

Standing in the Woods

By

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Principal characters:

Bill Walton - Robert Redford type. Older, calm, relaxed.
Laura Riley - Candace Owens or Page Hurd type. Young,
ambitious, Strong.

Fade in:

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

LAURA is standing on the highest peak of the mountain looking around at the view. Laura reaches down and pulls her satellite phone out of her backpack and presses a series of buttons. Laura holds the satellite phone to her ear as she continues to look around.

LAURA
Dad, can you hear me?

LAURA
I made it, I'm standing on the peak and
the view is incredible.

Laura is holding the phone to her ear and looking around as a light snow begins falling.

LAURA
It's just beginning to snow. It's so
quiet.

LAURA
No, the weather forecast said it should
be mild for the next few days. It's
just the altitude.

LAURA
I'm going to take some pictures and
head down. I'll call you when I get
back to the hotel.

Laura's eyes begin to tear up.

LAURA
Dad, I wish you could be here with me.
Ok, I'll talk to you soon.

Laura ends the call, wipes her eyes, and puts the satellite phone back into her backpack. She pulls out her cell phone and begins taking a video as she rotates three-hundred-sixty degrees. She puts the phone away and just stands there. She takes a deep breath and exhales. Her breath becomes vapor as it leaves her lips.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

Laura is making her way down the rocky peak being careful as she takes each step. The snow is still falling.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

Laura is making her way down the mountain. The snow is heavier and getting deeper.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

The sky is overcast, and the sun is going down. Laura is trudging through the snow wearing small snowshoes. Laura stops and sniffs the air as if she has smelled something then looks around. Laura sniffs again. Laura continues to trudge through the snow.

As Laura walks past a pine tree you can see a small pipe sticking out of the snow on the opposite side of the tree, out of Laura's sight. A wisp of smoke comes out of the pipe.

Laura walks into a low spot in the snow and suddenly falls through the surface of the snow.

INT. SNOW CAVE - DAY

Laura is laying on the floor of a snow cave. Laura struggles to raise herself up and stand. Laura stands there looks at a wall of snow, then looks up through the hole she fell through several feet above. Laura turns around and gets a surprised look on her face.

Laura stands there looking at a wooden cabin door at the end of the snow cave.

Laura walks up to the cabin door and tries to open it but can't. Laura pushes against the door, but it still does not open. Laura uses her shoulder to ram the door, but the door

does not open. Laura turns around and looks around the snow cave. From behind Laura hears a noise.

Laura turns around and through a small opening in the door, sees a pair of eyes looking back at her. The eyes are blue and wrapped by the wrinkled skin of an older person.

LAURA

Hello?

BILL WALTON on the other side of the door does not say anything, he just watches Laura.

LAURA

Hello?

BILL

Where did you come from?

LAURA

I came off the peak of the mountain. I was making my way down the mountain and fell through the snow into this cave.

The eyes look up to the ceiling of the snow cave and then back at Laura.

BILL

How are you getting out?

Laura looks around the snow cave.

LAURA

I don't know.

Laura looks back at the eyes peering through the opening in the door.

BILL

Well then, you better come in.

Bill closes the lookout window in the door and opens the door. Laura just stands there.

BILL (O.S)

If you're coming in, can you shake off some of the snow?

Laura stands there bewildered.

LAURA

Sure.

Laura takes off her backpack and shakes it off then does the same with her jacket. Laura unclips her snowshoes and makes her way into the cabin.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill closes the door behind Laura. The cabin is warm and open inside. There is a small fireplace near the back of the cabin. There are two bunks, a table and a small kitchen area. Bill is an older gentleman. Bill is wearing a plaid shirt and blue jeans.

Laura puts her things on the floor next to the door and pulls off her boots.

LAURA

Thanks for letting me come in.

BILL

Is it just you?

LAURA

Yes.

BILL

Where were you heading?

LAURA

Down off the mountain. It started to snow when I was on the peak, and it got worse as I headed down.

BILL

Did you get separated from your group?

LAURA

No, I wasn't with a group. I'm by myself.

Bill gives Laura a surprised look.

BILL

You were out in this all alone?

LAURA

Yes. But the last weather report did not predict snow.

