onto the porch and stops.

A hundred yards down the driveway Tom can see a car parked. Tom looks around the property but does not see anyone. Tom looks at the car again.

INT. TOM'S TRUCK - DAY

Tom is driving down the driveway towards the car. Tom pulls up and stops next to the car. There is a man sitting in the car. The man, JOE looks at Tom and Tom can see the man's eyes and face are wet.

TOM
Can I help you?

Joe wipes his face.

JOE
Who are you?

TOM
Tom Braden, you're on my property.

Joe has a surprised look on his face.

JOE
Tommy, it's Joe, Joey.

Tom looks down the driveway trying not to look at Joe.

TOM
Why are you sitting here, why didn't
you come up to the house?

Tom looks at Joe who is wiping his face again. Joe looks down the driveway to the farmhouse.

JOE

I don't know, I just had to stop and think.

TOM

Well, come on up to the house.

Tom puts the truck in gear, turns around and drives back towards the farmhouse.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Joe pulls up and parks behind Tom's truck. Joe gets out of his car and walks up the steps onto the porch. Joe walks down the row of chairs and sits in one.

Tom comes walking out of the house carrying two bottles of beer.

Tom walks over to Joe and hands Joe a bottle then Tom sits down.

Joe holds the bottle with two hands and looks at it, then sits the bottle on the floor next to his chair.

Tom notices Joe sit the bottle down.

TOM

Not your brand?

Joe shakes his head no.

JOE

I'm a recovering alcoholic, a little over twenty years now.

Tom sits his bottle on the floor and leans back in his chair.

Joe looks out at the fields.

JOE

Driving up the driveway I was overwhelmed with emotions and had to

stop. I spent most of my childhood on this property.

TOM

And a good part of that was spent in the room behind the kitchen being punished.

Joe smiles.

JOE

I was punished quite a bit. It's funny, when you're a kid you can sure ignore the message in being punished.

TOM

I spent my time in that back room being punished.

JOE

What was it Martha said, "Think of the worst day of your life and realize the rest are a blessing". Boy was that message waisted on us kids.

Tom smiles.

TOM

You're right about that.

Tom and Joe just sit there for a while.

TOM

Jen and Mary came out Yesterday.

JOE

Ya, I haven't seen them for a while. I do see Jen's Ex at an AA meeting every once in a while. No matter how hard I try to control my feeling I still want to beat the shit out of that guy.

TOM

Mary said he was a mean drunk.

JOE

We all find a different person comes out when we drink.

TOM

What do you do?

Joe smiles.

JOE

I'm a social worker for the city. I also work a lot with support groups for kids and recovering alcoholics.

TOM

That's admirable work.

JOE

More like my penance.

Joe smiles.

TOM

Do you ever see Wally?

JOE

Not lately, but I will when he gets out of jail this Friday.

TOM

He's in jail?

Tom looks at Joe with a questioning look.

TOM

Mary told me one of the kids was in Prison.

JOE

He was, but they transferred him to the local jail last weekend because he was being released soon. I'm meeting him Friday at 10am. You should come with me.

TOM

I don't know.

JOE
William will be there. We can all have
lunch together.

TOM
William?

JOE
You remember Willy, don't you?

TOM
You mean little Willy?

JOE
He's not little Willy anymore. Come on,
it will give us all a chance to get re-
acquainted.

TOM
We'll see.

Joe stands up.

JOE
I better get going. I'll call you about
Friday.

Tom stands up.

TOM
How are you going to do that, I never
gave you my phone number?

JOE
You don't have to, Mary shared it with
everyone after Martha passed.

Joe smiles.

JOE
She's sort of the central
communications director of the group.

Joe holds out his hand and Tom shakes it.

JOE

It was good seeing you.

TOM

You too.

Tom watches as Joe walks to his car, gets in and heads down the driveway.

INT. BARN - DAY

Tom opens the stall door and hangs the bucket of feed on the hook for the horse to eat. The horse walk up behind Tom, reaches up and nips Tom on the shoulder. Tom swings around.

TOM

Hey, what the hell.

The horse shakes her head as if she is amused.

Tom backs out of the stall and closes the stall door then rubs his shoulder. Tom's phone rings. Tom pulls it out of his pocket and answers the phone as he walks to the barn door and looks out.

TOM

Hello.

JOE (V.O)

Tom this is Joe. We're meeting behind the town hall at 10am. That's where they'll be releasing Wally. Are you coming?

Tom rubs his shoulder and look back in the direction of the horse stall.

TOM

I guess so.

JOE (V.O)

Ok, I'll see you there.

EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Joe is standing near the back door of the town hall when Tom pulls up and parks across the street.

Tom gets out of his truck and walks across the street to where Joe is standing.

JOE

How are you doing?

TOM

I'm doing fine. You know that crazy horse at the farm bit me on the shoulder this morning.

Joe chuckles.

JOE

She's like any other female, if you don't pay them enough attention you pay the price.

A guard opens the back door and walks out followed by Wally. Wally stops and has a few words with the guard then shakes the guard's hand with a big smile on his face.

Wally walks up to where Joe and Tom are standing. Wally gives Joe a big hug.

JOE

Welcome home.

Wally stands back and looks at Tom with a questioning look on his face.

WALLY

Do I know you?

TOM

You used to.

WALLY

Tommy?

TOM

It's Tom now.

Wally gives Tom a big bear hug. Tom reluctantly hugs Wally back. Wally steps back.

WALLY

Boy, it's good to see you. Now it really is a homecoming.

William walks up to the group and hands Wally a backpack.

WILLIAM

Ok, you're all set. Your paperwork, wallet, keys, and cellphone are in the backpack.

William looks at Tom and holds out his hand to Tom. Tom takes Williams hand and shakes it.

TOM

How are you Willy?

William stops shanking Tom's hand and looks at him for a moment.

WILLIAM

Have we met?

TOM

Yes, we have, about 40 years ago.

William cocks his head then his mouth drops open.

WILLIAM

Tommy?

TOM

It's Tom now.

WILLIAM

Oh my God. You never answered my letter and did not show up at Martha's ceremony. I figure we would never see you again. I have some paperwork for you and some things Martha left for you.

TOM

Paperwork?

WILLIAM
Yes, I'm handling Martha's estate.

TOM
You're a lawyer?

WILLIAM
Have been ever since law school.

TOM
We'll have to get together on those papers.

JOE
I thought we would all get some lunch to celebrate Wally coming home.

WILLIAM
I wish I could, but I'm due in court forty minutes away, I'll have to take a rain check.

William looks at Wally.

WILLIAM
Anything you need, give me a call.

WALLY
I will.

William hurries away.

JOE
Lunch is on me, where do you want to go.

WALLY
The Pulled Pig, best Barbeque in town.

JOE
You got it. Tom, can you join us.

TOM
That's why I came.

JOE

Well then, follow us.

The group walks away.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Tom, Joe, and Wally are sitting at a table eating.

TOM

So, what were you in prison for? If you don't mind me asking?

Wally pauses for a moment.

WALLY

In-laws.

Wally smiles a big grin and Joe laughs.

WALLY

My wife and I built a pretty good size construction business. I handled the work side, and my wife handled the business side. When we got big enough, we hired my sister in-law to handle the books.

Wally takes a drink.

WALLY

About three years ago my wife decided she wanted a divorce. So, we built her a nice house, moved her in and began trying to decide how to split things up. A month later my sister in-law was driving my wife back to the office and she ran a red light. Neither one of them survived.

TOM

I'm sorry for your loss.

WALLY

No need, we weren't exactly love birds at that point. But, because of the business, we had to have an audit done. The firm I hired found that my wife and

sister in-law had embezzled about half a million dollars from the business. They also found that my sister in-law was not filing the correct tax returns.

JOE

This is where it gets good.

WALLY

The IRS would not back down, so my attorney, William, suggested we go to court, and he was right. In the end I was only required to pay the back taxes because I had never signed any of the documents. The two people who had were dead.

TOM

Well that's good. I mean the taxes.

WALLY

Yes, but the judge, H.R Weiss took issue with me sitting there smiling all through the proceeding. He said "I seemed not to take the issue seriously", so, as the company president, he sentenced me to 366 days in jail.

JOE

I told you that judge was an asshole.

WALLY

It could have been worse. I could have gotten 2-10 years.

TOM

Wow, I guess you're right.

JOE

Tell him the best part.

WALLY

My sister in-law left everything to my wife, and we had not changed our will or gotten legally separated. So, everything came to me. Including nearly

all the half million that they had stashed in safe deposit boxes. Carma's a bitch.

TOM

I can see why you are smiling.

INT. TOM'S TRUCK - DAY

Tom and Wally pull up in front of Wally's house and stop. It's a very nice house but the yard needs work.

TOM

Nice house.

EXT. WALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Wally and Tom get out of the truck.

WALLY

Do you mind waiting? If they haven't gotten the utilities turned on, I may need a ride to a hotel.

TOM

Don't you have a car?

WALLY

I had a truck, but I sold it with the business. The wife had a nice car, but I never got it transferred.

Wally walks to the front door, unlocks it, and goes in. Tom walks to the front of the truck and leans against it.

A moment later Wally walks out carrying a small suitcase.

WALLY

Well, they didn't get the water turned on yet. Can you give me a ride to a hotel?

Tom and Wally get back into Tom's truck and Tom pulls away.

INT. TOM'S TRUCK - DAY

Tom drives to the end of the driveway and stops.

TOM

I have plenty of room at the house if you want to stay there?

WALLY

That would be great. If you don't mind? I hate staying in hotels.

TOM

No problem.

INT. TOM'S TRUCK - DAY

Tom turns onto the road and drives down the road.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom and Wally pull up in Tom's truck and park. Tom and Wally get out and walk towards the house. Wally is carrying a small suitcase.

Tom and Wally walk up the steps and across the porch. Tom reaches up and takes the key down from above the door then unlocks the door. Tom and Wally walk inside.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom and Wally enter the house. Tom points to the staircase.

TOM

Why don't you put your suitcase in your old room and meet me on the porch. Would you like a beer?

WALLY

Yes, please.

Wally walks towards the staircase and Tom towards the kitchen.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom is sitting in a chair when Wally walks out of the house. Wally walks over and sits down in a chair. Tom hands

Wally a beer. Wally takes the beer, opens it, and takes a drink.

WALLY

I'm not much of a drinker but I did miss having a beer after a long day at work. They don't serve beer in prison.

Wally chuckles and Tom smiles.

WALLY

Have you decided what you're going to do with the place?

TOM

I haven't given it much thought.

WALLY

It would be a shame to lose it.

Tom looks at Wally with a questioning look.

TOM

I'm not really attached to it.

WALLY

I mean the rest of us.

TOM

What do you mean?

WALLY

Well, Joe brings groups of kids to the farm to learn about the animals and teach them about working on a farm. He also brings groups out from AA and they go hiking. I bring kids out from the VOTEC that are learning the building trades. We work on the house and barn. It gives them a change to do real work.

Wally takes a drink of beer.

WALLY

We all seem attached to the place, except for you. No disrespect.

TOM

None taken. But you're right, I haven't been back since I left. You said you sold your business?

WALLY

Ya, I could not run it by myself, and Mary's boys made me a good offer.

TOM

Mary's boys?

WALLY

Ya, Mary has two boys, Eric, and Matt.

Wally points around the property.

WALLY

They spent a lot of time here. I started teaching them when they were very young and as soon as they were old enough, they came to work for me. Eric spent some time in the Army. He got out just when the shit hit the fan. I knew I could not handle it alone and they make a good team running the business.

A car comes driving up the driveway. It parks and Mary and Jen get out. Mary takes two bags out of the back seat as Jen walks up the steps and across the porch.

JEN

Now aren't you a pair. Grumpy and Happy. Two of the seven dwarfs.

Wally gets up and gives Jen a hug as Mary walks across the porch and into the house.

JEN

How was prison?

WALLY (SMILING)

It gave me time to read. How's my money doing?

JEN

Safe and secure. Your investments are doing well, and Mary's boys have not missed a payment.

Wally looks at Tom.

WALLY

I asked Jen to take care of my finances why I was away.

Wally and Jen sit down in chairs.

Mary steps out of the door.

MARY

Dinner is on the table.

Mary steps back in the door.

JEN

I hope you guys are hungry, I cooked.

Tom, Wally, and Jen get up.

WALLY

Anything is fine with me.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom is sitting in a chair when Mary walks out of the house. Mary walks over by Tom and sits down.

MARY

So, how did you like the food?

TOM

It was good. Not quite sure what it was but it was good.

Mary looks over at the door then back at Tom.