BILL

This is the Rockies. It snows when ever it wants to.

Laura sits on the edge of one of the bunks and pulls off her snow pants.

LAURA

I noticed.

BILL

Why don't you put your things over by the fire and let them dry out.

Laura picks up her jacket, pants, boots and gloves and carries them over to the fireplace.

Laura lays her things over a chair. Bill sits down at the table.

BILL

There's a coffee pot on the edge of the fireplace if you want some.

Laura finishes laying out her things and picks up the coffee pot then walks to the table.

Bill slides a coffee cup across the table towards Laura. Laura pours coffee into the cup and sets the coffee pot on the table.

BILL

Have a seat.

Laura sits down and takes a sip of the coffee. Laura winces at the taste of the coffee. Bill slides a small tray with sugar and cream packets across the table.

BILL

Here, this will take the edge off the taste.

Laura adds some sugar and powdered cream to the coffee.

BILL

I wasn't expecting company.

Laura looks at Bill who is staring at her. Laura gets uncomfortable.

LAURA

I wasn't expecting to fall into a snow cave.

BILL

It's not a cave, it's a drift that got covered over. It's just the way the wind blows the snow around.

LAURA

I didn't see your cabin.

BILL

No, it covers over as soon as the wind begins to blow the snow down from the north and the drifts form.

Bill is still staring at Laura and Laura is visibly uncomfortable.

LAURA

Do you live here?

BILL

No, I came out for a few days to write and like you, now I'm snowed in.

LAURA

How did you get up here?

BILL

I drove up.

Bill points to the door.

BILL

About thirty feet outside that door is a Jeep. Buried in a snowbank.

LAURA

My GPS said I was getting close to a road.

Bill continues to stare at Laura.

LAURA

I don't suppose there will be a snowplow coming up any time soon?

Bill lets out a small laugh, gets up and walks to the sink with his coffee cup.

BILL

I'll be stuck here the next day or two until the warm front comes in.

Bill puts his coffee cup in the sink, turns around, leans against the sink and crosses his arms. Laura can feel the tension.

BILL

So, are you going to try and dig your way out?

LAURA

Through a fifteen-foot snowbank at night?

Bill looks at his watch.

BILL

You loose track of time when you can't see outside. I guess you better stay the night.

LAURA

Thank you.

Bill walks to the table and holds his hand out to take Laura's cup. Laura sits there for a moment looking at Bill then hands Bill her cup.

Bill returns to the sink and washes the cup in a bowl of water sitting in the sink.

Bill walks to the door, opens it and steps outside. Bill returns carrying a small bag.

Bill walks to the sink. Bill unwraps a steak that was in the bag.

BILL
Do you have any food?

Laura looks at her backpack.

LAURA
Yes, I do.

BILL
I was expecting company over the weekend but she's not going to be joining me. If you would like, I'll share my steak with you.

LAURA
Thank you, that would be great.

Bill walks to the fireplace and places the steak on a grill then swings the grill into the fireplace close to the flames.

Bill walks around the cabin turning up the lanterns to make it brighter in the cabin.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Bill and Laura are sitting at the table eating.

BILL
So, where are you from?

LAURA
Washington. Washington DC. You?

BILL
I live a few hours west in Provo Utah.

LAURA

I came through there two days ago.

BILL

What brought you here?

LAURA

This mountain.

Bill stops eating and looks at Laura.

BILL

This mountain?

LAURA

Actually, the peak.

BILL

Why the peak. Surly there are much higher peaks to climb.

Laura continues to eat.

LAURA

My Father traveled through this area on his way to California. He stopped at an overlook and had someone take a picture of him pointing to this mountain peak.

Laura looks at the table in thought.

LAURA

For some reason he carried that picture the whole time he was in Vietnam.

Laura looks back at Bill.

LAURA

Growing up in Southern California it was hard to imagine a mountain so high. I would look at that picture all the time. On the back of the picture my father wrote "One day I'll climb this mountain"

BILL

And did he?

LAURA

No. The closest my father got was a phone call from me this morning as I stood on the peak. He's back in Southern California dying of cancer.

BILL

I'm sorry.