MARY

Jen made it. When she starts cooking you never know what's going to end up in the pot.

Mary smiles.

TOM

Wally said your boys bought his business.

MARY

They did. Wally lent them the money to buy it and they're paying him back.

TOM

That was nice of him.

MARY

Wally could have doubled his money by selling it to someone else, but he loves those boys like they're his own. Wally's a good man. His wife on the other hand was a real jackass.

Tom smiles and Mary notices.

MARY

What? Believe me, if you would have known her you would agreed.

TOM

You said you were married twice?

MARY

Simon, my first, the boy's father and Jacob was my second. Both had memory problems.

Tom gives Mary a questioning look.

MARY

They kept going home with the wrong woman.

TOM

I'm sorry.

MARY

I'm not. I'm happy and I have two wonderful boys to show for the effort.

You know they're going to build me a new house.

TOM

Where?

Mary pauses and the happy expression drops a little.

MARY

We have not decided.

Jen and Wally come walking out and over to where Tom and Mary are sitting.

JEN

All cleaned up. You ready?

Mary gets up and so does Tom.

MARY

Sure.

Mary looks at Wally.

MARY

You need a ride back into town?

WALLY

No, I'm staying here until they get my water turned back on.

MARY

Ok then. You two need anything, don't hesitate.

Mary and Jen walk off the porch and get into Mary's car as Tom and Wally sit down.

Tom and Wally watch as Mary and Jen drive down the driveway.

WALLY

Boy that was good food.

TOM

So, what do you have planned?

WALLY

I don't have any plans. I have to buy me a truck and get my wife's house cleaned out. I sold it William.

TOM

William bought your wife's house?

WALLY

We put nothing but the best into it and he was in the market for something nicer. Other than that, I guess I'm now retired. What are you supposed to do when you're retired?

TOM

I don't know.

WALLY

Aren't you retired?

Tom gives Wally an odd look.

TOM

I haven't given it much thought.

Tom and Wally sit staring off into the distance.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

The sun has just come up. Wally is sitting in a chair drinking coffee when Tom comes out and sits down next to Wally.

TOM

You're up early.

WALLY

I had a hard time sleeping. It takes some getting use to. Plus being back here has its own issues.

TOM

Tell me about it. I have not had a good night's sleep since I got here. Mary told me about her boys buying your business.

Wally smiles.

WALLY

They're great kids, you'll like them.

TOM

It sounds like they are. She said they're going to build her a house.

WALLY

Ya, they picked out a design.

Wally points into the field along the house.

WALLY

They had the spot all picked out about a hundred yards over it that field, but then Martha got sick, and everything stopped. I'm not sure where they plan on building it now. What are your plans for today?

TOM

Willy called me yesterday and asked if I could come to his office this morning at 10am.

WALLY

I need a ride into town. I'll show you where it is.

Tom shakes his head yes.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Tom comes walking out of the barn. Tom begins to slide the tall barn door closed.

The far end drops to the ground with a thud.

Tom tries to slide the door and it will not budge.

Wally is on the back of the porch.

WALLY (LOUDY)

Tom, we better get going if you want to make it to William's office by 10.

Tom looks over at Wally.

TOM (LOUDLY)

The barn door has come off the roller and I can't get it closed.

Wally comes walking up to where Tom is wrestling with the door trying to get it closed. Tom stops.

Wally looks up toward the top of the door.

WALLY

It looks the like the roller has come off the shaft. Why don't I have Mary's boys bring out a lift and help you fix it.

TOM

I can probably get the roller back on if there's a tall enough ladder around here.

WALLY

It would be easier with a lift. Besides, once you get the roller back on the shaft, how are you going to lift it back in place? I'll give them a call. They owe me, literally.

Wally smiles.

TOM

Maybe you're right.

Tom looks into the barn.

TOM

Door wasn't keeping anything in anyway.

Tom dusts his hands off. Tom and Wally turn and walk toward the farmhouse.

EXT. WILLIAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom and Wally pull up in front of William's office and park. Tom and Wally get out of the truck and walk on to the sidewalk. Wally points to the front door.

WALLY

This is it.

TOM

You want to meet somewhere before we go back out to the farm?

WALLY

No, I'm going in with you.

Tom gets a surprised look on his face.

Tom and Wally walk towards the front door. Tom opens the door and walks in followed by Wally.

INT. WILLIAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom and Wally walks up to the reception desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Hi Wally. How are you?

WALLY

I'm doing great.

RECEPTIONIST

William is waiting on you.

Wally motions toward the office door the walks towards it followed by Tom.

Wally opens the door and motions Tom in.

INT. WILLIAM'S PERSONAL OFFICE - DAY

Tom and Wally walks in. William is sitting behind the desk and Mary is sitting in a chair in from of the desk.

Tom gives Mary an odd look as William stands.

WILLIAM

Come in and have a seat.

Tom and Wally walk over and sit down in front of William's desk. William sits down also. William address Tom.

WILLIAM

I hope you don't mind, I asked Mary and Wally to join us.

Tom looks at Mary who is smiling then back at William.

William places a stack of pages in front of Tom with a pen on top of them.

WILLIAM

I need to you side the four designated areas to transfer the farm into your name.

Tom takes the pages and begins to sign.

TOM

I don't know why she left the farm to me.

William looks at Mary then Wally.

Tom finishes and hands the pages to William.

William picks up a stack of books that are tied with twine and sets them in front of him on the desk.

WILLIAM

You don't know why Martha left you the farm?

TOM

When I left the farm, I never looked back. Martha should have left it to one of the others. Someone who had an interest in it.

Mary looks at Tom with a concerned look.

WILLIAM

Martha left the farm to you because you are her last living relative.

TOM
Excuse me?

MARY
Martha never told you?

TOM
Told me what?

MARY
You're her grandson.

Tom sits there with a half angry look on his face. Tom looks at Mary.

TOM
Did you know this?

MARY
Martha never said a word. I just found out a few weeks ago.

Tom is getting angry and stands up.

TOM
Are we done?

WILLIAM
Well...

TOM (ANGRILY)
I have to go.

Tom turns and storms out of the office.

Wally and Mary are sitting there with concerned looks.

WALLY
I didn't see that coming.

MARY
How could you. We barley knew him when we were kids and he's been gone all this time.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom is sitting in a chair on the porch with an angry look on his face. Joe drives up and parks his car. Joe gets out carrying the stack of books that were on William's desk and a folder.

Tom watches as Joe walks up the steps.

JOE

Are you Okay?

TOM

Did you know?

JOE

Tom, Martha never talked about you. She would talk about how the rest of us ended up here, but she never did tell any of us about you. Up until a few weeks ago, we all thought you were like us, a foster child, orphaned or abused.

Tom stares off into the distance. Joe walks over and sits down. Joe places the books on the floor and the folder in his lap.

JOE

Don't you remember your father?

TOM

How could I, he must have died in Vietnam.

JOE

I don't understand.

TOM

Martha first son died in Korea, and she lost the others in Vietnam.

JOE

William said there was an entry in Martha's journal that said her son DAVID brought you here when you were just about five and she never saw him again.

TOM (ANGRY)

Then why did she say she lost them all to war?

JOE

I don't know. I remember Martha saying that before David went to Vietnam, he was a very warm and loving person. One entry in the journal said that David returned from Vietnam with emotional problems, and she felt that telling you about your father would not do anyone any good.

TOM

I've been sitting here for hours wracking my brain. All I remember about the man who brought me here was that he came to see my mother a few times, and they always argued. The last time, he drug me out of my mother's house, brought me here and left me. Martha told me "You're going to live here now" when he left.

JOE

That must have been your father, David.

TOM

But we don't have the same last name.

JOE

Well, if you were born out of wedlock, you might have your mother's last name. What's it say on your birth certificate?

Tom looks at Joe.

TOM

It only listed my mother's name.

Tom stares off into the distance.

TOM

All I have is a few blurry memories of an angry man driving me here.

JOE
Count your blessing. The last memory I
have of my father is him throwing me
down a set of stairs and breaking my
arm.

Tom looks back at Joe.

TOM
But she never told me a thing about
him.

Joe reaches down and picks up the stack of books. Joe hands
Tom the folder.

JOE
Here are the papers you left in
William's office.

Joe hands Tom the stack of books.

TOM
What are these?

JOE
The blue one on top is Martha's
journal.

Tom runs his hand on top the blue book.

TOM
I remember this, she would pull it out
at night and write in it.

Joe smiles.

JOE
I thought she was writing down all the
bad things I did.

Tom smiles.

JOE
The others are journals her sons kept.

Tom gets a concerned look on his face.

TOM

So, one of these belonged to my father?

JOE

If David was really your father, I guess so.

Tom is looking at the bundle of books.

TOM

Have you read them?

JOE

As far as I know, William only read Martha's and that's how he found you. Martha tied them up and left instruction with William to give them to you.

Tom sits the books in his lap and stares off into the distance.

JOE

Tom, I don't know what you're feeling, and I can only imagine what you are going through, but if you want to talk...

Tom looks at Joe.

TOM

I appreciate that. I hope Wally's not mad at me.

JOE

What do you mean?

TOM

He's staying here until he gets his water turned back on and I left him sitting in William's office.

Joe smiles

JOE

I'm sure Wally is fine. That's one guy none of us have to worry about.

TOM

Thank you for bringing these things out to me. And I appreciate you taking the time to talk. I feel a little better.

JOE

Any time.

Tom and Joe hear a truck coming up the driveway. The truck is towing a trailer with a lift on it.

TOM

What the hell is this?

JOE

That looks like Mary's boys.

TOM

That right, Wally was going to ask them to give me a hand fixing the barn door.

JOE

Okay, well, I'm going to head back into town. If you need anything, or just want to talk, give me a call.

TOM

I will.

Tom and Joe get up and walk off the porch.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Eric and Matt get out of the truck.

Joe waves to ERIC and MATT as he drives past them.

Tom walks up to Eric who is wearing slacks and a golf shirt. Eric holds out his hand and Tom shakes Eric's hand.

ERIC

Mr. Braden?

TOM

Call me Tom.

ERIC

Wally said you needed a hand fixing a barn door.

Matt, dressed in work clothes walks around the front of the truck. Matt holds out his hand and Tom shakes it.

MATT

I'm Matt.

TOM

Tom.

Tom points to the barn.

TOM

I think the roller came off and the door dropped.

ERIC

Let's take a look.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Tom and Eric are standing in front of the barn as Matt drives the lift up to the door and prepares the lift to go up.

TOM

Do you need a hand up there?

MATT

Sure, come on up.

Tom climbs up on to the lift platform.

After Tom gets on the lift Matt presses the button and the lift goes up.

Matt and Tom are working on getting the roller back on the shaft.

TOM

So, you do all the work, and your brother collects the money.

Matt laughs.

MATT
Pretty much.

Tom smiles.

MATT
No, we both work our ass's off when the work has to be done. Eric had a meeting with a new client Today while I was running a jobsite.

Matt and Tom continue to work.

Eric has a prybar wedged under the barn door. Matt and Tom are up on the lift.

MATT (LOUDLY)
We've got the roller back on. You ready to lift?

ERIC
Ready down here.

MATT (LOUDLY)
Lift.

Eric strains to lift the bard door.

MATT (LOUDLY)
That's it.

Eric eases the barn door down and it hangs properly.

ERIC
We good?

MATT
Looks good up here.

Matt lowers the lift down to the ground.

Matt and Tom get off the lift. Tom walks up, pulls the door and it slides closed.

TOM
Looks good. What do I owe you boys?

ERIC
I beer would be good.

TOM
I can handle that. Come up onto the porch.

Matt begins to drive the lift away from the barn.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom is sitting on the porch. Eric and Matt come walking up onto the porch. You can see the lift loaded on the trailer behind them.

Eric sits down next to Tom and Matt next to Eric. Tom hands Eric two bottles of beer and Eric hands one to Matt. They both open their bottles and take a drink.

TOM
Are you two old enough to drink?

Eric and Matt smile.

ERIC
You sound like our mother.

TOM
It just seems like Yesterday when I was teasing your mother about her first day in middle school.

TOM
Ask your mother about Brian Otto.

MATT
I know him.

ERIC
I bet you have some good stories about our mother.

Tom smiles.

TOM
Just ask her.

Matt chugs down the last of his beer.

MATT
We better get going.

Eric looks at Matt.

ERIC
Always in a rush.

MATT
Can't keep my girl waiting.

ERIC
Thanks for the beer.

TOM
Thanks for helping with the barn door.

Eric and Matt walks off the porch and get in the truck. Tom watches as they drive away. Tom looks over at the stack of books sitting in the chair next to him.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tom is sitting at the table eating dinner when his phone rings. Tom answers it.