LAURA

When I was visiting him last week, that picture was sitting on the nightstand next to his bed. He picked it up and told me to "never stop dreaming". So, I jumped on a plane and flew into Salt Lake City. When I got there, I stopped in a sporting goods store, filled a backpack, and here I am.

BILL

Stuck in a snowstorm with me?

Laura smiles.

LAURA

I guess so. I just felt so helpless seeing him laying there. I felt compelled to try and help him live one last dream.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Bill finishes washing the dishes in the sink. Bill walks to the door, opens it and steps outside. Bill returns carrying two bottles of beer and closes the door.

Bill walks over to the fireplace where Laura is sitting in thought. Bill sits down and holds out a bottle to Laura. Laura takes the bottle.

LAURA

Thank you.

BILL

Thinking about your father?

LAURA

Yes. I was hoping to go right back to Southern California and show him the pictures I took at the top.

BILL

What do you do back in Washington?

LAURA

I'm a political consultant.

BILL

There's a broad term.

Laura smiles.

LAURA

You're right. Mostly I work for lobbyist and on political campaigns.

BILL

Any politicians I might know?

LAURA

Probably not. What kind of book are you writing?

BILL

Book?

LAURA

Yes, you said you came here to write.

BILL

I did, didn't I. Actually, I came here to write an analysis of the 2016 election.

Laura looks at Bill with surprise.

LAURA

What is it you do?

BILL

I'm a retired political science professor.

LAURA

Why would a retired professor be writing an analysis of the 2016 election?

BILL

The same reason that you're a political consultant. For the money.

Laura stares at Bill.

BILL

Two ex-wives and putting two kids through ivy league colleges pretty much left me broke when it came time for retirement. So, when someone offers me money to write something, I do it.

LAURA

Who's paying for this paper you're writing?

BILL

I'd rather not say.

LAURA

Spoken like a political operative.

Bill laughs.

BILL

No, you have me all wrong. I am not politically involved in any way.

LAURA

But you are, if you're writing an analysis for a political group.

BILL

I guess you have me there.

LAURA

Who did you vote for in 2016?

Bill takes a drink of his beer and looks at Laura.

BILL

You're a political consultant, you tell me?

Laura looks at Bill for a moment.

LAURA

You're educated so I'm going to say you did not vote for Trump.

Bill rolls his eyes.

LAURA

Which means you voted for Clinton, but your state went to Trump.

BILL

No.

LAURA (SURPRISED)

No? You voted for Trump?

BILL

God no, David McMullin.

LAURA

Who?

BILL

Exactly. David McMullin was a republican before the election. He ran as an independent. I knew his parents when they lived in Provo. He's smart and dedicated. He's a good man.

LAURA

You're one surprise after another.

BILL

What do you mean?

LAURA

Don't be offended, but when you opened the door, I expected a mountain man with a long beard and wearing animal skins.

Bill laughs.

LAURA
And here I find a political science
professor.

BILL
Would you have preferred a mountain
man?

Bill takes a drink of beer.

LAURA
Now that's a good question.

Bill and Laura sit staring into the fire.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Laura wakes up laying in one of the bunks. Laura looks over
and sees Bill at the fireplace.

LAURA
What time is it?

Bill looks at his watch using the firelight for light.

BILL
It's just after three AM.

Laura scratches her head.

LAURA
Is everything Ok?

BILL
Yes, I just needed to feed the fire.
Back in Washington DC you turn on the
heat when it gets cold, and you turn on
the air-conditioning when it gets hot.
Out here you have to keep the fire
going to keep warm.

Laura lays there and watches as Bill works on the fire.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Laura wakes up and slides her feet out of bed. Bill is working at making coffee in the fireplace.

LAURA

Morning.

BILL

Morning. How'd you sleep?

Laura scratches her head and stretches her arms out.

LAURA

Like a log. Last night I slept on the side of the mountain. I pitched my tent over a hundred different rocks. All night long I was trying to shift the sleeping bag to where I was not laying on one of them.

Bill smiles.

BILL

Isn't that what a sleeping bag pad is for?

LAURA

I'm sure it is, if I would have thought to buy one. What time is it?

Bill looks at his watch.

BILL

Just before seven AM. I was going to make some breakfast.

LAURA

I have powered eggs in my backpack.