TOM
Hello?

JOE (V.O)
It's Joe. How are you doing?

TOM
Better. Working with Mary's boys got my mind off things. They seem to be great kids.

Joe laughs.

TOM
What?

JOE (V.O)

It's just funny. They're really not kids anymore but we think of them as kids also.

TOM

It just seems a little odd because I think of Mary as a young girl.

JOE (V.O)

I know. Okay, I'm glad to hear you're doing better. If you need to talk give me a call.

TOM

I will.

Tom begins to put the phone down and then brings it back to his ear.

TOM

Hey, you still there?

JOE (V.O)

Ya, what do you need?

TOM

Wally has not come back. I expected him here before dinner.

JOE (V.O)

I dropped him off at the dealership about an hour ago. He's picking out a new truck.

TOM

He mentioned that.

JOE (V.O)

I'm sure he'll be there in a while.

TOM

Okay, bye.

JOB (V.O)

Bye.

Tom puts the phone down. Behind Tom on the counter, you can see the stack of books still tied with the twine.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Tom is working on the tractor when a red GMC pickup comes pulling up.

Wally gets out of the truck and walks up to where Tom is working on the tractor.

TOM

Nice truck.

WALLY

Ya, I bought a new truck and while I was driving it out here, I was thinking. What do I need a truck for, I no longer own a construction business.

TOM

All the same, nice truck. What happened to you last night?

WALLY

Sorry about that, I would have called but I did not have your number. After you left William's office Yesterday Mary gave me a ride to my house and the water was on, so I decided to stay there. I came out today to pick up my suitcase. What do you have going on here?

TOM

The lawn needs to be mowed and this is the only thing I could find. It ran long enough to get it out of the barn, and this is where it died.

WALLY

Does it have gas?

TOM

Smells a little old but it has gas. The carburetor had a lot of junk in the

bowl, so I cleaned it out and put it back on. Can you go hit the starter?

Wally walks around the tractor to the seat and presses the starter button. The tractor starts running.

WALLY (LOUDLY)
Sounds pretty good.

Tom revs the engine a few times and draws his hand across his throat signaling Wally to turn the engine off.

TOM
I guess that's what it was.

WALLY
So, you're going to mow the grass?

TOM
Well, it needs it.

Tom pulls a rag from his back pocket and wipes off his hand.

WALLY
Some of the others are coming to my house for dinner. Mary wants to discuss a ceremony for Martha. Can you make it?

TOM
What kind of ceremony?

WALLY
We had one for Martha's friends, but Martha wanted to be cremated, and we need to spread her ashes.

TOM
I guess so. Do I need to bring anything?

WALLY
No, it's all taken care of.

TOM
What time?

WALLY

Around six.

TOM

I'll be there.

WALLY

Good. I'm going to get my suitcase and get back to town.

Tom nods his head yes.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom is riding the tractor and mowing the grass around the barn. The horse is in the corral running and jumping.

EXT. WALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Tom is walking up to Wally's front door. Tom pushes the doorbell, and you can hear it ring inside. Wally opens the door.

TOM

Come on in.

Wally steps back and Tom enters.

INT. WALLY'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wally enters the living room followed by Tom. Joe, William, Mary, and Jen are all sitting there. Tom stops and looks around the room.

WALLY

Have a seat.

Tom just stands there for a moment with everyone looking at him.

JOE

What's wrong?

TOM

Sorry, it's just a little strange to see you all together and grown up.

Tom walks over and sits down.

JEN

It might be strange for you, but we see each other pretty regularly. Except for Wally the past year.

Tom looks around awkwardly as everyone but Tom laughs.

WALLY

Hey, you were all welcome to come and visit. Only William and Joe made the trip.

MARY

I love you Wally, but the thought of walking into a prison is a little too much for me. I saw scared straight just at the right time in my life. It kept me out of trouble.

Everyone but Tom laughs. Tom looks around the group.

TOM

Where's Sam?

JOE

Sam is the one person we don't see very often. He works for the Cherokee Nation Council. When he's not traveling, he lives up in Oklahoma. He's coming in Tomorrow afternoon.

WALLY

Well, I hope everyone is hungry. Dinner is ready.

Everyone gets up and leaves the room.

INT. WALLY'S HOUSE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone makes their way into the dining room. PAT, Wally's friend comes out of the kitchen with a tray of food and places it on the table.

PAT
Everyone, sit down and help yourselves.

Everyone takes a seat, Pat next to Wally.

JEN
Who's saying grace?

MARY
Let's not start that again.

JEN
What?

JOE
How about we simple hold hands and have
a moment of silence?

Everyone joins hands for a moment of silence.

JEN
Amen.

Everyone releases hands and begins to gather food on to
their plates.

WILLIAM
Pat, it all looks and smells great.

WALLY
Who said Pat did all the cooking?

MARY
Wally, please.

Everyone but Tom laughs a little. Everyone begins eating.

MARY
So Pat, you really waited a whole year
for our Wally to get out of jail?

Pat smiles and places her hand on Wally's.

PAT
He's worth it.

WILLIAM

We're not so certain.

Everyone but Tom laughs a little.

PAT

Why, you visited him more than I did.

MARY

You tell him Pat.

WILLIAM

I had to, I'm his lawyer.

Everyone but Tom laughs a little.

JOE

Yes, and yet he still went to prison.

Everyone but Tom laughs again.

WILLIAM

I told you, I had no control over that.
That judge was out of line.

WALLY

Yes, Judge H.R. Weiss. Harold... Raymond...
Weiss.

JOE

Why does that name sound familiar?

WALLY

It should, if you add Sarah Wilson.

JOE

Sarah Wilson?

JEN

Wally, didn't you date a Sarah Wilson
back in high school?

MARY

Sarah Wilson, I remember her. Jen, she
was the girl that went around telling
everyone how she was dating a college

boy. That was until Wally started chasing her around town.

Pat looks at Wally.

PAT

You never mentioned her?

WALLY

That was back in high school. After she when off to college, I never heard from her again.

JOE

You two were the hot item for quite a while. Didn't her boyfriend threaten to cut your... you know off.

WALLY

He did. He sent me a letter and told me if I didn't stay away from Sarah, he would find me and cut my... you know, off.

WILLIAM

Oh my god, Harold Raymond Weiss. Judge H.R. Weiss. That's the guy she was dating. He's the judge that sent you to prison. We should have him brought up on charges. Are you kidding me?

WALLY

No need. I ran into a guy in prison that we went to high school with. We were talking about the good old days, and I realized H.R. Wiess was Harold Raymond Weiss.

JOE

He finally got you.

Wally smiles.

WALLY

Ya, but I got Sarah.

Wally stops abruptly and looks at Pat.

WALLY
In a manner of speaking.

Everyone laughs including Tom.

WALLY
You would be amazed at what you can
learn in prison.

Everyone continues eating.

INT. WALLY'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM.

Everyone but Pat is sitting in the living room.

MARY
Let's get started. Martha made all the
arrangement before she passed, so when
she died, she as cremated.

Jen gives a little shiver with her shoulders and makes a
sound.

JEN
Ahh.

MARY
Okay, we all know how you feel about
it. Martha wanted her ashes spread over
the farm, but the one thing she did not
spell out was how and where. If no one
has any ideas, Eric had a suggestion.

WILLIAM
What was Eric's suggestion?

MARY
Eric has one of those helicopter drone
things that he flies with his phone. He
said he can set it up to fly around the
farm and spread her ashes.

Jen shivers again.

MARY
Tom, it that okay with you?

TOM

Whatever you all think is fine with me.

MARY

Anybody against the idea?

JEN

Are we going to be there? Are the ashes going to fall on us?

MARY

Well, I thought it would be nice if we were all there. That's why Sam is coming in tomorrow. I though Sunday morning would be nice, the weather is supposed to be sunny and warm.

Mary turns and looks at Jen.

MARY

And NO, he's not going to drop the ashes on us.

Jen shivers again.

JOE

So, we're all agreed?

Everyone looks around the room at each other.

JOE

Good.

WALLY

Anyone want coffee?

Mary, Jen, and Wally get up and leave the living room. Joe, William, and Tom remain.

TOM

William, I want to apologize for the way I left Yesterday. I don't know what happened. I felt like my skin was on fire and I had to get out of there.

WILLIAM

It's okay. That's not the first time someone got upset in my office.

Joe smiles.

JOE

Tell him about the farmer and the cow.

Joe laughs a little.

WILLIAM

I had a client, a kid, he ran off the road and knock down a section of fence at a farm outside of town. It was late, and dark, and rather than call the police, this kid gets scared because it's his father's truck. So, he backs up and heads down the road. He gets down the road and realizes he's on the wrong road, so he turns around. He heads back the way he came, comes over the hill and standing in the middle of the road is one of the farmer's cows that got through the hole in the fence. The kid hits the cow, and in the process, kills the cow and wrecks the truck. Well, the father sues the farmer for the damages to the truck and wins a settlement of \$3400. A few days later, the kid runs he mouth, and word gets back to the farmer that the kid was the one that knocked down the fence to begin with. The farmer comes to me and tells me that the damages he suffered between the fence and dead cow are \$3200 and wants the kid to pay for it. The only problem is the farmer cannot prove it. So, I setup a meeting to mediate because if it got out, the kid would be looking at charges for leaving the scene and filing a false police report. So, I'm sitting in my office with the kid and his father waiting on the farmer. In walks the farmer with a bloody hind quarter of the cow. He had the dead cow butchered. He drops the

hind quarter in the father's lap and says "that ought to cover the \$200 dollars I own you" and walks out.

TOM

Two hundred dollars?

WILLIAM

The difference between the settlement the kid's father won in court and what the farmer figured his damages were. \$200.

TOM

What did the father do?

WILLIAM

What could he do, he didn't want his son to go to jail. He dumped the hind quarter in my trashcan and left.

Joe snickers.

JOE

Here's the best part. Tell him what you did.

WILLIAM

I took the hind quarter to the butcher and had to cut up. I still have a roast in my freezer.

Tom laughs.

TOM

You've got to be kidding me.

JOE

Hey, I had dinner at his place one night and that cow tasted good.

Joe and William are laughing when the others return.

MARY

What's so funny?

JOE

William told Joe the cow story.

MARY

Oh, my god. Tom just came back and you're telling him how crazy the people are around here.

Everyone sits down.

MARY

So, 10am Sunday morning?

Everyone shakes their heads yes.

WILLIAM

Tom, what do you think you're going to do with the farm?

TOM

I'm not sure.

Tom hesitates and looks around the room.

JOE

It's okay, everyone here knows.

TOM

Well, when William contacted me, I was confused as to why Martha left the farm to me. Now with what William told me the other day, it could turn out that I was her only living relative.

MARY

You have doubts?

TOM

I just don't know. I have a lot to think about.

JEN

We understand.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom comes walking out of the house. Everyone is on the porch sitting in chairs talking. Eric and Matt are in the yard messing with the Drone.

Tom walks up to the group.

MARY

Everyone is here but Wally and Sam.

Wally and Sam come driving up the driveway in Wally's new truck and park behind the group of vehicles in the driveway.

Wally and Sam come walking up the stairs to the porch where Tom is standing. Wally has a big smile on his face. Sam a more somber look. Wally steps onto the porch and reaches out his hand. Tom takes Wally's hand and shake it.

WALLY

Tom.

TOM

Wally.

Wally releases Tom's hand and walks towards the others.

Sam steps onto the porch and reaches out his hand.

Tom takes Sam's hand and shakes it. Sam pulls Tom in close for a bro-hug which makes Tom uncomfortable. Sam releases Tom and steps back.

SAM

How are you big brother? It's been a while.

TOM

It sure has. You look good.

SAM

So do you.

Tom and Sam turn towards the others.

Tom looks at Mary.

TOM

Are we ready?

Mary turns her head toward Eric and Matt.

MARY (LOUDLY)
Boys, we ready.

Eric looks at Mary.

ERIC
We're ready.

Mary looks at Joe.

MARY
Do you mind?

JOE
Not at all. If everyone will join me in
the yard we can get started.

Everyone makes their way off the porch and into the yard
near Eric and Matt. Eric looks at Joe.

ERIC
Where do you want it to drop?

JOE
Can you fly out into the open field and
do it there?

ERIC
No problem.

Eric works the controls and the drone takes off with a
small box attached to the bottom of the drone.

The drone flies high out over the open field to a distance
where it can no longer be heard and begins to hover high
over the field.

Eric looks at Joe.

Joe turns toward the group.

JOE
Does anyone have anything they would
like to say?

William wipes his eyes and Wally puts his arm around Williams shoulders.

JEN

You go ahead Joe.

Joe turns and looks out over the field where the drone is flying.

JOE

Martha, you touched all of us in your own way and became our mother. You healed our wounds and taught us how to live, how to love, and how to grow into responsible adults. Everyone here will miss you in their own way. You said "you're going to be here for your entire life, I'm just sorry I will not". I think I speak for everyone here, when I say, you will always be here with us.

Joe nods to Eric and Eric works the controls.

The drone begins to fly across the fields and Martha's ashes begin to fall from the drone.

Everyone watches as the ashes blow in the wind and fall slowly to the ground.

Joe turns towards the group.

JEN

That was very nice.

Others in the group nod their heads as Jen, Mary and William wipe their eyes.

The group slowly begins to break up and walk towards the farmhouse.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom is standing on the edge of the porch staring off into the distance in thought, everyone else is sitting in chairs talking.

Jen walks out of the door.

JEN

If anyone is hungry, Mary and I brought food for everyone.

Everyone begins getting up and walking into the house. Wally walks up next to Tom.

WALLY

What are you thinking about?

Tom does not respond.

WALLY

Tom?

Tom looks at Wally with a questioning look.

WALLY

I said, what are you thinking about?

Tom goes back to staring off into the distance.

TOM

I was just thinking how I left here and never looked back. And now, well, I never had a chance to say goodbye.

WALLY

It's not your fault. And I think we all just said goodbye.

Tom looks at Wally for a moment then returns to staring off into the distance.

Wally turns and walks towards the door.

Mary opens the door and step out as Wally gets to the door.

Wally motions with his head towards Tom then walks into the house.

Mary walks up next to Tom.

MARY

How are you doing?

Tom looks at Mary.

TOM

I'm not sure, with everything that has happened since I got back, I'm not sure what I'm feeling.

Mary puts her hand on Tom's back.

MARY

That's understandable.

Mary rubs Tom's back a little.

MARY

Why don't you come in and get something to eat?

Tom looks at Mary.

TOM

In a minute.

Mary turns and walks back towards the door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom comes walking out of the house carrying a plate of food.

Tom walks up to the group who are all sitting in a semi-circle of chairs eating.

Tom looks at the group. Sam pushes a chair with his foot.

SAM

Over here big brother.

Tom walks over and sits down between Sam and William. Sam puts his empty plate of the floor next to his chair.

Sam address Tom.

SAM

The last thing Martha told me was you had retired from the Army and opened a gun store with a partner?

TOM

I did.

SAM

No wife or kids?

Mary hears the conversation and looks over towards Tom.

TOM

No, I never made it that fare in a relationship. You?

SAM

Well, not officially. Several years ago, I started a relationship with a woman who had two sons. She didn't feel right about getting married, so we live together. Her sons had a real issue with our relationship. Their father was still in their lives and did not talk well about their mother.

TOM

That must be tuff.

SAM

It was until it came time for college. The oldest had good grades, but not good enough for scholarships. He received acceptance letters from three colleges. He was ready to break free and go out into the world. His father lived his whole life week to week and told him he was going to have pay for his own college. The boy did not have that kind of savings. I've never seen someone have the spirit ripped out of them like that. The boy showed up a few days later and told his mother what had happened. That night, we sat down with him. We handed him the three acceptance letters and said choose. The boy looked

at us like we were crazy until his mother told him we would pay for his college. They both started looking at me differently after that. The oldest is in his third year of college and the youngest is in his second year.

TOM

That was nice of you to do that.

SAM

Martha taught us the value of saving money and being generous.

WILLIAM

Amen. That reminds me.

William reaches into his jacket pocket, pulls out an envelope and hands it to Tom. Tom stops eating, takes the envelope and holds it up.

TOM

What's this?

WILLIAM

You left my office so quickly the other day I did not have a chance to give you that. When you left here, you left behinds a savings account that Martha had setup in your name.

William looks over at Jen.

WILLIAM

Jen can explain it.

Tom looks at Jen and holds up the envelope.

JEN

Martha setup a savings account for each of us as we came to live here. When you left there was \$380.29 cents in your account. When I went to work for the accounting firm Martha brought the account book to me to invest. Granted the bank interest did not amount to much, but since my company took it over

and invested it, it has done a little better. I think it's just over \$12,000 in the account now.

TOM

Thank you.

JEN

You have Martha to thank for that.

Tom places the envelope on the floor next to his chair and goes back to eating.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom comes walking down the hallway and enters the bathroom.

INT. FARMHOUSE BATHROOM - DAY

Tom pulls his pants down and sits down on the toilet. Tom hears footsteps coming down the hall. Tom looks over at the door when someone rattles the doorknob. Tom flinches, grabs his pants, and begins to pull them up. Mary knocks on the door.

MARY (O.S)

Tom, you in there.

Tom relaxes a little and lets his pants drop.

TOM

Yes, I am.

MARY (O.S)

Everyone is going for a walk. Come join us.

TOM

Would you give me a minute?

Mary on the other side of the door shakes her head no, lets go of the doorknob, turns around and walks away.

Inside the bathroom Tom can hear Mary walk away and he relaxes.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom comes walking out as some of the group begins walking away from the farmhouse. Tom looks at Mary who is talking to Jen. Mary sees Tom looking with a questing look on his face. Mary shrugs. Mary and Jen follow the others.

Tom walks down the porch steps to where Sam is waiting.

TOM

Aren't you going with the others?

SAM

I am, I was just waiting on my big brother.

Tom and Sam begin walking, following the others.

TOM

Why do you keep calling me your big brother?

SAM

Because, from the minute I arrived here you were my big brother. You showed me where I was going to sleep, brought me some clothes, you even brought me a glass of water in case I got thirsty in the middle of the night.

TOM

I'm not trying to be mean or anything, but I never thought of you as a little brother.

SAM

I understand. After talking to the others the past few days, we've all come to realize just how difficult it must have been for you being the first one.

Tom and Sam walk together in silence for a bit.

SAM

I know the past few days have been hard, and no matter what you decide to

do, you should know that we are all
your family.

EXT. OPEN AREA - DAY

Everyone is walking along a dirt trail. Jen and Mary are walking together.

JEN

So, do you think Tom is going to say?

MARY

I don't know.

JEN

I think he is finally going to settle
down.

MARY

What makes you think that?

JEN

I just have a feeling. He's spent all
this time looking and has not found the
right woman. I think he's ready to
settle down.

Mary stops and watches with a surprised look on her face as Jen walks ahead for a few steps and then Mary begins walking again.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Several people have already left. Jen, Sam, Wally, and Tom are sitting on the porch. Jen gets up.

JEN

Can I get anyone anything?

WALLY

No, we have to get going.

Wally and Sam stand up as Jen walks into the house.

WALLY

Maybe we can get together again next
weekend?

TOM

Maybe.

SAM

I can't, I'll be traveling.

Tom stands up. Tom holds out his hand and Wally shakes it then Sam does also.

TOM

You travel safe.

SAM

Thanks you.

WALLY

I'll talk to you.

Wally and Sam walk off the porch. Tom sits back down and watches as Wally and Sam drive away.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Mary is washing the last few dishes as Jen walks in.

JEN

Why don't you get going, I'll stay and finish up?

MARY

I'm all but done here.

Jen looks around.

JEN

What happened to the food?

MARY

I put some in the refrigerator for Tom and I put the rest in your car.

JEN

Oh.

Mary turns around and begins drying her hands.

MARY

You better get going before the food begins to spoil. I'm done here, I'll be right behind you.

Jen gets a confused look on her face.

JEN

Okay, I'll see you at home.

Mary watches as Jen leaves the kitchen.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

The sun is setting. Mary comes walking out of the house carrying two bottles of beer as Jen is driving away. Mary walks over to where Tom is sitting and sits down. Mary holds out a bottle of beer.

MARY

Would you like a beer?

Tom takes the beer.

TOM

Thank you.

Mary holds her beer out and Tom clinks the top of Mary's beer bottle with his and they both take a drink.

TOM

Boy, I though they would never leave.

MARY

Tell me about.

Tom takes another drink of beer.

MARY

I put half the leftovers in the refrigerator. If you're hungry I could make us something?

TOM

I'm good. I just want to sit here and relax for a while.

Mary relaxes into her chair.

INT. MARY'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jen is watching TV when Mary walks in. Jen looks at her watch.

JEN

What happened to you, I left the farm
over two hours ago.

MARY

I had some stops to make on the way
home.

JEN

Oh.

MARY

I'm going to get something to drink,
you want anything?

JEN

No thank you.

Mary walks out of the room.

MARY (O.S)

Do you remember Dr. Peters?

JEN

Which one is he?

MARY (O.S)

Tall, dark hair, we ran into him last
month at the steakhouse.

JEN

I remember him, he's cute.

MARY (O.S)

His girl friend moved out right before
we saw him at the steakhouse.

JEN

Really.

INT. MARY'S HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary pulls a bottle of water from the refrigerator and takes a drink.

MARY

Ya, He asked me about you.

JEN (O.S)

Do you think you could arrange for us to meet up again?

Mary takes another drink from the bottle of water.

MARY

I could probable make something happen.

Mary leans against the sink with a sly smile on her face.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

It's early morning. Mr. Thompson drives up in his pickup and parks.

Tom comes walking out of the house. Mr. Thompson sees Tom and rolls down his truck window.

MR. THOMPSON

Morning Tom.

TOM

Morning.

MR. THOMPSON

Tom. I have three orphaned goats. I don't have any mother goats, and the males are getting too aggressive with them. I need somewhere to keep them. I was thinking maybe you could look after them for just a month or two until they get bigger.

TOM

I don't want any goats.

MR. THOMPSON

Your barn is pretty much empty. It would only be for a few months. If you decide to sell the place, I'll find somewhere else to keep them.

Tom waves with his hand to go ahead. Mr. Thompson drives his truck towards the barn.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Mr. Thompson is carrying a bag of feed from his truck when Tom walks up and follows Mr. Thompson into the barn.

INT. BARN - DAY

Mr. Thompson walks up to a stall and places the bag of feed into a metal trash can, places the lid on the can, then turns towards Tom.

MR. THOMPSON

I put them in this stall because the outside corral has wire fencing to keep them in. Let them out during the day but they have to be in at night. Predators and all.

Mr. Thompson points to the trash can.

MR. THOMPSON

There's a half bag of feed in the can. I'll bring more out Monday when I get my delivery. Give them a couple scoops of food in the evening. That's all you need to do.

Tom looks over the stall door.

All three goats look up at Tom.

TOM

That's it?

MR. THOMPSON

Food and water, that's all. I'll check on them once a week. Thanks again.

Mr. Thompson walks away leaving Tom standing there.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Tom is working on the tractor when he notices a small car driving up the driveway. The car parks and a BILL HARRIS gets out. Tom walks towards Bill. Bill seems nervous.

TOM

Can I help you with something?

BILL (NERVOUS)

I don't know. My name is Bill, Bill Harris. I'm looking for a Martha Gunter.

Tom stops when he gets close to Bill.

TOM

This was her farm.

BILL

Was her farm?

TOM

She passed away not too long ago.

Bill looks down at the ground.

TOM

What can I help you with?

Bill looks at Tom.

BILL

I'm not sure. I was hoping to talk to Martha.

TOM

About what?

Bill looks around the farm then back at Tom.

BILL

My mother passed away a few months ago.

TOM
I'm sorry for your loss.

BILL
Thank you. We were going through her things, and I found Martha's address. Harry Gunter was my father and I think Martha may have been a relative.

TOM
Maybe you better come up on the porch.

Tom leads Bill up onto the porch.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom leads Bill over to the chairs.

TOM
Have a seat.

BILL
Thank you.

Tom and Bill both sit down.

TOM
Where are you from?

BILL
North Carolina. I grew up not far from Fort Bragg. My mother and Harry were together when Harry was stationed at Fort Bragg. Harry was shipped off to Vietnam before I was born. My mother got word that he was killed in action, so I never had a chance to meet him. My mother told me my father was from Texas, but all I had was a name on a birth certificate. Until we found Martha's address in my mother's things. We decided to drive out to Austin for my son's college graduation. I figured why not stop and try and locate Martha. Do you know if she had any relatives in the area?

TOM
Well, sort of.

BILL
What do you mean?

TOM
Martha had four sons. She lost Walter in Korea and the other three George, Harry, and David in Vietnam. From what I can piece together, David may have been my father.

Bill's face lights up.

BILL
If David is your father and Harry is my father, then that makes us cousins.

TOM
Could be.

BILL
So, Martha was our grandmother?

TOM
I guess so.