BILL

I think I can spare a few fresh eggs and some bacon.

LAURA

Uh, Bill. I have to go to the bathroom.

Bill points to a half door in the corner of the cabin.

BILL

The bathroom is right there.

Laura cringes a little. Laura gets up, walks over to the door and opens it.

Inside is a composting toilet. Laura looks back at Bill.

BILL

Sorry, that's the best I can do. Unless you want to step outside and dig a hole in the snow.

Bill smiles.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill is cooking eggs and bacon in the fire when Laura comes out of the bathroom. Laura gives Bill an odd look.

BILL

Everything Ok?

LAURA

I'm not used to doing my business in a closet.

Bill smiles.

BILL

That's okay. I've only brought one female friend up here. And you have the same look on your face as she did the first time, I showed her where the bathroom was.

Laura smile. Laura walks over and sits down in a chair facing the fireplace. Laura watches as Bill cooks.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill and Laura are eating breakfast. Laura is trying to use her phone.

BILL

You should really turn that thing off and save the battery.

LAURA

I know from the GPS Yesterday that we're only about five and a half miles from town.

BILL

We are, but the closest cell tower is around the end of the mountain range, close to town.

Laura turns her phone off and puts it down.

LAURA

If I need it, I have a satellite phone in my backpack. I also have an extra powerpack to charge my phone.

BILL

You brought an extra powerpack for your phone, but you forgot a sleeping bag pad?

Laura shrugs her shoulders.

LAURA

Priorities?

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill is sitting in a chair by the fireplace writing on a notepad.

INT. SNOW CAVE - DAY

Laura is standing on a folding ladder digging at the ceiling of the snow cave trying to reach the top. Laura is covered in snow. Laura stops and looks up to see she still has not punched through the snow.

Laura makes her way down the folding ladder.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Laura opens the door and shakes snow off from all over her body. Laura steps in the cabin and closes the door. Laura

takes off her gloves, jacket and snow pants then places them on the floor.

Laura walks over and sits in a chair next to the fireplace.

BILL

How did you make out?

LAURA

I used your folding ladder to get up as high as I could. I dug a hole straight up and could not reach the top of the snow drift.

BILL

Once the winds shift tonight it will move most of the snow away from the cabin. When the warm front moves in Tomorrow it should take care of the rest.

LAURA

Tomorrow?

Bill looks over at Laura and Laura looks at Bill.

LAURA

I was hoping to get out of here Today. Did you ever think that maybe you built the cabin in the wrong place?

BILL

I didn't build it, I bought it where it is.

LAURA

Aren't you afraid you'll get snowed in for the winter?

BILL

I don't tend to use it this late in the year. This is just an early snow. Besides the weather forecast before I came up called for fifty degrees in just a few days.

Laura gets up and walks to where her cloths are piled up.
Laura picks up the cloths and returns to the fireplace.

Laura lays the cloths out to dry them and sits back down.
Laura looks over at Bill who is writing.

LAURA
Working on your analysis?

BILL
Yes.

Bill points to the mantel over the fireplace.

BILL
There's a small selection of books if
you want something to read.

LAURA
Thank you, I think I'll just sit here
and dry out.

Bill puts his pen down.

BILL
So, who did you vote for in 2016?

Laura looks at Bill with an odd look, not sure if she
should answer Bill.

LAURA
Clinton.

BILL
Why?

LAURA
I just couldn't vote for Trump, and I
felt that maybe it was time that a
woman had a chance to run the country.
Being an academic I'm surprised you
didn't vote for Her also.

BILL
Hillary? I couldn't.

LAURA

Why not?

BILL

Have you ever heard of White Water?

LAURA

I've heard the name, but never investigated it.

BILL

That's the key word when it comes to White Water, investigation. The Clinton's have been marred in investigations and controversy since before Bill ever became Governor. The same investigations followed them all the way through Bill's presidency. I don't know of any other sitting president or first lady who gave as many testimonies as Bill and Hillary Clinton.

LAURA

Come on, all politicians have a past.

BILL

Yes, they do. But I prefer the politicians I vote for to have a much cleaner past. Hell, I would have respected her more if after the whole Monica Lewinsky thing came out, she held a press conference on the white house lawn with Bill by her side and announced she was leaving Bill. Then kicked him in the nuts before walking off the white house grounds.

Laura laughs as Bill smiles.

BILL

Even after Bill left office Hillary continued to accumulate controversy. Look at Benghazi and her email server. True leaders will stand in front of a crowd and apologize for their mistakes as loudly as they promote their

accomplishments. Not blame everything on someone else.

LAURA

So, what are you saying, Trump is better?

BILL

Not at all. At best Trump is a misogynistic liar who may or may not have racist tendencies.

LAURA

Wow. You seem to have some pretty strong feelings about both.

BILL

Why do you think I voted for McMullin? Most people read a little and watch debates to determine who they are going to vote for when it comes to President. Now with the Internet, you are flooded with information about politicians. And don't get me started on what percentage of that is disinformation.

LAURA

I guess I'm lucky.

BILL

Lucky, how?

LAURA

I get to see what goes on in the background during campaigns. I get a better understanding of what the candidates are about.

BILL

And yet you voted for Hillary.

Laura leans forward in her chair.

LAURA

I saw too much negativity surrounding Trump. You see, you don't look at things the way I do. Being black I saw

too much racism coming out in Trump's supporters. Extreme right-wing activists were putting their support behind Trump. Even the NRA put their support behind Trump.

BILL

The NRA?

LAURA

Yes, the NRA. A right-wing group with only one agenda.

BILL

That right-wing group that I'm a lifetime member of?

Laura gets a nervous look on her face and leans back in her chair.

BILL

So, would you call the ACLU a right-wing group also?

LAURA

Well yes, they are right leaning.

BILL

Another group I'm a member of. You do realize that the one goal of the NRA is to support the second amendment to the Constitution.

Bill holds one finger up.

BILL (CONTINUED)

Their one goal. And the one goal of the ACLU is to support the Bill of Rights.

Laura sits there thinking.

BILL

What left-wing groups stand so strongly behind documents that this country is founded on?

Laura just sits there silent.

BILL

I don't know about you, but I could use something to eat. What do you have in your backpack for lunch?

Laura looks nervously at Bill.

LAURA

I have a few pouches of freeze-dried stew I could cook us.

BILL

Sounds great. I'll get you some water.

Bill sets the notepad and pen on a small table and gets up out of his chair leaving Laura sitting there thinking.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill is cleaning up in the kitchen area while Laura heats the stew in a pot hanging in the fireplace.

Laura looks over at Bill then back at the stew.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill and Laura are eating stew at the table. Laura is not looking at Bill. Bill looks at Laura.

BILL

You don't know what to think about me do you?

LAURA

I don't know you well enough to draw any opinions.

BILL

But, knowing what you know now, you're tempted?

LAURA

Why the NRA?

BILL

Simple, I was brought up around guns. When I was young, I hunted with my father and relatives.

LAURA

You hunt?

BILL

No, not anymore. Only when I was young. It was more of a family thing. But I still own guns and regularly go skeet shooting with a group of friends. An activity I hope I never have to give up.

Bill takes a bite of the stew.

BILL

This is good.

LAURA

But how can you own guns with all the mass shootings?

Bill looks at Laura while chewing his stew.

BILL

Character.

LAURA

Character?

BILL

Yes, it's not in my character to go out and randomly shoot people. That's what criminals do, or those who are mentally unstable. Neither I nor the NRA support gun ownership by either group. Have you ever fired a gun?

LAURA

Yes, I have, while I was in the Army.

BILL

Do you have a gun in your backpack?

LAURA

No.

Bill stops eating and leans back in his chair.

BILL

So, you came hiking in the Rockies, where there are wild cats, bears, and other things that can attack you and take your life, without protection?

LAURA

I don't own a gun.

BILL

But you could, and you should if you're going to put your life at risk hiking in the Rockies. Unless of course you are mentally unstable.

Bill has a sly smile on her face.

BILL

Which I'm now starting to question.

Laura looks at Bill and smiles.

BILL

I never come up here without a gun for protection. And I would use that gun if a bear or a wild cat came along, and I thought your life or mine was in danger.

Bill leans forward and begins to eat.