BILL
I can't tell you how happy I am to meet you. Up until now I haven't had any relatives other than on my mother's side.

TOM
Martha raised me and six other children as her own.

BILL
What does that mean?

TOM
Up until a few days ago, I didn't know Martha was my grandmother.

BILL
But you said she raised you?

TOM

She did, but she never told me I was her grandson.

Bill sits there in thought.

BILL

Boy, that sucks.

TOM

Tell me about it.

BILL

I spent my life not knowing if I had any family on my father's side, but you were raised by Martha and didn't know she was your grandmother? My wife warned me that I may be disappointed. What happened to Martha's husband?

TOM

He passed before I came here to live.

BILL

You said there were six others. Were any of them related to Martha and she didn't tell them?

TOM

I'm pretty sure they weren't. Just a minute.

Tom gets up and goes into the house.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Tom walks in and up to the counter. Tom unties the twine wrapped around the books. Tom opens the first book and sets it to the side. He opens the second and stands there reading for a moment. Tom closes the book and leaves the kitchen with the book.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom comes out of the house carrying the book. Tom walks over and sits back down. Tom hands the book to Bill.

TOM

You should probably have this.

Bill takes the book.

BILL

What's this?

TOM

That's Harry's journal. Martha and all the sons kept a journal.

Bill opens the book and reads.

BILL

"Harry Gunter April 5th, 1954. I was born April 5th, 1946. My father's name is Joseph Gunter and my mother's name is Martha Gunter".

A tear runs down Bill's face. Bill pulls a folded piece of paper out of the book and reads.

BILL

"February 22nd, 1964. Mother, I'm sending you my journal because I'm being shipped off to Vietnam and I don't want anything to happen to it. I'll start a new one when I get there. I hate to leave Anna, she really is the love of my life. I know I've only known her since Christmas, but I can tell. I hope to return and bring her home to Texas". Anna was my mother's name. "Love, your son Harry".

Bill folds the paper, places it neatly in the book, and closes the book. Bill wipes his eyes.

BILL

Thank you, thank you for this.

Bill holds the book in both hands.

TOM

I'm sorry I don't have anything else.
Martha pretty much cleaned the place
out before she passed.

Bill holds the book up.

BILL

This is more than I had all my life.

Tom looks over at Bill's car.

TOM

You said "We" drove out?

BILL

Yes, me and my wife.

TOM

Where is she?

BILL

I dropped her off at the mall in town.
I was really nervous, and I didn't know
what I was going to find. So, she
suggested I drop her off.

Bill looks at his watch.

BILL

I told her I would pick her up in an
hour, so, I need to get going.

Bill reaches into his pocket and pulls out a business card.
Bill hands the business card to Tom.

BILL

Here's my card in case you want to get
in touch. I'm in construction.

TOM

One of the other kids is, was in
construction.

Bill gets up and Tom gets up also.

BILL

Ok then, I'm going to get going. We're due in Austin Tomorrow morning.

Bill reaches his hand out and Tom shakes it.

BILL

It was nice meeting you Cuz. If you find yourself anywhere near Raleigh, give me a call.

TOM

I will.

Bill walks off the porch and gets into his car. Bill turns the car around and drives down the driveway as Tom watches.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Tom is working on the tractor. Tom stops and pulls his phone out of his pocket. Tom calls Joe.

JOE (V.O)

Hello.

TOM

Joe, it's Tom.

JOE (V.O)

How's it going?

TOM

Okay, I guess. I had a visitor Today and would like to talk to you about it. Do you think you could come out to the farm?

JOE (V.O)

Sure, I can be there about 4:30 if that's okay?

TOM

That's fine, I'll see you then.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom is sitting in a chair on the porch when Joe pulls in and parks. Joe gets out and walks to the steps.

Joe walks across the porch and sits down in a chair.

JOE

What's up?

TOM

I had a visit today from a man that claims to be Harry Gunter's son.

Joe leans back in his chair.

JOE

What did he want?

TOM

He was looking for Martha. He found her name and address in his mother's things after she passed. He said his father on his birth certificate is Harry Gunter. That Harry was stationed in Fort Bragg where he met his mother and started a relationship. Harry was shipped off to Vietnam before he was born and his mother was informed that Harry had died in action.

JOE

What did he say when you told him Martha had passed away?

TOM

He seemed pretty nervous, and he really didn't say much. I gave him Harry Gunter's journal. He thanked me and left.

JOE

That's it?

TOM

He was on his way to Austin for his son's graduation. He said something that got me thinking. When I told him

about the other six, he asked if any of them could be related to Martha.

JOE

When we learned that Martha was your grandmother, Mary and I had the same conversation. My mother died of cancer when I was seven and my father was an abusive alcoholic, so, I knew mine. Mary's died in an auto accident. Jen's mother put her up for adoption, but Jen was born after Martha's sons had died. William's parents are still alive, and Sam has found and knows his parents.

TOM

That leave Wally.

JOE

I asked Wally. All he would say was his parent's where bad people.

TOM

I guess that means he knew them.

JOE

Did this guy want anything?

TOM

No, he gave me his business card and left.

JOE

Then what are your concerns?

TOM

I don't know. I'm kind of waiting for a piano to drop on me.

Joe smiles.

JOE

I can understand. Don't ask me why, but when I was a kid, every birthday I was afraid that my father was going to show up and take me away. To this day, when

my birthday comes around, I get a little anxious.

TOM

He called me Cuz.

JOE

How did that make you feel?

Tom smiles.

TOM

It actually felt kind of good. I've spent my life thinking I had no relatives.

Joe raises his eyebrow and Tom sees it.

TOM

I know, the rest of you are the family I never had. But this was different. He said he has a wife and son, and I don't know them.

JOE

I know what you mean. I know several of my cousins and their families. But in reality, I'm closest to Mary. She's always been there for me and vice versa.

Joe looks out into the distance.

TOM

Now that I think about it, I feel like I missed an opportunity.

JOE

Opportunity for what?

TOM

To get to know someone I have a connection with.

JOE

You said he gave you his business card. You can contact him.

TOM
You're right.

JOE
I know that you're dealing with a lot right now. Give it some time. On another note. I have a group of kids this weekend and the plans I made are falling through. Can I bring them out to the farm?

TOM
For what?

JOE
I can take them on a walk, feed the animals, clean up for you.

Tom looks around the farm.

TOM
It's not like there is anything to clean up.

JOE
That's not the point. The point is to get these kids away from town, away from their lives and let them experience something different.

TOM
Sure, bring them out. Is there anything I have to do?

JOE
No, not really. If you want to join in, you're welcome to.

TOM
No, you do your thing.

JOE
Okay then, if you're good, I'm going to head back to town.

TOM
Thanks for coming out.

JOE
Any time.

Joe gets up and leaves.

INT. JOE'S CAR - DAY

Joe is driving down a country road. Joe lifts his phone and press the screen.

MARY (V.O)
Hello.

JOE
Hey, it's me.

MARY (V.O)
What's up?

JOE
I just left the farm. It turns out Tom has a cousin.

MARY (V.O)
What?

JOE
Some guy showed up looking for Martha. Her son Harry had a son. He was born in North Carolina after Harry was shipped off to Vietnam.

MARY (V.O)
Wow. How's he taking it.

JOE
Okay, I think. But it must be a lot with the past few weeks.

MARY (V.O)
I can imagine.

JOE
I'm taking a group of kids out to the farm this weekend.

MARY (V.O)
Saturday?

JOE
Yes.

MARY (V.O)
I was going to head out and give the
horse a workout.

JOE
Can you do it in the morning? That way
you can teach some of the kids about
being around a horse.

MARY (V.O)
Sure.

JOE
Okay, I'll talk to you.

MARY (V.O)
Bye.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

It's early morning. Tom is sitting on the porch drinking
coffee. On a table next to him are the journals.

Tom watches as Mary pulls up and parks. Mary gets out of
her car and walks towards the house.

Mary walks across the porch and sits down in a chair.

MARY
Morning.

TOM
Morning.

Mary notices the journals sitting on the table.

MARY
Doing a little reading?

Tom looks over at the books then out across the fields.

TOM

I was thinking about it, I just have not gotten around to it. What brings you out here?

MARY

I came out to give the horse a workout before Joe gets here. Is that Okay?

TOM

Sure, I'd be careful thou. That horse bites.

MARY

What are you talking about, she's a sweetheart. Joe said you had a visitor.

Tom looks over at Mary with a surprised look.

TOM

I did.

MARY

How do you feel about that?

TOM

I'm not really sure.

MARY

Well, I'm going to give the horse a workout before the kids show up.

TOM

You know about Joe bringing some kids out?

Mary smiles a sly smile.

MARY

Joe tells me everything.

Mary gets up, walks off the porch and walks towards the barn.

TOM

Watch out for the goats.

Mary stops and turns around.

MARY

Goats?

TOM

Ya, Mr. Thompson brought over some orphan goats. He needed a place to keep them for a while.

MARY

And you took them in?

Tom does not respond.

Mary turns and continues to walk towards the barn.

MARY

Well, that's about all this place has known all these years. Orphans and strays.

Tom watches as Mary walks towards the barn.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom watches as Mary rides the horse out of barn and off into one of the fields.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom comes walking out as Joe pulls up driving a large van and parks. The doors open and a number of kids get out. They all gather around Joe.

JOE

Okay now listen up. Do not wander off. You'll get your chance to stretch your legs when we take a walk up into the hills. Follow me and we'll get some chores done before that.

Several of the kids chuckle.

JOE

What, no one here has chores at home?

ONE GIRL

It's not called chores, it's called work.

JOE

Well, on a farm, they're called chores. Follow me.

Joe leads the group towards the barn. As they walk past the house Joe sees Tom and waves.

INT. BARN - DAY

Joe leads the group into the barn. Mary is brushing the horse.

JOE

Everyone, this is Mary. She can tell you everything you want to know about horses.

Mary smiles.

MARY

I don't know if I can tell you everything. But I can tell you which end bites and which end kicks.

Several of the kids laugh as they begin to gather around Mary and the horse. Mary motions to them to not gather around the rear of the horse.

MARY

That's the end the kicks. If the horse does not know you, and more to the point, if you don't know the horse, don't get too close to the rear end.

Mary takes the horse's lead.

MARY

This is Sunshine.

ONE BOY

Who names a horse Sunshine?

MARY

The horse's owner and she thought
Sunshine was a good name.

Several of the kids have gathered by the door to the stall
with the goats and are watching them.

Joe looks over to where the kids are gathered by the stall
door.

JOE

I told you not to wander off.

ONE GIRL

Mr. Ortiz, you have got to see these
goats, they're funny.

JOE

Come back over here and pay attention.

Joe looks at Mary.

JOE

Goats?

MARY

Ya, Tom has goats.

Mary hands the brush to one of the taller boys.

MARY

Why don't you begin brushing her off
starting with her back.

The boy reluctantly moves forward and slowly begins to
brush the horse's back.

Mary addresses the group.

MARY

We always want to brush a horse after
riding them. This gives you a chance to
bond with the horse and remove any dirt
that may have been picked up while
riding.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Joe leads the group of kids out of the barn. Joe points to two of the boys.

JOE

Go get the cooler out of the back of the van and bring it back.

Tom is hooking up the box spreader to the back of the tractor. One of the boys walks up and watches Tom.

BOY

What are you doing?

Tom stops. Tom looks uncomfortable. Tom looks over for Joe who is occupied then looks at the boy.

TOM

I'm hooking up the box spreader.

BOY

Why?

Tom looks over at Joe again who is still occupied.

TOM

The driveway needs grading.

BOY

Ya, it was pretty bumpy driving it.

Tom goes back to hooking up the box spreader.

TOM

You know what a box spreader is for?

BOY

I spend the summers on my grandfather's farm, so I know just about everything you need to know about a farm. Do your grandkids help you on the farm also?

Tom does not respond. Tom looks over for Joe again.

BOY

Mr. Ortiz said you were in the Army.
Did you ever go to Iraq? My father died
it Iraq.

Tom stops.

TOM

No, I was never in Iraq. I've spent
time in Afghanistan.

BOY

Were you ever wounded?

TOM

No, I was luck.

Joe sees the Boy talking to Tom.

JOE

Jimmy, don't bother Mr. Braden.

The boy looks over towards Joe who motions with his hand.

JOE

Come back over to the group.

BOY

I have to go. I'll talk to you later.

Tom nods his head and the Boy walks back over to the group.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Tom is making a sandwich when Mary walks in.

MARY

What are you doing?

JOE

Making a sandwich.

MARY

Mind if I make myself one?