BILL

You see, just like you, it's in my character to support and protect the constitution. Unlike criminals who could care less about breaking the law.

LAURA

What do you mean just like me?

BILL

You took an oath when you entered the Army. One to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. That oath did not have an expiration date on it. That oath did not state until my service has ended, did it?

LAURA

No, it didn't.

BILL

So, it's in both our characters to defend the constitution.

Bill takes a long look at Laura who is looking at her stew in thought.

BILL

How's that stew?

LAURA

Very good.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill is sitting in a chair writing and Laura is reading a book. Bill stops writing.

BILL

Can I ask you a question?

LAURA

Sure.

BILL

Given what we discussed earlier. Would you still vote for Hillary?

Laura thinks for a moment.

LAURA

I'm not sure. But I still feel it's time a woman has a chance. How about you?

BILL

Not at all.

LAURA (WITH ADDITUDE)

Really. You think only men should be President?

Bill smiles.

BILL

I didn't say that. Every election is populated by different people from different backgrounds and experiences. My vote will always go to the person I believe has the morals, character, and experience to do the best job with the current situation.

LAURA

So, what if that's a black woman?

BILL

She'd have my vote.

Bill goes back to writing and Laura goes back to reading her book.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Laura gets up and puts her book back on the mantel then walks around the cabin. Bill stops writing.

BILL

Getting bored?

LAURA

That's not the word for it. I'm coming out of my skin.

BILL

Can you imagine living here in the 1800s and getting snowed in for months at a time?

LAURA

I would go stir crazy.

Bill smiles.

BILL
So, would I.

Laura walks over and sits back down.

BILL
What did you mean earlier when you said, "Being black I saw too much racism"?

LAURA
Well, I am black, so racism is important to me.

BILL
So, was it that Trump supporters are racist?

Laura thinks for a moment.

LAURA
Trump won the presidency, so by saying that, I would be suggesting that a good part of people in this country are racist and that includes black people.

BILL
That didn't answer the question.

Laura looks at Bill for a moment.

LAURA
My answer is that too many of the far-right groups who support a segregated society supported Trump.

BILL
I believe you're right. It's hard to overlook the fact that 88% of the black voters voted for Clinton. And I don't believe it was because they liked Hillary. I believe it's because they saw the same things you did.

Laura gets a surprised look on her face.

BILL

Why the surprised look?

LAURA

I'm just surprised you heard what I was saying.

BILL

Some of the truths about this election are hard to accept for a lot of people. We're not the only ones who saw what was going on.

Bill holds up his right hand, looks at his palm for a moment then turns his hand so Laura can see his palm.

BILL

You see that hand. You would think at my age I have shaken a lot of hands, and I have. But there are only two impressions in this palm that I will always remember. One is that of my Father the day he died. I shook his hand, held it actually. And the other is the hand of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Bill turns his hand and looks at the palm then puts his hand down.

BILL

A professor of mine took me to hear Dr. King speak. I didn't get to meet him. He was simply shaking hands as he left, and he shook mine. I will never forget it.

Bill stares into the fire.

BILL

Dr. King had his flaws, but I don't think I'll ever shake the hand of anyone with greater conviction than Dr. King.

Bill goes back to writing. Laura stares into the fire in thought.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

A slight howling is heard outside the cabin. Bill and Laura are eating dinner at the table. Laura listens.

LAURA

What is that sound.

BILL

The wind.

LAURA

It doesn't sound like the wind.

BILL

That's because it's muffled by the snow. The winds have shifted.

Bill looks at Laura eating.

BILL

Do you know why Clinton did not win?

LAURA

Votes?

Bill and Laura both smile.

BILL

Well yes, but something more important, passion.

LAURA

I've heard her speak. She seemed to have passion for the things she was talking about.

BILL

No, passion of the people who supported her.

LAURA (WITH ADDITUDE)

I don't know. She seemed to have some very passionate supporters.

BILL

Don't confuse passion with anger. Sure, there were a lot of emotional supporters but they were angry, and Clinton did not want to channel that anger. She tried to channel fear.

LAURA

As where Trump did?

BILL

Yes.

LAURA

So, you're saying that channeling anger won't win elections?

BILL

In this case I believe it did. But don't get me wrong, that's not always the case. Obama rode in on passion.

Bill stops eating and takes a drink.

BILL

Did you look at the survey numbers after the election?

LAURA

I saw that Trump did not win the popular vote and Clinton did.

BILL

No, I mean the breakdown of percentages, men versus woman, blacks versus whites etcetera.

LAURA

I can't say that I did. At the time I was still working on a campaign that was going through a recount. Trump had won and there was nothing anyone could do.

BILL

Huh.

LAURA

What?

BILL

I'm just surprised.

LAURA

Being involved in a recount after a campaign is overwhelming.

BILL

Not that.

Bill goes back to eating.

LAURA

Then what?

BILL

Of all the segments of the population surveyed, blacks had the greatest difference by percentage than any other. Trump only got 8% of the black vote versus Clinton who got 88%.

Laura stops eating.

LAURA

So, maybe they felt the same way I did?

BILL

I believe they did. But 88% is a huge number in a presidential campaign. A number that is just about never seen.

Bill gets up, picks up his plate and walks to the sink while Laura sits there thinking.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Bill and Laura are both sitting in chairs by the fireplace. Bill is writing while Laura is thinking.

LAURA

So, where do you stand on impeachment?

Bill stops writing.

BILL

Do you mean the process that was started by the Democrats the day after the election?

Bill smiles as does Laura. Bill sees Laura smile.

BILL

I don't know if it was that the Democrats could not accept Clinton's loss or Trump as president. I, like so many others, thought Trump would do himself in not too long after entering office but he's still the President.

LAURA

So, you don't think they can remove Trump from office?

BILL

For trying to persuade a foreign government with support?

LAURA

Well, ya?

BILL

First, persuasion used by a country or government on another is as old as government itself. By force or by favor, government's have been trying to control other governments and countries. The Romans, the British Empire, they have all done it. Why do you think China is spending so much money in Africa and Greenland?

Laura leans forward in her chair.

LAURA

But Trump broke the law.

BILL

Did he? I'm still waiting for someone to explain what actual, on the books law Trump broke.

Laura sits back and thinks.

BILL

I don't see how they can remove him from office. The Republicans control the senate. Beside they had much more on Bill Clinton. They had him on perjury to a grand jury and obstruction of justice. Yet they didn't remove him. To date, no impeachment has resulted in the removal of a President.

Laura sits there in thought as Bill watches Laura.

BILL

There is a metal cooler box outside the door. Why don't you get us a beer?

LAURA

Sure.

Laura gets up, walks to the door, and opens the door.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Laura steps out and gets two beers from the cooler then stops and looks up. There is a hole in the ceiling of the snow cave.

Laura stands there and looks at the stars for a moment.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Laura walks in with the beers and closes the door.

Laura returns to her seat and hands Bill a beer.

BILL

Thank you.

Laura sits down and opens her beer and so does Bill. Bill takes a drink and sits the bottle down on the table between the chairs. Laura holds her beer.

LAURA

There is a hole in ceiling of the snow cave outside.

BILL

Ya, I'm betting the winds will shift most of the drifts away from the cabin by morning.

LAURA

So, after all this, you think Trump will remain in office?

BILL

I do. But what's worse is he may be re-elected.

Laura looks at Bill with surprise.

Bill holds his hands up.

BILL

Hey, don't look at me, I didn't vote for him and can't see myself voting for him in 2020.

Bill puts his hands down.

BILL

Bill Clinton was impeached during his second term, but I'd bet if it happened during his first term, he would still have won the second election.

LAURA

Do you really think Trump could be re-elected?

BILL

They call Trump a liar and rightly so. But I can't remember a President who followed through on more campaign promises. Even when most people think

they are absurd. Border crossing are down. He's repealed a lot of things Obama did and he's building the wall. Now if the economy was in the pits, I would say look out, but the economy is booming with a jobless rate that seems to only go down.

Laura has a worried look on her face.

BILL

American's do not vote a president out of office when we're at war or the economy is doing well. Scary thought, isn't it?

LAURA

Yes, it is.

BILL

I've been doing all the talking. What do you think?

LAURA

I think Trump is a jackass that should not be President. I think we need someone who will look at the big picture for all American's. But Biden has been tainted by the Ukraine. Bernie, the millionaire wants a socialist government and Warren seems to be standing next to Bernie.