Tom picks up the bag of bread and holds it out to Mary. Mary walks over, takes the bag, and begins to make herself a sandwich.

MARY

Boy those kids are something.

TOM

They are.

MARY

It always baffled me that some who have never been here seem comfortable and others who have been here before, seem out of place.

TOM

One of the boys asked me if I was wounded when I was in the Army.

MARY

Really?

TOM

He said his father was killed in Iraq.

MARY

Ya, Joe doesn't care what problems these kids have, he just dives in trying to be a friend. Some of the kids he has worked with in the past are now in the service serving overseas. Were you ever wounded?

Tom gives Mary a questioning look.

MARY

What, you're not exactly an open book.

TOM

No, I was never wounded. I was lucky.

MARY

So, you did server in a combat area.

Tom takes his plate with his sandwich and moves to the kitchen table. Tom sits down and begins to eat. Mary does the same.

MARY

That's what I'm talking about.

TOM

Talking about combat is not something I like to do.

MARY

So, you did see combat?

TOM

Isn't that what I just said.

Mary takes a bite of her sandwich.

MARY

Ok, how about something easier. No wife, did you ever come close?

TOM

Close, but who wants to drag someone into that type of life.

MARY

What type are we talking about?

TOM

The service. Where you're moving every couple of years or worst, being left alone while your spouse is stationed overseas for a year or two.

MARY

I understand.

TOM

You were married to a service member?

MARY

My son was wounded in Afghanistan right before his service was up.

Tom looks at Mary. Mary smiles with a mouth full of food.

MARY

Not something I like to talk about.

TOM

Wally said you were going to build a house on the property.

Mary pauses for a moment.

MARY

We were. Martha thought it would be a good idea. I always loved it out here and during the planning I thought it was perfect. I would be living were I grew up. When my boys have kids, they could bring them out to visit and I would be here to help Martha.

TOM

So, what happened?

MARY

Martha got sick. I just never thought about her..., well, her passing away.

TOM

And now?

MARY

We're looking for some property to build on. You know the sign over the porch steps? "Our Home". Martha told me here son David made it for one of her birthdays.

Tom does not respond. Both Tom and Mary sit eating their sandwiches.

MARY

So, goats.

TOM

Ya, those dam things got out of the stall and walks up onto the porch yesterday.

Mary smiles.

TOM

Do you know what it's like trying to get three goats into a stall? I had to chase one halfway down the driveway.

Mary laughs and Tom smiles.

INT. BARN - DAY

Tom is feeding the goats when his phone rings. Tom answers it.

TOM

Hello?

JOE (V.O)

Tom, it's Joe. Hey, Mary has a patient that is dying of cancer and wants to get out of the hospital for a day. Can we bring him up to the farm tomorrow?

Tom looks around for a moment.

TOM (UNCOMFORTABLY)

I guess so. Is there anything I need to do?

JOE (V.O)

No, we'll take care of everything. He just wants some time away from the hospital. I'll see you tomorrow.

TOM

Okay.

Tom puts the phone back in his pocket and goes back to work.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Tom is cleaning up. Tom hears a car driving up the driveway.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Joe, William, and Mary get out of the car. Joe and Mary help MERLE, an older gentlemen get out of the car and assist Merle as he walks towards the house.

Tom comes walking out of the door as Joe, Mary and Merle approach the porch steps.

Tom looks at Joe who gets a concerned look on his face. Joe shakes his head no.

Tom walks towards the far end of the porch and down the steps.

INT. FARMHOUSE BARN - DAY

Tom is stacking hay when Mary and Joe walk in. Tom stops.

TOM
How's it going?

Joe and Mary look back towards the house.

Tom can see William and Merle sitting on the porch. William has a large yellow note pad and is writing on it.

JOE
Okay, I guess. William is writing up a will, something Merle never thought to do.

TOM
How long does he have?

MARY
A week or two. It's hard to tell. We've been trying to get him into hospice. They have the nursing staff but no room to put him in.

Everyone just stands there looking at William and Merle.

INT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom comes in carrying a bag of feed. Merle is standing at the stall watching the goats. Tom sees Merle and Merle sees Tom.

TOM
How you doing?

Merle gets an angry look on his face.

MERLE
I'm dying, haven't you heard?

TOM
I did.

Tom goes about his work. Tom carries the feed bag to a metal trash can and proceeds to empty the bag into the trash can as Merle watches.

MERLE
Aren't you going to say how sorry you are?

TOM
I really don't know you.

Tom continues to work. Merle gets a surprised look on his face.

MERLE
That's what everyone says. "I'm sorry".
I'm sick of hearing it.

Tom does not respond.

MARLE
I grew up on a farm about thirty miles from here. We didn't have goats. Cattle, chickens, and pigs. The chickens and pigs were mainly for food.

Merle closes his eyes and takes a deep whiff of the air as Tom watches. Merle opens his eyes.

MERLE
Most people would find the smell of a barn and the animals offensive. It's something I dreamed about in the engine room of a Navy ship day after day as we moved through the pacific.

TOM
You where in the Navy?

MARLE
Retired.

Tom points to himself.

TOM
Army, retired.

Merle shakes his head yes.

MERLE
I spent my life standing on my own two
legs never wanting to be a burden on
anyone.

TOM
Me neither.

MERLE
Now look at me. If it wasn't for this
stall door holding me up, I'd fall
down.

Without a word Tom walks over, takes Merle's arm, and helps Merle walk toward the barn door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom helps Merle make his way up the steps at the end of the porch. Joe and Mary, who are sitting in chairs, get up and walk towards Tom and Merle.

Joe and Mary take over from Tom. Merle looks at Tom.

Tom nods yes to Merle as Joe and Mary help Merle walk across the porch.

INT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom is sitting on a bail of hay pulling at it when Mary walks in.

MARY
What are you doing?

Tom looks up at Mary.

TOM
Thinking.

MARY
Can I ask what you're thinking about?

TOM
How I was not here to help with Martha.

MARY
Martha had plenty of help.

TOM
Isn't there a veteran's home he can go
to?

Mary looks back toward the porch where Joe is sitting with Merle.

MARY
Not at this point. Their waiting list
is far too long for him. You know he
said the first thing he smelled when he
came in the barn was the horse. He said
it smelled like perfume.

Tom and Mary smile.

MARY
Ever since I first met Merle, he's been
one big pain in the ass. But up here,
he's had a smile on his face the whole
time. At least I think it's a smile.

Tom looks down at the ground and fiddles with his hands.

TOM
What ah. What if I asked him to say
here?

Tom looks up at Mary.

MARY
Merle?

TOM

Well, Ya.

MARY

He requires twenty-four hour a day care. We would have to bring out a hospital bed, and a hospice nurse would have to be with him.

TOM

I have the room.

Mary smiles

MARY

Well, go ask him.

Tom walks out of the barn.

Mary watches as Tom walks up to Merle and Joe sitting on the porch. Tom talks to Merle and Mary can see Merle shake his head yes. Joe gets up and walks towards Mary.

INT. FARM BARN - DAY

Mary is standing in the doorway as Joe walks up.

JOE

What did you say to Tom?

MARY

Nothing, it was his idea.

Joe looks back toward the porch where Merle and Tom are sitting, staring off into the distance.

JOE

Can we do this?

MARY

Sure, I can call hospice for a bed and a nurse. Medically it's just a matter of keeping Merle comfortable.

INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tom and Merle are sitting in chairs playing cards on a small table between them. The nurse, SARAH is sitting in a chair reading. Sarah's phone rings and she takes her phone out of her pocket.

SARAH

Hello?

Sarah looks at Merle who is giving her a dirty look.

SARAH

Hold on a second.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Sarah comes out of the house and walks down the porch.

SARAH

He seems to be doing fine. He hasn't needed much medication.

MARY (V.O)

That's good. What's he been doing?

Sarah looks through the window at Tom and Merle.

SARAH

Tom and him have been playing cards and telling stories for the past couple of hours.

MARY (V.O)

Okay then.

INT. FARMHOUSE LIVINGROOM - DAY

Merle is sleeping in the hospital bed in the middle of the living room. The nurse is sleeping in a chair. Tom walks over to the hospital bed and puts his hand on Merle's arm.

TOM (QUIETLY)

Merle?

Merle slowly opens his eyes.

MERLE

What time is it?

TOM
Half past six.

Merle reaches out his hand. Tom takes it and slowly pulls Merle to a sitting position. Merle slides his legs out of bed.

TOM
You want to go out onto the porch and have some coffee?

Merle stretches a little.

MERLE
I don't think I can make it.

TOM
No problem, get dressed and I'll give you a hand.

Merle looks down at his pajamas then back at Tom and smiles.

MERLE
What the hell.

Merle holds his arm out. Tom takes Merle's arm and helps Merle stand up.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom and Merle are sitting in chairs drinking coffee. The nurse walks out with a cup of coffee and looks at Tom and Merle.

NURSE
I was wondering where you two got to.

The nurse goes back into the house. Tom and Merle are sitting there staring off into the distance as the sun slowly rises.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Merle is sitting in a chair as the nurse gives Merle a shot. Tom pulls up on the tractor and gets off.

TOM

You still remember how to drive a tractor.

MERLE

I could drive a team of horses if you had them.

TOM

Good, I could use the help.

INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

The nurse is packing some things up when Mary walks it.

NURSE

What are you doing here?

MARY

I'm going to take the day shift.

Mary looks around.

MARY

Where's Merle?

NURSE

Him and the other guy took off on a tractor about an hour ago.

Mary shakes her head no.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Mary is sitting in a chair when Merle drives up on the tractor with Tom riding on the side. Merle stops the tractor in front of the steps. Tom helps Merle get off the tractor and helps Merle up the steps, across the porch and into a chair. Merle winces in pain as he sits down.

MARY

How you doing?

Merle is slumped over in the chair and looks tired.

MERLE

I could probable use one of those shots
if you have one.

Mary reaches over to a table next to the chair and picks up
a needle.

MARY

I have one right here.

Mary gives Merle the shot and Merle slowly leans back in
the chair.

Mary motions with her head to Tom showing her anger. Tom
and Mary walk down the porch.

MARY (LOWERED VOICE)

What the hell are you doing, you know
he's not well, and you're putting him
to work?

TOM (LOWERED VOICE)

We didn't do any work. I told him we
needed to check the fences and I let
him drive the tractor. We haven't been
gone more than an hour or so.

MARY (LOWERED VOICE)

He needs to keep hydrated and rest.

TOM (LOWERED VOICE)

I took two of those bottles of water
you had delivered. He drank one and
just about finished the other. I could
tell he was getting tired, so when we
came to the end of one of the fence
lines, I told him we were done, and we
headed back.

MARY (LOWERED VOICE)

Your lucky you didn't kill him.

Mary and Tom look over at Merle.

Merle is leaned all the way back in his chair with his eyes
closed and his mouth open.

Mary gestures with her hand.

MARY
You may have.

Merle begins to snore.

TOM
Told you he was tired. What are you
doing here?

MARY
I thought I would cover the day shift.

TOM
Well, he doesn't need anything. Would
you like some lunch?

Tom walks toward the house door.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Mary and Tom are eating lunch at the kitchen table.

MARY
How's he doing?

TOM
How am I suppose to know, he never
shuts up. We sat down to play some
cards and he would not stop talking.

Mary smiles.

MARY
Well, that's an improvement. In the
hospital, all he did was just sit there
with a scow on his face and watch TV.
William has Merle's will done and needs
it signed. I hope you don't mind but I
invited William, his assistant, Jen and
Joe out to have dinner. Merle doesn't
have any family and I thought it would
be nice if Merle had a chance to be
around people.

Tom shrugs his shoulders as he eats.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Mary is sitting in a chair next to Merle reading a book. Merle snores loudly and wakes himself up. Merle looks around and smacks his lips a few times.

MARY

How are you feeling?

MERLE

I'm a little hungry.

MARY

I can imagine after working all morning.

Merle smiles.

MERLE

Where's your boyfriend?

MARY

My boyfriend, you mean Tom?

MERLE

Ya.

MARY

He went into town to pick up some horse feed.

MERLE

He's going to want to get back to work when he gets back here. Do you think I could get something to eat?

MARY

What would you like?

MERLE

None of that hospital food.

MARY

We don't have any of that here. I once heard you ask for a liverwurst sandwich. How would you like one?

Merle closes his eyes.

MERLE

Ah, that would be just heaven.

MARY

Ok then.

Mary gets up and walks away.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Mary is spreading liverwurst on bread and making a face as if to say yuck.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Mary and Merle are sitting on the porch. On the table next to Merle is an empty bottle of water and an empty plate.

Tom comes driving up the driveway, pulls up to the barn, turns around and backs the truck up to the barn door.

Tom gets out of the truck and walks toward the house.

Tom comes walking up to where Mary and Merle are sitting.

TOM

You ready to get back to work?

MERLE

Sure am.

Merle gets up by himself and begins shuffling down the porch.

Tom looks at Mary with a surprised look.

Mary holds up an empty needle and shrugs.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

It's early evening. Tom comes walking in the house and stops at the junction to the living room and dining room.

Tom sees William, his assistant and Merle in the living room going over paperwork.

Mary comes out of the kitchen carrying a bucket of fried chicken heading for the dining room.

MARY

Are you ready to eat?

TOM

I have to clean up. Is he allowed to eat fried chicken?

Mary sits the buck down in the middle of the dining room table.

MARY

Can't be any worse than the liverwurst sandwich he had for lunch. Besides, it's what he wanted.

TOM

I thought you said Jen was coming.

MARY

She's on a date.

Tom walks toward the back of the house.

INT. FARMHOUSE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is sitting in the dining room eating dinner. Merle pulls out his teeth to clean something off of them.

William's assistant sees Merle and cringes.

Joe sees the assistant and smiles.

JOE

So, Merle, how do you like it out here.

MERLE

It's okay. Tom is a bit of a task master.

Mary smiles.

TOM

Did you know Merle was in the Navy and spent a little time in Korea?

WILLIAM

What was your job?

MERLE

Well, I was an engine room chief, but during one of the landings I was stationed ashore to maintain equipment. We had quite a few stationed ashore. The Seabees were building a landing strip for our planes and there were several ships providing support.

JOE

So, you didn't see any action?

MERLE

Na, we did have a sniper in the area for a few days. He wasn't any good because he always missed. So, we sent a few Marines into the bush, and we never heard another shot. There was action a little north. At night we could see Naval fire from a big battleship.

Merle addresses William and Joe.

MERLE

Were you boys in the military?

WILLIAM

No, Joe and I went to college. Tom was the only servicemen of the group. Mary's son was in the Army. He received a purple heart right before his time was up.

MARY

He was riding in a truck when the truck was fired upon. Luckily, the bullet went through his arm with no permanent damage.

Merle address Mary.

MERLE

Are you coming out tomorrow?

MARY

Do you want me to?

MERLE

Those other nurses just sit around all day pushing buttons on their fancy phones.

Mary smiles.

MARY

I'll see what I can do.

Everyone continues eating.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mary is doing dishes when Joe walks in carrying plates. Joe places the plates on the counter.

JOE

This is the last of the dishes.

MARY

Why do you think he's doing this?

JOE

Who's doing what?

MARY

Tom, taking Merle in?

JOE

I don't know. Maybe it's the service thing.

MARY

Tom said something about not being here to help with Martha.

JOE

Maybe he feels a little guilty. Why?

MARY

Just trying to understand.

INT. FARMHOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Merle is lying propped up in bed. Mary is giving Merle a shot.

MARY

You're turning in a little early tonight.

MERLE

Ya, that boyfriend of yours worked me pretty hard today.

MARY

You called Tom my boyfriend early. What gives you the idea he's my boyfriend?

MERLE

Last night, while we were playing cards, he said he had a crush on you when you two were younger. And every time you look at him, you're smiling.

MARY

Is that so. How are you feeling?

MERLE

Now that I have my shot, I can get some sleep.

Merle closes his eyes. Mary pulls the blanket up to Merle's chest and pats it.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Tom and Joe are sitting in chairs when Mary walks out of the house, across the porch and sits down.

MARY

He's out cold. He said you worked him pretty hard today.

TOM

All he did was drive the tractor and feed the horse. It was a good thing he took a nap this afternoon or I would have not gotten anything done.

Joe and Mary smile.

TOM

Shouldn't the night nurse have been here by now?

MARY

I'm already here, so I called hospice and told them I would spend the night with him.

Joe gets a slight surprised look on his face.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Mary and Merle are sitting in chairs when Tom walks out of the house.

TOM

You two are up awfully early.

Tom walks over with a cup of coffee and sits down.

Merle raises a glass of orange juice.

MERLE

I wanted coffee but she's making me drink this orange juice.

MARY

It's better for you than coffee.

Merle makes a face. Merle raises his feet to stretch his legs and Mary sees his bare feet.

MARY

Where are your slippers?

MERLE

I ran around barefoot until I was five, why would I wear slippers now?

Tom and Mary smile.

INT. FARM BARN - DAY

Mary comes walking into the barn.

The door to the horse's stall is open.

Mary walks over, pulls the stall door all the way open and looks in the stall but the horse is not there.

EXT. FARM BARN - DAY

Mary comes walking out as Tom comes walking up.

MARY
Where's Merle?

Tom points out into the field.

Merle is riding the horse through the field.

MARY
Are you crazy?

TOM
He said he spend most summers riding horses and moving the cattle around. He asked if he could ride the horse.

MARY
How did you get him on the horse?

TOM
We used the cattle loading ramp behind the barn. All he had to do was throw his leg over.

TOM
What if he falls off, he could be killed?

Tom rolls his eyes and walks into the barn.

Mary walks over to the fence and leans against the fence to watch Merle.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Merle comes riding up to the porch on the horse. Tom and Mary are sitting in chairs.

MARY

Did you have a nice ride?

MERLE

We did. Do you think you could give me a hand getting off?

Mary and Tom get up and walk off the porch.

MARY

How are we going to do this?

TOM

You push his leg over the front, and I'll catch him from there.

Mary walks around the front of the horse. Tom braces Merle as Mary pushes Merle's leg up and over the front of the horse.

Tom helps Merle slide off the horse as Mary comes around and helps.

Merle winces in pain as his feet hit the ground.

Mary and Tom help Merle make his way to the porch.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Merle and Tom are sitting in chairs when Mary walks out of the house with a needle.

Mary walks up and gives Merle a shot.

MARY

How are you doing?

MERLE

I'm good.

MARY

You hungry?

MERLE

Would you have any of that liverwurst left?

Mary makes a face.

MARY

I think I can find some.

Mary looks at Tom.

MARY

I made some tuna fish earlier, can I make you a sandwich?

TOM

Please, thank you.

Mary walks away.

MERLE

She's the pretties nurse I've had.

Merle holds his hand up and waves his finger.

MERLE

If I was just a few years younger.

Tom gets a surprised look on his face.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Mary and Tom are sitting in chairs eating sandwiches. Merle is sitting in the chair with his head down asleep. There is an empty plate in his lap.

MARY

I've never seen him eat so quickly.

Merle snores a little.

TOM

I think he was in a hurry to take his nap.

Tom and Mary smile.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Merle is sitting in a chair looking off into the distance.

Tom walks up and sits down in a chair.

TOM
How you doing?

MERLE
I feel good.

Merle looks around.

MERLE
Where's your girl friend?

TOM
My girl friend?

MERLE
You told me you had a crush on her when
you were younger, and I've seen the way
she looks at you.

TOM
Well, she's not my girl friend.

MERLE
You don't have to worry. I'm not going
to make a move on her.

Tom smiles.

TOM
There was an emergency at the hospital,
and she had to leave. She gave you a
shot before she left. The hospice nurse
will be here is a while.

Merle leans forward in his chair.

MERLE
So, we're all alone.

TOM

For a while.

MERLE

You wouldn't have any beer, would you?

TOM

I think I can find a bottle or two.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Mary pulls up in her car. Mary gets out with a bag of groceries. Mary looks around. Tom's truck is not in the yard.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Mary walks up the steps and onto the porch. There are two beer bottles sitting on the small table between the chairs.

Mary sees the bottles and shakes her head no.

Mary goes in the house.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Mary is sitting in a chair when Tom and Merle pull up in Tom's truck.

Tom gets out and walks around the truck to help Merle get out.

Tom and Merle come walking across the porch. Merle eases down into a chair as Tom sits down.

MARY

Where have you two been?

MERLE

I asked Tom to take me by the farm I grew up on.

TOM

What happened to the hospice nurse?

MARY (SLYLY)

I had to come back out to pick up some things so I figured I would stay again tonight.

Merle smiles a sly smile. Merle eases out of his chair.

MERLE

My back teeth are floating, I have to take a pee.

Merle shuffles across the porch.

MARY

Do you need any help?

MERLE

I'm fine.

Merle makes his way into the house.

MARY (A LITTLE ANGRY)

Beer, you gave him beer?

TOM

He asked for a beer.

MARY (A LITTLE ANGRY)

You also took him for a joy ride without a nurse.

TOM

He's fine. He woke up right after you left and asked if I could take him to see the farm where he grew up.

INT. FARMHOUSE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Merle and Mary are sitting at the dining room table with a large pizza sitting in front of them. Tom walks in and with a defiant look on his face sits one bottle of beer next to Merle, one next to his plate and one next to Mary's plate then sits down.

Tom looks at Mary. Mary shakes her head with a smile on her face.

Merle reaches over and pulls a piece of pizza from the circle and begins to eat. Mary and Tom follow Merle.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Mary, Tom, and Merle are sitting in chairs.

MERLE

You two don't know how good you have it. People in cities are running around like rats and some of them have the morals of rats. There is nothing like sitting on a porch in the evenings enjoying the night air.

Mary looks at Tom and smiles.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

It's morning. Tom comes walking in, he makes his way to the coffee maker, picks up a cup and pours a cup of coffee.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom comes walking out of the house. The sun is up and slowly rising. Mary is sitting in a chair next to Merle. Mary's hand is on Merle's arm. Merle is sitting with his head slightly bowed. His eyes are closed, and his hands are gracefully laying in his lap with his palms pointing up.

Mary looks at Tom and Tom can see tears on her face.

TOM

Is he?

Mary slowly shakes her head yes. Mary and Tom both look off into the distance.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Joe and William pull up, park, get out of the car, and walk towards the house.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Tom and Mary are sitting at the kitchen table drinking coffee.

Joe and William walk in. William sits down and Joe pours himself a cup of coffee then sits down.

JOE

What happened?

MARY

Merle woke me up at 6am. He asked if he could sit out on the porch and watch the sun rise, so I helped him out onto the porch. We were sitting there about twenty minutes when I looked over and he was gone.

JOE

He didn't say anything?

MARY

No.

WILLIAM

May we all go so peacefully.

Mary nods her head.

EXT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom comes walking up to the barn as Mary comes walking out.

MARY

What's up?

TOM

It's feeding time.

MARY

All done. Horse, goats, and chickens.

Mary has a sly smile on her face.

MARY

I was going to take a walk to the lake.
Would you like to join me?

Tom looks around.

TOM

Sure.

Mary and Tom walk around the end of the barn.

EXT. LAKE EDGE - DAY

Mary and Tom walk up to the edge of the lake.

MARY

This was always one of my favorite spots on the farm.

Before Tom can reply Mary pulls her shirt off, slides out of her blue jeans shorts and runs into the water. Mary swims out leaving Tom standing there surprised.

Mary turns around and treads water looking back at Tom.

MARY

Are you just going to stand there or are you going to join me?

Tom looks around to see if anyone is in sight.

EXT. OPEN TRAIL - DAY

Tom and Mary are walking along the trail. Both have wet hair. Mary reaches her hand out and Tom takes it.

Tom and Mary walk down the trail holding hands.

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tom and Mary are sleeping in bed. Tom jerks to a sitting position and is breathing heavy. Mary wakes up.

MARY

Is everything okay?

Tom looks over at Mary.

TOM

Did you hear that?

MARY

Hear what?

Tom lays back down and stares at the ceiling. Mary rolls over so she's facing Tom.

MARY

What is it?

TOM

I'm not sure. I don't know if it's a dream or maybe I'm hearing things. Every so often, I wake up at what sounds like a gun shot.

Mary places her hand on Tom's chest.

MARY

What were you dreaming about?

TOM

That's just the point, I can't remember dreaming about anything.

MARY

People hear ringing in they ears, that's call tinnitus.

TOM

It's a gun shot, loud, penetrating.

MARY

I didn't hear anything.

Tom closes his eyes as Mary watches him.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Mary is standing at the sink drinking a glass of orange juice.

Tom walks into the kitchen doorway and leans against the doorway.

TOM

Were you just going to sneak out?

Mary turns around with a smile on her face and leans against the sink holding her glass of orange juice.

MARY

It wouldn't be the first time.

Mary finishes her glass of orange juice, places the glass in the sink and walks towards Tom. Mary stops when she gets next to Tom and with a sly smile on her face.

MARY

What is it men say? I'll call you.

Tom smiles. Mary walks out of the kitchen. Tom walks to the refrigerator and opens it.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Mary exits the house, walks across the porch and down the steps. Mary stops at the bottom of the steps with a surprised look on her face.

In front of Mary is an old, beat-up pickup truck with a gray-haired man sitting in it. The man looks at Mary with a stone-cold look on his face.

MARY

Can I help you?

MAN

I'm looking for Martha Gunter.

MARY

She passed away a few months ago.

The man looks around the farm then gets out of his truck. Mary has an uncomfortable look on her face. Mary cocks her head back towards the house.

MARY (LOUDLY)

Tom.

The man cocks his head and gets a slightly concerned look on his face.

Tom walks out of the house and across the porch. Mary looks at her watch and addresses Tom.

MARY

I'm late, I have to get going.

Mary walks to her car, gets in, and pulls away.

Tom walks down the porch stairs.

TOM

Is there something I can help you with?

The man clasps his hands in front of him.

MAN

I came looking for Martha Gunter.

Tom gets a concerned look on his face. The man looks down the driveway then back at Tom.

MAN

She said Martha passed away. She called you Tom.

TOM

Yes, my name is Tom Braden.

The man looks down at the ground for a moment then back at Tom with a stone-cold look.

MAN

I haven't heard that name is a very long time.

Tom gets an annoyed look on his face.

TOM

Is there something I can help you with?

The man just stands there for a moment.

MAN

My name is DAVE GUNTER.

Tom stands there as his expression slowly turns to anger.

Tom clinches his fist and takes a slight step towards Dave then stops himself.

TOM (ANGRY TONE)
What do you want?

DAVE
I told you, I came looking for Martha.

TOM (ANGRY TONE)
Well, you're too late.

Dave looks around the farm.

DAVE
Would you mind if I looked around?
Fifteen minutes and I'm gone.

Tom motions with his head for Dave to go ahead.

Dave walks away from the truck and up towards the barn.

Tom watches as Dave walks up towards the barn.

EXT. FARM BARN - DAY

Dave approaches the barn.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Tom is sitting in a chair on the porch.

Tom watches as Dave exits the barn and walks off into one of the fields.

Tom watches as Dave returns, walks up onto the porch, and stops at the door.

Dave points to the door.

DAVE
Do you mind?

Tom, sitting there angry, motions with his hand for Dave to go ahead. Dave opens the door and steps in.

EXT. FARMHOUSE PORCH - DAY

Dave walks out of the house slowly closing the door. Dave walks across the porch and down the steps.

Dave walks up to his truck.

Tom watches as Dave places his hand on the truck door handle to open the door.

TOM (LOUDLY)

Don't you think you owe me some answers?

Dave stops and places his spare hand on the bedrail of the truck and just stands there for a moment.

Dave looks past the truck out into the distance.

DAVE (LOUDLY)

After all these years, are you sure you want to hear them?

Dave turns around and looks at Tom. Tom stares back.

TOM

A lifetime ought to be worth ten minutes?

Dave slowly walks towards the porch steps.

As Dave approaches the steps, he looks at the sign above the porch that reads "Our Home".

Dave walks across the porch and sits down in a chair.

Dave rubs his hands on the arms of the chair then stares off into the distance.

After a moment Dave looks at his watch.

DAVE

It's your ten minutes.

TOM

Who left me here with Martha?

Dave does not react.

DAVE

I did. I could not take you where I was going.

TOM

And where was that?

DAVE

Prison.

TOM

So, you've been in prison over 50 years?

DAVE

I served out my first sentence, and then served some more. I wasn't exactly a model prisoner.

TOM

What were you in prison for?

DAVE

Murder, first degree.

TOM

You could not take the time to contact me?

DAVE

War makes some people weak, and some people strong. It made me strong. I was willing to fight and kill anything they sent at us. When I came back from Vietnam I was pretty fucked up. By the time I was put on death row, there was nothing left in me that you would have wanted.

TOM

That's your excuse?

DAVE

You did not ask for excuses, you asked for answers.

TOM

You gave up on me?

DAVE

I gave up on myself. I welcomed the death penalty, but California had a change of heart. They suspended the death penalty in 1972 and since then it's been hit and miss.

Dave pauses

DAVE

Mother sent me letters every so often. I did not return the favor. In the last one she told me you had left in the middle of the night.

TOM

Do you know Martha never told me I was her grandson?

DAVE

I'm sure she had her reasons.

TOM

What was my grandfather like?

Dave looks down at the floor of the porch and then back out into the distance.

DAVE

He was a very good man. Him and his brothers came to this country alone. His brothers, my uncles died in World War Two. My father had one bad eye and could not enlist. He taught his sons everything there was to know about farming. We were going to work together to build huge farms. But your grandfather also taught us to love this country as much as he did. So, when war came along there was nothing that could stop us from enlisting.

TOM

Who did you kill?

DAVE
Your Mother.

Tom's face changes from one of anger to a blank stare.

TOM
Did I see you do it?

DAVE
No, you were asleep in another room. After, I picked you up, I put some of your things in a bag and brought you here. I returned to California and turned myself in. I gave them the gun and confessed. The first time I was in front of a judge, I told the judge everything and plead guilty. I thought I would be executed within a year, but the people of California are weak. They don't understand the meaning of justice, even for the innocent.

Dave looks at his watch.

DAVE
Your ten minutes are up.

Dave gets up, walks to his truck, and drives away.

INT. FARMHOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

It's morning. Tom is washing a plate in the sink when he looks out the window and sees something.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom walks out of the house. Dave's truck is sitting in the driveway.

Tom looks around but does not see anyone.

Tom looks towards the barn and the barn door is slightly open.

EXT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom walks up to and into the barn.

INT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom walks in and stops with a surprised look on his face.

Tom looks up and sees Dave hanging by his neck from a rope thrown over a rafter in the ceiling of the barn.

TOM (FRANTIC)
Son of a bitch.

Tom runs to Dave, grabs Dave's legs and tries to hold Dave up.

TOM (FRANTIC)
Son of a bitch.

Tom hoists Dave up and tries to make his way over to where the rope is tied off but cannot.

Tom is pulled back towards the center of the barn by Dave's weight.

Tom tries his best to hold Dave up. Tom looks up at Dave's gray lifeless face.

TOM
You son of a bitch!

EXT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom slowly exits the barn with a sad look on his face.

TOM (QUIETLY)
You son of a bitch.

Tom pulls his cellphone from his pocket and dials a number.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Tom is sitting on the porch. There is an ambulance backed up to the barn and a police car pulled up next to the ambulance.

Mary drives up in her car, gets out and rushes up onto the porch.

Mary stops when she gets to Tom.

MARY
Joe called me, what happened?

TOM
I found him hanging in the barn this morning.

MARY
Who?

TOM
My father.

Mary sits down and places her hand on Toms. Tom squeezes Mary's hand.

MARY
How? Why?

TOM
He's the one that was here yesterday as you were leaving.

MARY
That was your father?

TOM
Yes. He just wanted to look around and I could not let him leave without answering some questions. This morning his truck was sitting in the driveway and the barn door was open. I found him hanging in the barn.

Mary looks up towards the barn as the paramedics wheel out a gurney with a body on it and they put the gurney into the ambulance.

Joe and William pull in and park. Joe and William get out of the car and walk towards the house.

Joe and William walk up to where Tom and Mary are sitting and sit down.

JOE

What happened?

TOM

Just what I told you. I walked in the barn and the son of a bitch was hanging from the rafters.

Tom hands William a folded piece of paper. William takes the pieces of paper.

TOM

The police found that in his truck.

William opens the piece of paper and reads.

WILLIAM

I David Gunter leave my son Tom Braden all my worldly possessions, this truck. Signed David Gunter.

William looks over at Tom.

WILLIAM

Man, I don't know what to say. I'm sorry Tom.

William holds the piece of paper up.

WILLIAM

Is this all they found?

TOM

The police went through the truck. They found a small suitcase with some clothes and a small journal. His license and registration both had the same address in Bakersfield California. It turned out to be a motel. The police called and they said he checked out a week ago. The police said the insurance card and license plate are temporaries. There was a receipt in the glove box from the used car dealer, it's only a

couple of weeks old. That's all they found.

JOE
Where's the journal?

TOM
The police have it. They said they were going to go through it.

Tom looks at William.

TOM
What happens now?

WILLIAM
Well, they'll take him to the hospital and pronounce him dead.

JOE
How are you doing?

Tom gets up angrily and walks to the edge of the porch.

TOM
I don't know. Ever since I got here it's been...

Tom struggles as if he does not want to say the words.

TOM (CONTINUED)
A fucking roller coaster.

William looks at Joe and shrugs his shoulder.

WILLIAM
Well, there is nothing you have to do. The authorities will take care of everything.

Tom turns and looks at Mary, Joe, and William.

TOM
Thanks for coming out. You didn't have to.

You can see pain in Mary's face.

JOE

I know this is going to sound strange
at this time but, you're family.

William and Mary shake their heads yes.

CEMETARY SCENE REMOVED

EXT. WALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Wally is outside watering plants when Tom pulls in. Tom
gets out of his truck and walks toward Wally.

WALLY

Hey, I heard what happened and I'm
really sorry.

TOM

There is no reason to be.

WALLY

What's going on?

Tom motions to the back of his truck and Wally follows him.

At the back of Tom's truck Tom puts down the tailgate and
there is a large cardboard box sitting in the back.

WALLY

What is it?

TOM

It's a grill. I've never put anything
like this together. Can you give me a
hand?

WALLY

Sure.

Tom and Wally begin to pull the box out.

EXT. WALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

Wally is standing in the driveway as Tom drives away with a
new grill strapped in the back of his truck.

EXT. FARMHOUSE BACK - DAY

Tom is standing next to the grill sitting in the grass at the end of the porch.

Tom takes out his phone and dials.

MARY (V.O)

Hey.

TOM

Hey.

MARY (V.O)

What up?

Tom pauses and looks around.

TOM

Well, I've been up here alone for the past few days and, well, I don't know how to say this, but I'm feeling all alone.

MARY (V.O)

And?

Tom looks at the new grill.

TOM

I bought this grill at the hardware store and I was thinking I would invite everyone out to the farm on Saturday, but to tell you the truth, I don't have a clue about what I'm doing.

MARY (V.O)

And?

TOM

If you would not mind, do you think you could help me put things together?

MARY (V.O)

I would love to.

TOM

Thank you.

EXT. FARM BARN - DAY

Tom is standing in the doorway with a business card in his hand.

Tom looks at the business card and you can read "Harris Construction". Tom pulls his phone out of his pocket, dials then puts the phone to his ear.

EXT. FARMHOUSE REAR - DAY

It's a beautiful sunny day. The sky is blue and there is a slight breeze in the air.

Tom is standing at the grill awkwardly poking at the food cooking on the grill. Tom looks out into the yard.

Bill Harris and his wife are talking to William and his assistant. There are a few kids running around. Eric and Matt are sitting at a picnic table with two young ladies. Jen is sitting in a chair next to a man and they are holding hands. There is a picnic table full of food. Everyone is enjoying themselves.

Jimmy walks up to Tom holding a plate.

JIMMY

Can I have a hotdog please.

TOM

I know you, weren't you out here a few weeks ago.

JIMMY

Yes Sir.

TOM

Call me Tom.

Tom forks a hotdog and places on Jimmy's plate just as the hotdog breaks into two. Jimmy makes a face and walks away.

Mary walks up to Tom. Tom points to Jimmy walking away.

TOM

He was here a few weeks ago with the group of kids Joe brought out.

Mary looks over to Joe and a woman who are talking to Wally and Pat.

MARY

Joe has been seeing his mother for a while. I think they make a nice couple.

Tom goes back to poking at the food on the grill.

MARY

How you doing?

TOM

I'm doing good.

Tom points with the grill fork towards everyone gathered in the yard.

TOM

You did a good job of putting everything together.

MARY

It wasn't me.

Mary looks over towards everyone.

MARY

The whole family pitched in. Eric and Matt built the picnic tables. Wally brought out the chairs. Joe and I did the shopping and Jen, well Jen was too busy with her new boyfriend, but she'll help next time.

Mary looks over to Bill Harris and his wife.

MARY

I met your cousin and his wife. They seem very nice.

Tom looks at Bill and his wife.

TOM

I called them the other day and asked if they would like to come out and meet everyone. They brought the pies.

MARY

Sounds like they fit right in. What do you think, are you going to stick around for a while?

TOM

I bought a new grill, didn't I?

Mary moves close to Tom and puts her arm through his. Mary and Tom look out over the group.

MARY

I wonder if any more family will turn up?

TOM

Part of me says "god I hope not" and another part of me says "What the hell".

Fade out.