BILL

What about Hillary?

Laura looks at Bill with a surprised and excited look.

LAURA

Do you think she might run?

The excited look drains from Laura's face.

LAURA

But after what you have said about Hillary, if she ran, I would feel compelled to look deeper into her

history and I'm not sure I would vote for her.

Bill and Laura sit in their chairs in thought.

LAURA

When do we get to vote for a person that really makes sense for America as a whole.

Bill goes back to writing.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Laura comes out of the bathroom.

Laura returns to her chair. Bill is writing.

LAURA

So, what's the analysis you're writing?

Bill stops and look at Laura for a moment.

BILL

It's an analysis of the 2016 election. More to the point, it's about why Clinton lost.

LAURA

Who's paying you to write that?

Bill pauses.

BILL

A group that is looking to back Clinton for another run.

LAURA (SURPRISED)

Really?

BILL

Yes. While talking to them I got the idea that they do not think any of the current field can stand up against Trump.

LAURA

Wow.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Bill is cooking eggs and bacon in the fireplace. Sun light is coming through the windows on both sides of the door.

Laura rolls out of bed and walks towards the door.

Laura opens the door and sees that most of the snow is gone, and the sun is out.

Laura closes the door and looks at Bill.

LAURA

Morning.

BILL

Morning. I've made us eggs and bacon for breakfast.

LAURA

Sounds great.

Bill and Laura are eating at the table.

BILL

It looks like you'll have no trouble getting out of here Today.

LAURA

It sure doesn't.

BILL

If you follow your GPS along the road, you shouldn't have any problem. Just steer clear of the river. As the snow melts the river will begin to rise.

LAURA

I will. When are you heading back to town?

BILL

In a day or two. I have to wait until I can get my Jeep out of the snow. The

warm front moving in should take care
of it.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Laura is putting on her snow pants while Bill is washing
dishes at the sink.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Laura steps out with her backpack and small snowshoes.
Laura sits down on the cooler and begins putting on her
snowshoes. Bill comes to the door. Bill looks up at the
blue sky.

BILL

Looks like you're going to have great
weather from here on.

Laura stands up and looks at the sky.

LAURA

It does.

Laura looks at Bill.

LAURA

You know, I don't know your name.

Bill reaches out her hand.

BILL

Bill Walton

Laura shakes Bill's hand.

LAURA

Laura Riley.

Laura lets Bill's hand go.

BILL

It was nice spending time with you
Laura.

LAURA

Well, you really didn't have a choice.

BILL

Yes, I did, I could have left you outside.

Bill smiles and Laura smiles also.

LAURA

Somehow, I get the feeling it's not in your character. Besides, you would have missed out of some interesting conversations.

BILL

You're right there. I was sorry to hear about your father, but I think your desire to give him one last adventure is a noble one. Be careful getting back to town and back to California.

LAURA

I will. You take care.

Bill nods his head. Laura turns and begins walking down what appears to be a road under the snow. Bill stands there and watches as Laura walks away.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - DAY

Laura is walking down the road which is mostly gravel now. Laura's snowshoes are now strapped to her backpack. Laura stops and sits down on a rock. Laura takes a water bottle out of her backpack and takes a drink then places the water bottle back in her backpack.

Laura pulls her satellite phone out of her backpack and pushes several buttons then places it to her ear.

LAURA

Dad, it's Laura.

LAURA'S FATHER (O.S)

I've been trying to reach you. Where are you?

LAURA

I'm walking off the mountain, back to town.

LAURA'S FATHER (O.S)

I expected you back here a few days ago.

LAURA

I would have been there, but that snow that started while I was on the mountain peak got heavy and deep before I could get off the mountain.

LAURA'S FATHER (O.S)

Are you Ok?

LAURA

Yes, I should be flying out of Salt Lake this afternoon and be back in California this evening. I have some great pictures and video to show you.

LAURA'S FATHER (O.S)

Ok, well you be careful, and I'll see you when you get here.

Laura looks down the road in the direction she came from.

LAURA

I will, and Dad, when I get there, boy have I got a story to tell you.

Fade out white: