

UINTA

Written by

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TEASER

EXT. UINTA NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH - NIGHT

Dark night, lit only by a half moon. Eerily quiet. Creep along a blacktop road that heads steeply uphill.

Cross a bridge over a stream, posted "Pyramid Creek."

Fast-motion on the road several miles until... slow at a sign with a circular label:

"THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UINTA MOUNTAINS, UTE TRIBE, UTAH"

The writing surrounds an eagle with its wings ready to fly.

Turn off that road onto a smaller road with a sign:

"ENTERING UTE TERRITORY
ERATH MINE ACCESS"

A live eagle soars through the sky silhouetted against the moon, heading too fast toward the ground.

SCREAM!

Was that an infant?! -- The eagle flies back by with a rabbit in its claws. Again silhouetted against the moon.

The moon disappears behind clouds, leaving mostly dark.

Ahead on this smaller road is a hole in the mountain-side lit bright as day by 1000s of watts of LED flood lamps.

Go straight into and through the mine entrance.

INT. ERATH MINE - MAIN AREA - NIGHT

More LED flood lamps brighten every corner of black earthen walls. Tunnels lead out and down like spokes on a bike wheel.

Crews of WORKERS, all Native Americans dressed in identical gray jumpsuits with reflective orange stripes, move in apparent coordinated effort, like bees in a hive.

A time clock with workers' time cards mounted on a wall next to a rack of hanging gray jumpsuits, hard hats and a bin for dirties.

Veer to the right. One tunnel is blocked by neon green tape "DO NOT ENTER."

INT. ERATH MINE - GREEN TUNNEL - NIGHT

Keep going past that tape. A steep grade down. And down. The LEDs don't seem to be able to keep the dark at bay here.

Enter an earthen cave area.

Not as many WORKERS, but still all Native Americans in gray jumpsuits with reflective green strips.

Everyone down here wears gas masks and is in full Personal Protection Equipment.

A white FOREMAN oversees the operation.

A worker, SKYHAWK, small, agile and quick, chips away at a hole in the wall with a pickaxe. He inspects a chunk of ore, adds it to a large crate on wheels, half full of ore.

He COUGHS into his gas mask, keeps working.

Another chunk breaks free of the wall. He turns it over...

Skyhawk YELPS in fear -- carved into the stone is a coiled serpent.

In Skyhawk's shaking headlamp, the snake's tongue flicks. Skyhawk coughs, can't stop coughing.

He can't catch his breath. He falls to the ground and the gas mask is dislodged. Blood seeps out from the edges. Lots of blood.

The foreman, completely annoyed, tries to pull Skyhawk off the ground. Skyhawk's unresponsive. Other workers gather close in fear.

FOREMAN

Keep working.

The workers reluctantly back away. Except one man, LONGSTRIDE, tall lanky Native American who kneels next to Skyhawk as the foreman talks MOS into a radio.

SKYHAWK

(eyes fluttering, fear!)

The serpent...

Longstride's face fills with dread.

Two white MEN in Hazmat jumpsuits and gas masks appear, load immobile Skyhawk onto a gurney and carry him out.

END OF TEASER

ACT I

EXT. UINTA NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH - DAY

The afternoon sun is low in the sky, casting an amber soothing aura over the same blacktop road and the sign for Pyramid Creek.

Aspen trees sway in a gentle breeze, whispering their signature quake.

Interrupting this sweet quiet, a CHUGGING car engine can be heard, laboring up the steep grade of the road.

The beater car pulls over on the shoulder at the creek. BARK. BARK. BARK from inside the car.

MACY WILLET (16), half Ute Native American, half white. A little chubby, a little dissatisfied with life, always ready to defend her point of view, leaps out of the shotgun seat.

Her dog, PARTNER, an energetic Blue Heeler bounds out after her, sits staring up at her as she pops open the trunk, pulls out a fishing pole, a creole and a tub of worms.

Macy's best friend SYBIL MCCLINTON (17), blonde hair in a long pony tail, a wisdom and sadness born of abuse and trauma and a need to protect others, gracefully eases out of the driver's seat.

DYLAN MCCLINTON (12), Sybil's little brother, small, shy, beautiful boy, stumbles out of the back seat.

Sybil and Dylan extract fishing poles from the trunk as Macy and Partner bound down the steep bank to the stream, ready to drown some worms.

MACY

What the fuck!

On the water surface, several rainbow trout float, bloated, belly up.

Sybil and Dylan catch up with her. Partner is busy lapping water next to a dead fish.

SYBIL

Those probably aren't any good to eat. ... It stinks down here.

DYLAN

Something has polluted their habitat.

MACY

No shit!

DYLAN

(thinking aloud as always)
 Maybe heavy metals? Like the
 Molybdenum from the Erath Mine?
 Which brings up the question... is
 Molybdenum toxic? Or... Maybe the
 sewer at the mine is leaking again?
 But... I don't smell rotten eggs.

SYBIL

The mine entrance is like ten miles
 up the road, Dylan.

MACY

(like all should know)
 Smack in the middle of the res.

Macy chunks a dead fish into her creole, realizes Partner is
 chest deep in the water, still lapping.

MACY (CONT'D)

Partner, come! Get your face outta
 that shitty water!

She shinnies back up the creek bank, Partner on her heels and
 stows her gear in the trunk.

Partner at her side, she leans over the guard rail of the
 bridge to snap pics of the watery graveyard.

A monster truck with blackened windows and five bright-even-
 in-the-day LED cab-roof running lights, slows. Partner bares
 his teeth and SNARLS. The truck ROARS up the road.

EXT. WILLET HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

The sun's ready to slip behind the flat horizon to the west,
 sweeping bands of orangey-red over the tiny town of Heber
 City and much further away, the Great Salt Lake and the
 perfect grid of Salt Lake City.

A barn and a two-story log home reside on the slope of the
 mountain side. Sunset reflects off tall windows of the house.

INT. WILLET HOME - GREAT ROOM - NIGHT

Those sunrays cast the huge great room in the orange glow.

A spacious hominess. Kitchen against the back wall, sitting areas. A doorway of stairs leading down to the basement.

JONAH WILLET (45), Macy's dad, outdoors man, peacemaker, light green eyes and light brown curls in need of a hair cut pokes at a log fire in a massive fireplace.

Macy holds the dead trout by its tail.

TAYAN WILLET (40), Macy's mom, Ute Native American, petite, long black hair, finishes up fry bread over propane flame on a large cooktop. Natural happiness brightens her aura. She speaks with a lilting Native American accent.

TAYAN

I'm not cooking that bloated thing.

Jonah and Macy make a "yuck" face at each other as Tayan sets dinner on the kitchen table. Jonah sits and digs in.

TAYAN (CONT'D)

Is your homework done, Macy? Sit.

MACY

(shaking the fish)

What if there's Molybdenum in the water! Like from the mine? Mom, YOU have access to all things Erath Mine. You could actually do some snooping... And, Dad, YOU must take samples from Pyramid Creek!

TAYAN

And YOU must do your homework.

MACY

Who says I haven't?

TAYAN

Who says you have? Sit.

INT. MCCLINTON HOUSE - NIGHT

Cramped, messy, a neglected space. Sybil and Dylan eat sitting on a frayed sofa, watch Green Acres reruns, laugh. Fishing poles lean in the corner.

NED MCCLINTON (44), their dad, good looks fading from too many nights in the bar, stumbles in the front door.

Dylan stops eating, looks pale.

NED
Where's my plate?

Dylan walks into the tiny kitchen, pushes his food onto a clean plate and carries it and a beer to his dad.

SYBIL
All ready for you, Dad. Thanks,
Dylan.

Ned takes the plate, grabs the remote and changes to a ball game, turns the volume LOUD. He spots the fishing poles.

NED
You used my fishing gear?! I tell
you it was okay?!

Sybil and Dylan exchange a look, run out of the room.

INT. WILLET HOMESTEAD - BARN - NIGHT

A large open area with horse stalls on one side, breezeways on either end. A basketball hoop, with an area devoted to a plethora of balls of all sorts.

Jonah hammers a gutter piece to straight as Macy brushes Jonah's quarter horse, BANDIT, who nibbles playfully at Macy.

From offscreen, sounds of Sybil's sick car, a door slams.

MACY
Get in here and sacrifice your pony
tail to Bandit.

Sybil runs in laughing, swings her hair at Bandit who tries to grab it in his lips.

On a workbench, Sybil spots posters, good intention but sloppy: "Macy Willet for Junior Class President"

SYBIL
Fab, Macy!

On the posters, Sybil colors with markers, smooths out lines, fills in. She swirls some cool psychedelic designs, outlines an exact rendition of Macy's face with a charming smile.

MACY
(secretly pleased)
Who wants to look at my face?

Sounds offscreen of horse hooves on gravel. Dylan steps in the barn door, stands hoping someone will notice him.

Macy runs over, grabs his hand.

His other hand holds the reins of his short, old, prone-to-bite-for-real Shetland Pony, SHEL-BITCH.

As Macy pulls Dylan forward, Shel-Bitch follows, throwing her head in perpetual protest.

JONAH

Hey, Dylan. Wanna lend a hand? The girls will tend to Shel-bitch.

MACY

Da-ad!

SYBIL

Mr. Willet!

Jonah hands Dylan a hammer. Macy nabs a softball off the sports table, winding up a pitch.

MACY (CONT'D)

Think fast, Dad!

She delivers a *scorching* pitch. Jonah catches it bare-handed, with an exaggerated blow on his hands to cool them off as Dylan ganders at the posters.

DYLAN

What's your platform, Macy?

EXT. WILLET HOME - DAY

Cold morning sun barely shines over the top of the massive Uinta Mountains behind the homestead as Jonah and Tayan walk out the front door of the house. They kiss like a first date.

Jonah heads for the barn. Tayan climbs into her Jeep as Sybil's car turns in the drive. Both vehicles toot horns.

Jonah emerges from the barn seated on Bandit as Macy runs out the front door of the house, Partner slumping behind. Macy leans down, kisses Partner on the head.

MACY

Cheer up. I'm not gone that long.

Jonah slips a foot out of a stirrup. Macy hikes up, hugs him.

MACY (CONT'D)

(hollers)

Mom, don't forget to snoop!

Tayan nods, extends her arms for a hug, but Macy bounds into Sybil's car and they chug out of the drive. Tayan waves dejectedly.

Partner, head drooping, falls over, convulses with a seizure, a dribble of blood out his mouth.

JONAH

Tayan, help! Hold on, Partner. We got ya, buddy.

Jonah scoops him up, climbs in the Jeep. They zoom out of the driveway.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Ugly light green corridors, full of Caucasian STUDENTS. Macy is a one-of-a-kind non-white. Between lockers, posters hang. Macy tapes up one of her posters, which now boasts:

"EVERY PERSON MATTERS"

It slightly overlaps a poster with a studio quality photo of ANASTASIA BROWN (17), beautiful wide smile, perfect hair, also running for Junior Class President.

Finding the next empty slot of wall, Macy tapes another poster. Laughter behind her. Then...

SYBIL (O.S.)

Hey! Stop.

A teenage BOY and Anastasia draw huge black Xs across Macy's face and through her slogan. Macy charges Anastasia. Sybil blocks her, all up in Macy's face, shaking her head no.

ANASTASIA

Headline: White girl saves red girl from herself! Get back to the reservation where you belong, Macy Willet!

Anastasia's boyfriend, gorgeous jock, JEREMY, removes his arm from her waist and backs away, a look of non-approval.

EXT. UINTA FOREST SERVICE FIELD OFFICE - DAY

A plain building in a knock-out green setting. Tayan's Jeep pulls up in front, Jonah steps out, leans back in.

JONAH

I dread telling her but we'll do it tonight... together?

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM DAY

Macy, hardened eyes but otherwise unreadable, plops down in a desk by a window that overlooks miles of Uinta Mountains covered in dense Uinta National Forest.

INT. UINTA FOREST SERVICE FIELD OFFICE - JONAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Small, but better than a cubicle, walls covered in large maps of the Uinta Forest, mountains, Indian Tribal areas.

Jonah stands in front of a map, sticks a pin in the mine entrance and a pin where he drew water. He holds up a bottle labeled "Pyramid Creek" containing a water sample.

JONAH

Did this make Partner ill?

He sits at his desk, dials.

JONAH (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Harold Fletcher's sexy assistant,
please.

INT. ERATH MINING COMPANY - TAYAN'S WORK AREA - DAY

At a small desk in front of an office door labeled "HAROLD FLETCHER, CEO, ERATH MINING COMPANY", Tayan holds a phone to her ear. The door behind her opens, HAROLD FLETCHER emerges.

TAYAN (INTO PHONE)

(sultry)

You are speaking with her.

Fletcher stops behind her, eyes disapproving.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

JONAH (INTO PHONE)

(a longing MOAN)

Man, do I wanna get my hands on
you. SIGH. But... in the meantime,
I have a question for your boss. Ya
know, following up Macy's--

Tayan senses Fletcher's presence, becomes all business.

TAYAN (INTO PHONE)

--Have a good day, Sir.

Jonah looks confused as she hangs up.

END PHONE CONVERSATION

Tayan stands, feints surprise that Fletcher is right there. He shoves his coffee cup at her as her phone rings again.

TAYAN (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Erath Mining Company. Office of
Harold Fletcher. May I help you?

Through the phone a demanding Middle Eastern ACCENT chimes out. Fletcher momentarily looks nervous, holds a hand up.

FLETCHER
Put him through.

Tayan eavesdrops as Fletcher retreats into his office.

FLETCHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It's all under control. Urchin's
enroute. (pause) Hold a moment.

Tayan shuffles papers, as Fletcher reappears in his doorway.

FLETCHER (CONT'D)
Tayan! My coffee?

She scurries away as he slams his door shut.

EXT. PUWAGAT'S HOME - DAY

High on a mountain top, a small house, with a tiny front porch that has a view to die for. Smoke and tall flames from a forest fire are visible far to the west.

Longstride stands a respectable distance from the front door, emits a sharp but short WHISTLE.

In a moment, PUWAGAT KAAV (65), Tayan's mother, Native Ute, short, braid to her knees, emerges, stands at the doorstep.

She stares at the forest fire for a long moment, then nods at Longstride. He follows her inside.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Through the window, Macy glares east at that same smoke rising above trees, eyes growing huge with fear.

Under her desk, she dials her cell phone, inserts earbuds.

MACY (INTO PHONE)
Daddy! Answer! I know you're at
that fire. No way you wouldn't be!

A couple STUDENTS glance her way. She hangs up.

Outside the window, a massive barn owl sweeps low, straight at her. Macy SCREAMS and ducks under her desk.

Now the TEACHER and whole room is gawking at her.

Macy jumps up, there's no owl outside! She swivels, checks behind her. She WHIMPERS and leans against the window pane.

MACY (CONT'D)
No! No! Don't let it be Daddy!

She runs for the classroom door, dialing her cell.

MACY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Answer, Daddy!

As the teacher blocks the door, students laugh.

INT. PUWAGAT'S HOME - DAY

Rough hewn wood walls, a small kitchen and sitting area with curtains that lead to two other rooms. A weaving loom stands in one corner. Beautiful hand woven rugs and animal skins hang on the walls and lay across the floors.

NOTE: All dialog in italics is spoken UTE language with subtitles in English.

PUWAGAT
*Longstride, may I offer you a cup
of tea?*

Longstride bends a small bow, looks grim.

LONGSTRIDE
*I cannot stay. I need your help,
Medicine Woman of the Mountain.
Skyhawk was the latest of our
people to give up his spirit.*

Puwagat and Longstride share a moment of remembrance.

LONGSTRIDE (CONT'D)
I fear we fight the gravest evil.

PUWAGAT
The serpent...

She extracts a small medicine pouch from her skirts, pulls a stone from it, rubs where it is already smooth.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

The PRINCIPAL, a youngish pretty woman watches Macy's discomfort as she constantly checks her phone.

PRINCIPAL
Are you waiting for a call?

MACY
You have to let me find my dad.

The Principal's face is awash in pity.

PRINCIPAL
Macy... we have rules--

MACY
My dad's at that fire and an owl--

RING. Macy answers immediately.

MACY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Daddy! Daddy!

JONAH (FROM PHONE)
Macy! What's wrong? Are you okay?

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

MACY

Pleeeeee don't make me go back to class!

PRINCIPAL

You can sit here for a little longer, but when the bell rings... off to your next class.

Macy nods thank you.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Between classes, high school STUDENTS mill around, jostle, too much energy. Sybil and Macy at a locker. Macy unlocks.

SYBIL

Ew, something smells.

When Macy pulls the door open a glob of shit falls on her shoe. More is smeared inside the locker.

SOME KID

Eeww! Shit in Macy's locker!

ANOTHER KID

Maybe it was an owl!

Macy PANTS as if going into a panic attack. KIDS start laughing everywhere.

SYBIL

Macy! Don't! It's what they want. Calm down. Pleeeeee!

Macy closes her eyes, breathes. When she opens them, they burn red with anger. Sybil blinks at the intensity.

SYBIL (CONT'D)

You okay? ... Don't do any--

MACY

--Step back, Sybil.

Macy bends over -- is she gonna barf?

One swift movement from a crouched position, she scrapes shit off her shoe, flings and hits mean Anastasia in the chest.

Splat! Shit decorates her cashmere sweater. Some shit dots her face. Anastasia SCREAMS! Pandemonium erupts!

A TEACHER charges through the crowd, spots Macy with her shitty hand and Anastasia with her shitty shirt and marches them down the hall to the girl's restroom.

TEACHER

Don't come out till you're both
stink free.

INT. ERATH MINE COMPANY - TAYAN'S WORK AREA - DAY

TAYAN (INTO PHONE)

Yes, this is Macy Willet's mother.
Can I help you?
(listens, anger growing)
I'll pick her up immediately.

EXT./INT. JEEP (TRAVELING) - DAY

Tayan's jeep climbs steadily on a narrow rocky road. Finally it levels out. The view of tree-covered slopes is stunning.

TAYAN

I hope your grandmother will be
more effective at convincing you to
behave.

Macy rolls her eyes and stares out the window.

Travel a little further, turn on a rut road. Another hundred yards up a hill and pull up to Puwagat's house.

Tayan parks several yards from the house, shuts the engine off. Tayan signals for Macy to wait to get out.

In a moment, Puwagat emerges, stands at the doorstep.

Puwagat nods her head, turns around and walks inside. Tayan and Macy exit the Jeep and follow.

INT. PUWAGAT'S HOME - DAY

Puwagat adds a stick to a wood burning stove, a tea kettle over the flames. Pours hot water in a tea pot. On a wood platter, three cups and the teapot -- she sets it in the middle of a large bison hide on the floor.

They all sit legs crossed on the hide. Puwagat pours tea.

PUWAGAT

I fear an evil may be upon our people. Daughter, at your white man office, do you hear of the illness of many of our people who work in the mine?

TAYAN

Do I know any of them?

Puwagat restrains irritation at her daughter's non-answer.

PUWAGAT

Many streams on the reservation can no longer provide fish to eat.

MACY

Even one by our house! I wondered about the mine also, Piyan.

TAYAN

(put out)

How could the mine have anything to do with that?

Puwagat silently stares a moment at Tayan.

PUWAGAT

I saw smoke. Your Jonah was there?

TAYAN

He'll deny any importance. ... Piyan, your granddaughter needs some wisdom teaching.

MACY

(confusion and fear)

How could you know I saw an ow--

Ahh, Tayan's not talking about the owl. Now Macy's enraged.

MACY (CONT'D)

--Oh! My grandmother does not need to know about school shit!

Macy giggles at her own pun.

MACY (CONT'D)

Mother, aren't you always telling me "Ute wisdom" is gibberish?

Tayan squints her eyes in fury at Macy.

PUWAGAT

(deep concern)

*Granddaughter, your spirit is split
between fear and rebellion. The
fear must be dealt with first...
What did you see?*

MACY

*Piyan, how do you know if you've
had uh... a vision?*

PUWAGAT

(hand over heart)
You will know.

TAYAN

*What did you see...?! You've
never even attended a sweat!
You can't possibly--*

MACY

*--Are you calling me a liar,
Mother!?*

TAYAN

*I apologize, Piyan. Macy is all
white when it comes to manners.*

PUWAGAT

*I believe a sweat is needed.
Cleanse the spirit.*

Tayan shoots a satisfactory look at Macy -- she got what she came for... as Puwagat gazes thoughtfully at Tayan.

PUWAGAT (CONT'D)

*Macy, your mother's behavior
demonstrates a closed mind.*

(a pregnant pause)

*A sweat for my granddaughter and my
daughter. I will make arrangements.*

EXT. WILLET HOMESTEAD - DAY

Sybil sits on a slider in the front yard as the Jeep pulls into the driveway. Macy bounds out and away from her mother.

Before Tayan can drive away...

MACY

Where's Partner!?

TAYAN

(out the Jeep window)

*He's at the vet. He was a little...
slow this morning.*

MACY

Whut! Take me to pick him up!

TAYAN

You made me lose work hours. You'll have to wait till I get home.

SYBIL

I'll take her, Mrs. Willet.

TAYAN

Well, there ya go, Macy.

MACY

(yells at Tayan)
You'd better snoop!

Tayan zooms away as Macy and Sybil climb into Sybil's car.

INT. HEBER CITY VET CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Macy hugs and hugs Partner, who is dopey.

DR. EVANS

He ate or drank something he shouldn't have.

MACY

Like dead fish water?

DR. EVANS

He wouldn't get sick from dead fish, but what did they die of?
(off Macy's shrug)
He'll be fine. No more dead fish water, okay?

EXT. WILLET HOMESTEAD - DAY

Later, Sybil's car pulls into the driveway. Macy helps Partner out of the car.

She cradles him and slumps next to Sybil on the slider swing in the yard. Sybil pets Partner.

SYBIL

I'm glad Partner's okay.
(concerned look)
And even more your dad.

MACY

What would I do if he...

SYBIL
 Hey, nothing happened.
 (disgruntled sigh)
 You're so lucky...

MACY
 I wish he was your dad too.

SYBIL
 Sistah!

They fist bump.

INT. WILLET HOME - NIGHT

Sybil and Macy sit at the kitchen table with school books open, not really accomplishing any homework. Dylan too, but he's actually studying. Tayan emerges from basement stairs.

MACY
 (goadng)
 So how'd the snooping go, Mom?

Tayan looks confused, then reaches for any excuse.

TAYAN
 What do y'all know about "urchin?"

Sybil and Macy stifle giggles. Macy rolls her eyes.

MACY
 Like a *turd* urchin, Mom?

Now they are laughing uncontrollably and Tayan's irritated.

DYLAN
 Mrs. Willet, it's like uh... an
 asshole, but with like serious, uh,
 control issues?

TAYAN
 I don't think that's--

MACY
 --*Bong* urchin!

TAYAN
 Come on, kids. A little help here?

DYLAN
 At Los Alamos, you know before
 Hiroshima...?

(MORE)

DYLAN (CONT'D)

...Urchin was the code name for the internal neutron initiator for atomic bombs.

SYBIL

Buzz kill, little brother.

DYLAN

Well... then there's sea urchins?

As the girls dissolve in laughter, Tayan grabs a laptop off the counter, walking out of the room.

MACY

Hey, I need that, Mom!

TAYAN

No you don't.

INT. WILLET HOME - MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tayan sits in bed with the laptop, peruses.

ON LAPTOP: Urchin - WWII Los Alamos, plutonium atomic bombs.

TAYAN

I'm trying, Macy, but no doubt it will never be to your satisfaction!

INT. WILLET HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Macy, Jonah and Tayan at the kitchen table with breakfast.

TAYAN

How does Dylan know so much?

MACY

Nerd?

TAYAN

I think his idea on Los Alamos is the closest for my "snooping."

MACY

Really! What do you know?

TAYAN

Jonah, when will you have the results from the creek water back?

MACY

Mom! Just tell us what this means!

JONAH

Who knows on the water, but I still need to talk to your boss regarding permits for the mine.

TAYAN

Oh. ... Oh yeah. Your call.

Tayan winks at Jonah, who can't hide a lascivious grin.

MACY

Mom! Did you learn something--

TAYAN

--I'm not sure, but let me look some more. Be patient?

Macy jumps up and wraps Tayan in an embrace. Tayan loves it.

INT. ERATH MINE COMPANY - TAYAN'S WORK AREA - DAY

Tayan works at her desk. Fletcher buttons his suit coat as he steps out of his office, locks the door.

FLETCHER

I'm off to Oregon. I'll be back day after tomorrow.

TAYAN

Sir, my daughter needs my help. Can I take a personal day tomorrow?

Fletcher stares grudgingly at her.

FLETCHER

Always about your daughter, huh?
(off Tayan's discomfort)
... Okay. Only because I'm gone!

Tayan watches the elevator take him away, pulls a key out of her desk, unlocks the door to his office.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - LUNCH ROOM - DAY

Crowded, loud. Sybil and Macy sit at a table by themselves.

MACY

I wish you'd been with us yesterday. Piyan never falls for Mom's bullshit like dad does.

SYBIL

Well, you know... like men have one thing they want and they'll like--

MACY

(snorts derisively)
--For sure! She has my dad under some kinda spell. It's stupid. Ya think Dylan will grow up like that?

SYBIL

I'm not gonna let him.

A SPLAT sound. Macy jerks unexpectedly. LAUGHTER behind her.

She stands. A glob of catsup drips from her waist and down the back of her jeans. Lots of KIDS point and laugh.

ANASTASIA

Macy Willet started her period!

INT. ERATH MINE COMPANY - FLETCHER'S OFFICE - DAY

Appointed like a CEO's office should be. Tayan sneaks in, "nervous" her middle name.

Watching that no one comes in, she digs a key out of a pencil holder and unlocks a lower file drawer in Fletcher's desk.

Riffling through files...

A FILE: "Urchin." Her mouth drops open at her luck.

She pulls a few papers out and takes pics with her phone.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Tayan?

Tayan stuffs the papers back... BUT one is sticking up out of the top of the file.

TAYAN

Lunchtime already? Coming.

She hurriedly locks the desk drawer, drops the drawer key in the pencil holder.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY

At a sink, Macy, in bra and panties scrubs ketchup off her jeans as Sybil dries her shirt under the wall hand dryer. A door stop is stuck under the closed door.

POUND. POUND.

GIRL (O.S.)
Open the door!

MACY
The assembly is in five fucking
minutes. No way I'll win. Why
should I even go?

SYBIL
When have you ever given up?

The door stop gives way and a GIRL runs in and straight into
a stall. From the stall, sounds of pee and a SIGH of relief.

MACY
I'm gonna pay Anastasia Brown back.
I don't know how, but I will.

GIRL (O.S.)
Yeah, right.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Macy and Anastasia, separated by other STUDENTS running in the elections, sit on the front row of bleachers that are jammed full of raucous teenagers.

Macy swivels and spots Sybil a few rows behind her. Sybil crosses the first fingers of both hands in a good luck sign. Macy scoffs.

The principal opens an envelope.

PRINCIPAL

And now the penultimate of the
Junior Class races. ... The
position of President goes to...
Anastasia Brown!

Everyone on the front row jumps up and surrounds Anastasia as Macy slips out a side door.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Macy grabs her backpack out of her locker, runs toward exit doors as kids are leaving the auditorium.

Sybil exits the auditorium, spies Macy's escape, runs after.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Not many PATRONS after the lunch rush. Sybil and Macy sit at a table in the back, Macy not happy.

MACY

I fuck up everything.

Someone approaches the table. Without looking up...

MACY (CONT'D)

No, that seat is not available.

TAYAN (O.S.)

I am so tired of getting calls from
the school. What am I gonna do with
you?

MACY

Leave me alone?

INT./EXT. JEEP (TRAVELING) - DAY

The Jeep climbs the grade to Puwagat's.

TAYAN

I told them you came down with a stomach flu and will be out of school for a couple days.

Macy blinks, momentarily happy. Tayan dials her cell.

TAYAN (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

I'm dropping Macy off with Piyan. Our time, just you and me, babe.

She makes kissy noises in the phone and hangs up. Macy's disgusted again.

INT. PUWAGAT'S HOME - DAY

Tayan faces Puwagat in defiance.

TAYAN

I am *not* staying. Jonah is expecting me.

PUWAGAT

Your daughter needs you more than your husband does at this moment.

Tayan pouts. Puwagat hands them leather tunics.

LATER

Macy, Tayan and Puwagat stand in fringed leather tunics, everyone's hair in braids.

Tayan and Puwagat's faces have red paint and black lines of ceremony on their chins, foreheads and cheeks. Puwagat applies the same paint on Macy's face.

CHUG from Sybil's car outside. Macy's face lights up.

EXT. PUWAGAT'S HOME - DAY

All four, Sybil in full garb too, stroll to a teepee -- an inverted cone of animal skins wrapped around stout poles.

PUWAGAT

Salute the sun. It will be three days before you see it again.

Sybil looks startled, starts to protest...

TAYAN

No, Piyan, we leave tomorrow evening.

Sybil looks relieved while Puwagat and Macy both glare at Tayan. Puwagat turns and enters the teepee door flap.

INT. TEEPEE - DAY

A fire burns, rocks in the fire glow red hot. Longstride and two Native American WOMEN, sit on the ground around the fire, make room for Puwagat, Macy, Sybil and Tayan.

PUWAGAT

I request my daughter and granddaughter be first sweat guests as they must depart tomorrow night.

The three nod, watch Sybil with interest and distrust.

Longstride pours water on the red stones and the teepee fills with steam.

Puwagat starts to chant. All but Tayan join in.

MONTAGE: SUN SETS, MOON RISES AND SETS, SUN RISES, MOVES ACROSS SKY

INT. TEEPEE - DAY

Red faces, pouring sweat. All seven are silent.

Puwagat starts a new chant. Everyone joins in, but as Macy starts to chant, she SCREECHES.

All hush and watch her intently.

Macy stares into space.

She ducks, almost prone on the floor, throws her arms widely.

MACY

No! No! Don't take my dad!

Tayan reaches for Macy, but Puwagat stops her. Macy eventually stops flailing.

PUWAGAT

You must tell us, granddaughter.

MACY
 (distressed)
*Oooo... His wing span -- straight
 at me! ... What does it mean?*

PUWAGAT
Where did he go?

MACY
I couldn't find him... after.

Puwagat exchanges glances with the Natives.

PUWAGAT
*You must remain strong. You are
 strong.*

Tayan jumps up in protest.

TAYAN
This is stupid!

PUWAGAT
*Daughter, sit! There is only one
 source of stupid in this room.*

Tayan looks chastised and then irritated. She sits.

Macy turns to Tayan, face full of sorrow, leans into her.

MACY
 What if Daddy dies?

TAYAN
 No. Nothing's gonna happen.

Macy clings to Tayan, mumbles into her chest.

MACY
 Nobody wanted me as President.

Tayan lifts Macy's chin, glances at Sybil.

TAYAN
 I bet Sybil did.

SYBIL
 Lots of us did!

MACY
 (to Sybil)
 You're the only one who doesn't
 hate me. Everyone hates me. I fuck
 up constantly.

TAYAN

Oh baby, you're Macy. One of a kind. They're just jealous.

Macy smiles at Tayan -- who then expresses remorse...

TAYAN (CONT'D)

I uh... I expect things from you that you can't give. It's unfair.

As they hold each other, Macy's mouth drops open, a SCREAM starts. In the steam rising from the rocks...

MACY'S POV: A serpent rises, coils and flicks its tongue.

Macy can't stop SCREAMING and shaking! Longstride carefully observes.

Eventually she is quiet.

LONGSTRIDE

That is fear of evil.

EXT. TEEPEE - NIGHT

Macy shivers in the dark night.

Tayan runs out of the teepee, wraps a blanket around Macy, helps her into the Jeep.

Puwagat walks to the passenger window as Longstride emerges.

Puwagat hands Macy a small leather pouch, pats Macy's hand.

PUWAGAT

Keep with you always.

Tayan and Macy drive away as Sybil peeks out the teepee flap, unsure of what to do.

LONGSTRIDE

Our people need to be warned. Soon.
(off Puwagat's nod)
I fear for many lives.

INT. WILLET HOME - NIGHT

Tayan lights the gas stove, Macy at her side. Macy stares at the flames, freezes, then falls to her knees.

VISION: Flames engulfing the kitchen!

MACY

Noooooooooo!

Tayan lifts her, hugs her as Macy's eyes plead for closeness.

TAYAN

Maybe you should go to bed.

Macy shakes her head and follows Tayan as she walks across to the fridge. Macy clings to her.

TAYAN (CONT'D)

Honey, I need to tend to dinner.

Macy reluctantly releases her. Jonah watches in ignorant fondness from the kitchen table, smiles softly.

LATER

Jonah snoozes in his lounger. Tayan and Macy on a couch, Macy sound asleep slouched against Tayan.

Tayan gently lays Macy down, covers her with a throw, picks up the laptop and slips out of the room.

INT. WILLET HOME - MAIN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tayan transfers pictures she took of the "Urchin" file from her phone to the laptop.

She opens her email, but her eyes droop and she falls asleep on top of the covers.

EXT. WILLET HOMESTEAD - DAY

Jonah rides Bandit out of the barn. Tayan climbs in the Jeep.

Macy wanders out the front door of the house. Jonah slips his boot out of a stirrup, but Macy's not looking at him.

JONAH

Macy?

She glances at him and pulls herself up, hugs him, but as Tayan's putting the Jeep in gear...

MACY

Wait, Mom!

Runs and hugs her, then gets in Sybil's car. Tayan watches Macy, tears in her eyes.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Macy and Sybil walk down the hall, books in hand.

BOY (O.S.)
Loser, loser, --

Macy's oblivious. Sybil spins, an inch from the BOY's face...

SYBIL
--Mind your own life. ... Loser.

INT. ERATH MINING COMPANY - FLETCHER'S OFFICE - DAY

Fletcher pulls the key out of the pencil holder, unlocks the desk drawer.

His attention is immediately drawn to the paper sticking up out of the "Urchin" file. His face turns dark and he stares at his open office door.

INT. ERATH MINING COMPANY - TAYAN'S WORK AREA - DAY

Tayan's busy with papers on her desk. Behind her, Fletcher appears in his doorway, watches her.

FLETCHER
I hope you enjoyed your day off?

Tayan startles, wipes paranoia off her face, turns to him.

TAYAN
Yes, Sir. Thank you for that.

He stares, making her squirm uncomfortably.

TAYAN (CONT'D)
Is everything okay, sir?

FLETCHER
(angry)
You tell me.

Red creeps up her neck, face fills with fear.

TAYAN
I, I uh...

He slams his door. Tayan shakes with fear.

FLETCHER'S OFFICE

With the phone to his ear...

FLETCHER (INTO PHONE)
It MUST happen today. Make it look
accidental. But make it deadly.

Through the phone, SCREECHING protestations can be heard.

FLETCHER (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Who pays you?!

Softer protestations from the phone.

FLETCHER (CONT'D)
Your kids are your problem, not
mine.

INT. WILLET HOME - NIGHT

Macy and Sybil walk in the front door with backpacks. A
CLICKING and CLANKING reverberates from the kitchen area. As
if through pipes. But there's no Tayan in sight.

MACY
Mom? You here? Where's your Jeep?

Macy glances at Sybil in confusion.

MACY (CONT'D)
(self-effacing)
Ha, did I bring home spirits?

Macy reaches in the pantry, pulls out two bags of Cheetos.
The girls sit at the table, chow down as outside the kitchen
window a man runs away across the yard.

Sound of the front door closing, Tayan walks in.

TAYAN
I guess your homework's done, Macy?

Macy hugs Tayan, all sugary sweet, and lies...

MACY
I already did it.

Tayan glances at Sybil's face, which gives away the lie.

SYBIL
(whimpers)
Sorry, Macy. God, I'm so--

Macy turns on Tayan, snarls...

MACY

Loosen up, Mom. Where's nice mom?
Now you're back to being a tyrant?
NO! You're a bully!
(under her breath)
I wish you weren't my mom!

Macy runs to her bedroom.

SYBIL

I'm sorry. I'm... uh, going home.

INT. MCCLINTON HOUSE - NIGHT

Ned runs in the front door as Dylan makes himself small on the sofa. Ned looks around.

NED

Sybil, get out here.

No answer. His face turns to total fear!

NED (CONT'D)

Where's your sister? She wasn't at
the-- She better not be at the
Willet's!

Dylan's eyes are saucers of fear.

DYLAN

Call her. NOW! Get her home.

CHUG offscreen of Sybil's car. Ned jerks the front door open.

NED

Get yur ass in here.

As Sybil creeps in the front door, Ned nabs her keys and phone out of her hands.

Then he snatches Dylan's phone.

NED (CONT'D)

Stay away from that Injun's house!
You're both grounded. DO NOT LEAVE!

SYBIL

What did we do! What--

Ned backhands her face. She covers her left eye, WHIMPERS.
Dylan shrinks into a corner of the room.

EXT. MCCLINTON HOUSE - NIGHT

Sybil climbs out a back window.

She swings into the saddle on Shel-Bitch as Dylan watches from the window, tears streaming down his face.

INT. WILLET HOME - NIGHT

Tayan's assembling meat, onions, garlic, peppers, cutting board, etc as Jonah walks in the front door.

JONAH

Hey, I just got a call on a deer stuck in a fence. Hopefully it'll be a quick one.

He kisses Tayan, nuzzles her neck. She giggles.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Wish I could just stay here.

Tayan playfully pushes him away. When he opens the front door to leave, there's Sybil tying Shel-Bitch to a hitching bar.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Car troubles?

SYBIL

Uh, dad troubles.

Jonah shrugs at her shrug.

Sybil walks in, eye swelling and darkening. Tayan looks surprised to see her.

SYBIL (CONT'D)

Um, is it okay if I stay?

TAYAN

Sure. What happened to your eye!

Sybil puts a self-conscious hand over it as Tayan pulls a bag of peas out of the freezer.

SYBIL

I ran into a door.

TAYAN

A door named Ned? Is Dylan joining us? Wanna text him?

SYBIL

Yeah. Uh, No.

Tayan tries to start the stovetop. It clicks but doesn't ignite. She sniffs at it.

TAYAN

No propane? Humph. The tank's mostly full. ... Hey, gotta run downstairs to check what's up.

INT. WILLET HOME - BASEMENT - NIGHT

A propane gas line runs across a wall and into the ceiling up to the main floor of the house.

Tayan finds the main gas valve switch -- it's shut off!

TAYAN

No way. Why would it be shut off?

She SIGHS and turns the gas line to open.

INT. WILLET HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

As Tayan walks in the room shaking her head...

SYBIL

Can I help with anything, Mrs. Willet?

TAYAN

Wanna set the table?

As Sybil places plates on the table, Tayan lights a burner on the stove range. A huge HISS noise.

Tayan startles. She can't shut it off!

Flames -- too many flames cover the cooktop!

INT. WILLET HOME - MACY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Macy flips through sites on her phone, unhappy, grumbling.

BOOM! From offscreen.

Macy runs out of her room.

EXT. WILLET HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The area around the stove is engulfed in flames.

Tayan and Sybil are both unconscious on the floor -- Tayan close to the stove, Sybil a few feet further away.

Macy SCREAMS!

She grabs the fire extinguisher out of the pantry. She can't get the pin out -- fuck!

She starts coughing. Coughs and coughs.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

EXT. WILLET HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Macy ducks down low to the ground and grabs the extinguisher pin with her teeth, pulls. She douses the kitchen area.

Flames out, but plenty of black smoke.

Sybil coughs, coming to and starts to crawl. Macy drags Tayan out the back door.

She runs back in, lifts Sybil to her feet and runs her out.

EXT. WILLET HOME - NIGHT

Sybil collapses to the ground as Macy checks her pockets for her cell. But she doesn't have it!

Macy crawls to Tayan, rocks her in her arms as Sybil stares up into the night.

MACY

Sybil, give me your phone.

SYBIL

My dad has it.

Macy gently lies Tayan down, opens the back door -- a cloud of noxious smoke surrounds her and she coughs.

No way can she can go back in there.

When she turns back around, Jonah is leaning over Tayan, trying to wake her.

MACY

Help me, Dad. Let's get them in the Jeep and to the hospital.

But Jonah is in shock, just collapses next to Tayan.

MACY (CONT'D)

Dad!

She punches him in the shoulder -- did he even feel that?

She snatches Jonah's Satellite phone out of its holster, but leans over and vomits. Seems like endlessly.

Finally, she dials the phone.

MACY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Help! Uh, Uh. Willet house! Fire.
But it's out.
(listens)
We're on the way to Heber General
Hospital. Send an ambulance. I'll
meet them.

Macy listens more, scowls and hangs up.

MACY (CONT'D)
Dad! JONAH WILLET! Pick up your
wife! Back of Jeep.

Jonah obeys robotically.

Macy helps Sybil to her feet, walks her to the front
passenger seat.

Then makes sure Jonah and Tayan are secure in the back. Macy
jumps in the driver's seat.

INT./EXT. JEEP (TRAVELING) - NIGHT

Macy glances nervously in the rearview mirror.

MACY
How's she doing, Dad?

Jonah just strokes Tayan's hair, doesn't look up.

Way down the road, emergency lights bounce off massive trees
surrounding the road.

Now the ambulance is visible, coming toward them on the two
lane black top. Macy slams on the brakes, flips on the
emergency flashers and jumps out of the Jeep.

In the headlamps, Macy waves her arms, SCREAMS.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Macy helps Sybil onto a gurney as EMTs push Tayan on a
gurney, loading her into the ambulance.

Jonah tries to step in the ambulance, but an EMT shakes his
head, points back at the Jeep.

Macy hurries over, grabs Jonah's arm, steers him to the Jeep.

She opens the passenger door in front, but he ignores it and
climbs into the back seat.

INT./EXT. JEEP (TRAVELING) - NIGHT

Macy follows the ambulance, dials Jonah's Sat phone.

MACY (INTO PHONE)
 (voice shaking)
 Piyan, Mama's hurt real bad. We
 need you. Heber General. Hurry!

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

A few war-torn INDIVIDUALS huddle against their own demons.
 Macy paces as Jonah sits with a blank stare.

Macy halts mid-step in front of Jonah.

MACY
 You should have been there!

JONAH
 (monotone)
 There wasn't a deer.

MACY
 OMG! Who gives a fuck! And why do
 you smell like beer?

Jonah hangs his head.

DR MALLOW walks in through a side door, dreading this moment.

He spots Jonah, SIGHS. Then he spots Macy and almost leaves,
 but braces himself.

Macy bounds to him.

MACY (CONT'D)
 Tell--
 (seeing the truth)
 Nooooo! Nooooo!

She falls to her knees. Dr Mallow kneels next to her, holds
 her as Jonah stares into space.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Clerical PERSONS behind a counter. An ATTENDANT holds a phone
 out to Macy.

ATTENDANT
 The Coroner has a couple questions.

As Macy listens, her knees give out, she slides to the floor.

The attendant rolls a chair and helps her sit as everyone in the room looks glum.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Macy walks back into the room, sits next to Jonah. A WOMAN and her young SON sit behind Jonah.

MACY

Dad, we need to plan what we'll do for Mom's funeral. I think on the res? The correct way?

Jonah's brow creases but he's silent.

The woman's eyes grow huge and sad. She takes her son's hand and moves across the room to other chairs.

When Macy looks up, Puwagat stands in a doorway, assesses all immediately, tears in her eyes.

She sits next to Macy, holds her close.

MACY (CONT'D)

I fought with her! Again! If I hadn't been such a greedy fuck, I could have saved her.

Puwagat watches Macy's anguish in silence as a NURSE approaches.

NURSE

We've been trying to contact Sybil's family... Do you know where...

JONAH

(monotone)

Ned McClinton's at Mountain Bar.

Macy turns at Jonah with pure venom.

INT. HOSPITAL - ICU - NIGHT

Deep of night. Several beds in a circular pattern around the nursing station.

Macy tiptoes to Sybil's bed where she's hooked to IVs, oxygen mask and continuous BP cuff etc.

Sybil appears to be asleep... But as soon as Macy reaches her bedside Sybil's eyes pop open, whites surrounding in fear.

SYBIL

He was there. Those sounds...

Macy takes her hand.

MACY

My dad?

SYBIL

No... Take care of Dylan.

With super human strength Sybil squeezes Macy's hand -- Macy squinches in pain, makes an effort to not remove her hand.

Then Sybil slips into a smoke induced coma.

MACY

Sybil? Where is Dylan?

Sybil's eyes roll back. She's non responsive, hand slack.

MACY (CONT'D)

Help!

Macy runs to the nurse's station as a DOCTOR runs into Sybil's bay.

Macy stands there helpless, wringing her hands, staring into Sybil's bay as...

Ned and Dylan step off the elevator. Dylan runs to Macy, wraps his arms around her, crying.

Ned scowls at Macy, marches to Sybil's bay, but is stopped by a formidable NURSE. Ned turns to Macy.

NED

What did you do to my daughter?!
Stay away from her, half-breed!

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone in the room appears to be asleep. In random positions of discomfort, including Puwagat.

Except Jonah, who stares blankly into space. Macy slips into the room and slumps next to him.

MACY

Daddy. Daddy! Please!

When he doesn't respond, Macy folds her body forward, becoming as small as she can make herself.

Strong hands rub her shoulders. She looks up into Puwagat's wise face.

PUWAGAT

We will survive. Tayan deserves our wholeness, so she may move on.

EXT. PUWAGAT'S HOME - DAY

Trek from the back of Puwagat's home, across the quiet yard and up a hillside.

Wander on a path through dense trees, a quietness descends -- the kind that can lead to healing. Open onto a clearing...

A funeral pyre burns -- on an elevated wood stage, Tayan's body wrapped in beautifully woven blankets, is slowly engulfed in the flames.

Many Native American MOURNERS, including Longstride, view with reverence.

Jonah loses his footing, slumps against a tree, blank.

Puwagat gently turns Macy straight toward the pyre, away from sight of her weak father.

PUWAGAT

You are Epicenter of the family.

Wild eyed, Macy glances at Puwagat, who points at the pyre.

PUWAGAT (CONT'D)

Watch, child.

(off Macy's panic)

Breathe with me.

They both breathe deeply, calm descending.

MACY

Will I see her spirit fly?

PUWAGAT

From all evidence, you have the ability. The choice is yours.

Macy blinks, takes on the challenge, squares her shoulders.

A long silent moment as Macy's breath evens, a meditative state.

Macy's face lights!

MACY'S POV: An ethereal swirling mass ascends from the smoke, appears to wave -- a hopeful and loving wave.

Puwagat looks to Macy -- ah, yes. Puwagat smiles, satisfied.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Macy marches down the crowded hallway. The mass of STUDENTS part like the Red Sea, stepping far enough back to avoid any contact with Macy.

Even Anastasia backs away.

On Macy's locker are taped condolence cards.

Macy looks confused, opens one, then rips them all off, dropping them on the floor.

Macy pulls books out of her locker, slams it shut.

As she walks down the hall to a classroom, kids are losing interest. Some even sneer at her.

STUDENT

Dumb Injun.

Jeremy shoves his shoulder into the BOY who said that, knocking him off balance.

He catches up with Macy, walks beside her, but at a respectable distance.

JEREMY

Macy, I'm so... uh sorry.

She ignores him. Deep and sorrowfully he whispers...

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I know it doesn't help. Nothing can, right?

Macy glances sideways at him while still walking.

She sees the bone deep hurt on his face. Without breaking stride, she weakly whispers to him...

MACY

Thank you.

Meantime, back down the hall, all eyes flit from Anastasia to Jeremy as Anastasia seethes with jealousy.

INT. WILLET HOME - MACY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Macy sits on the bed Partner asleep at her side, reads a text book, jots notes. Earbuds play music she taps her foot to.

She jumps out of the bed, runs in place, drops to the ground, drills some push-ups, wipes tears from her eyes.

She slumps back onto the bed, hugs Partner till he WHINES.

Her window inches up. A breeze catches the curtains, billows them inward, Macy's oblivious. A small figurine on the window sill tumbles to the floor -- catches Macy's attention.

Face full of fear even as Partner is calm, just as...

Dylan's torso squeezes through the window, tumbles to the floor.

MACY

Way to scare the fuck outta me! Why not just knock on the front door?

DYLAN

I did! Where's your dad?

MACY

La-la land.

DYLAN

Can I sleep here?

Macy scowls, but then pulls blankets off a shelf, makes a pallet on the floor, throws one of her pillows at him.

MACY

Ya hungry?

(off his nod)

Let's go raid the fridge.

(shaking her head)

Well... the one in the basement.

There's ice cream.

LATER

Dylan is sound asleep on the pallet. Macy turns off her bedside lamp, watches him in the dim light from the moon coming in the window.

She grabs her pillow, slips out of bed, lays down next to him and spoons. Partner spoons her.

INT. WILLET HOME - GREAT ROOM - DAY

A curtain of heavy plastic mostly hides the black ravages of fire that obliterated the kitchen.

A makeshift kitchen has been established on the dining table. A coffee pot GLUGS last drops of black gold into the carafe.

Macy and Dylan stumble in. Macy pours herself a cup.

DYLAN

Can I have some?

MACY

(put out)

No!

Jonah pours himself a cup, collapses on the couch where Puwagat reads a newspaper.

MACY (CONT'D)

Dad, when does the insurance company come out so we can have a kitchen?

Jonah looks at her, but doesn't answer.

PUWAGAT

Macy, as center of the family, your duties have expanded.

Macy's shoulders fall. She breathes deeply, then nods.

PUWAGAT (CONT'D)

Jonah. This selfishness will not bring her back. You will lose your daughter if you do not pull yourself together.

He blinks but still no awakening.

PUWAGAT (CONT'D)

Ponder this and answer me when you have joined your soul once again.
(snapping fingers at him)
Have you heard tell of missing or very ill Ute men that work at the Erath Mine? Men of the *green* team?

No response from Jonah, but Macy is intensely interested.

MACY

Piyan, I want to know.

Dylan sits next to Macy, just as intent.

PUWAGAT

Ah, our flower blossoms. Most of the men who work at the mine are from the Timpanogots band, a few Uintah. The counsel informs me that four Timpanogot men have fallen ill, two have lost their lives. Three Uintahs are severely ill.

MACY

What does your Uinta Indian Counsel plan to do about all this?

PUWAGAT

Our counsel, my granddaughter.

Macy blinks at this inclusion.

PUWAGAT (CONT'D)

I will take you and your questions.

MACY

Thank you, Piyan.

DYLAN

Can I go?

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Macy walks swiftly to her locker just as a jock-looking BOY is taping another condolence letter.

Macy pushes past him, begins to tear it off, but her hand sticks to the envelope covered with Crazy Glue.

The boy can't suppress his laughter. Macy spins at him.

MACY

Why? What possible satisfaction do you get from this?

He doubles over with laughter.

Macy waits patiently until he straightens to walk away.

MACY (CONT'D)

Hey, douche-balls.

He turns to her with a sour look.

She punches him straight upward and square into his nose.

CRUNCH. He screams as blood gushes from his nose. Macy steps back to avoid the spray.

She peels what she can of the letter off her hand, throws it in his face.

MACY (CONT'D)
Here, wipe with that.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Macy sits across from the Principal, picks at Crazy Glue.

PRINCIPAL
I hate doing this to you, but we have a zero tolerance policy.
(off Macy's shrug)
Macy? Why don't you care? This is not helping your cause.

MACY
(sarcastic)
EVERY PERSON MATTERS? That cause? Tell them that.

KNOCK. KNOCK. Jonah stands in the doorway. Macy bounds up.

MACY (CONT'D)
Let's go, Dad.

PRINCIPAL
Sign these papers, Mr Willet.

He does so without reading.

INT. HEBER CITY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

As Jonah and Macy walk down the hall, KIDS including Anastasia stiffler laughs.

Jeremy walks straight at Macy and slips a piece of paper into her hand.

INT. WILLET HOME - NIGHT

The house is dark. And super quiet, like everyone is in bed.

Except for some low whispers. Jeremy and Macy, in her PJs, sit on the sofa facing each other.

JEREMY

She was really fun when we were first together.

MACY

Yeah, but fun and nice?

JEREMY

She was nice. At least to me. At least at first. I guess it took me a while to see she's nice when she wants something.

MACY

Like dating the prime jock in school?

(off Jeremy's scoff)

And now she owns you. I get it. Hell, whole tribes get it.

Jeremy looks appropriately shamed.

MACY (CONT'D)

Hey, that wasn't directed at you. You're like the only person who... you know.

(quietly and sadly)

Other than Sybil.

An awkward silence.

JEREMY

Where did you learn to punch like that?

MACY

(like it's obvious)

By watching Ali. How does anyone?

Jeremy laughs out loud. Macy SHHs him.

He moves his arm across the back of the couch and rests it on her shoulder.

She smiles at him and slides his hand inside her shirt. She arches her back, eyes hungry.

He starts to resist, but shit he's seventeen, seriously?

Macy scoots close to him and they kiss. Macy keeps her MOAN to a low level.

Their kisses turn to devouring each other.

Macy fumbles with his zipper, but she can't really concentrate as his hand is busy inside her PJ bottoms.

He pulls her top up, SIGHS in heaven, suckles. Hooks a toe in her PJ bottoms and slides them off as he's unzipping his jeans and pushing them down.

Just as he's hovering over Macy ready to penetrate...

The lights switch on.

JONAH
Macy Jane Willet!

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

INT. WILLET HOME - DAY

Jonah pours himself a cup of coffee as Macy stumbles into the room, not ready for prime time.

JONAH

Sit.

He pours her a cup and sits near her -- she looks properly frightened.

JONAH (CONT'D)

I am not giving you permission. ...
But don't ever do that again unless
you use one of these.

He hands her a few condoms.

Macy almost starts crying. She falls into Jonah's arms.

MACY

Oh, Daddy. I love you. I'm glad
you're back. Ya know... my dad!

Tears stream down Jonah's face, just as Dylan walks in the room. Jonah unabashedly wipes his face.

JONAH

Do you ever go home, Dylan?

DYLAN

Please don't make me. I don't
have...

MACY

He needs Sybil to keep him safe,
Dad. Please, Dad!

Jonah's jaw sets hard.

JONAH

I'm sorry that's the case, Dylan,
but the law's the law. Get yourself
ready and I'll take you to school.
Then you must go to your real home
tonight. You got that?

Dylan can't answer, he's so upset.

Jonah walks over, an arm around Dylan's shoulders.

JONAH (CONT'D)
 Let's both go get ready.
 (conspiratorially)
 Leave Macy to consider how she's
 not ever gonna get suspended again.

As he and Dylan leave the room, Macy plops on the sofa,
 switches on the TV.

KNOCK. KNOCK. On the front door.

Macy opens the door and Ned saunters in the room.

NED
 (not good at all)
 Hey, Macy. Good to see ya.

Macy slowly backs, not sure what's happening.

NED (CONT'D)
 Hey, it's cool. I'm real sorry
 about your mom. Right?

Macy nods. She wraps her hand around a hand-carved wood
 statue -- a lousy weapon for sure.

NED (CONT'D)
 Your mom was a real sweet lady,
 always helping out. Knew all the
 gossip around town, working at the
 Mining Company, ya know?

Now Macy's confused.

NED (CONT'D)
 She ever talk about mine stuff to
 you?

Shrugging, Macy makes a what's-wrong-with-you face at him.

NED (CONT'D)
 (low and mean)
 Don't you look at me that way.
 Sybil teach you that?

Macy's really getting scared.

MACY
 (super LOUD)
 I think you need to leave right
 now, Mr McClinton!

Jonah appears in the doorway, inserts himself protectively in
 front of Macy.

NED

Where is the little piece of shit?
I know you're hiding him, Willet.

Jonah stomps straight up to Ned.

JONAH

Is Dylan safe at home with you?

NED

That is none of your goddam
business.

JONAH

Get out of my house. In fact get
off my property. Macy, go get my
rifle.

Ned backs out the front door.

NED

(hollers)

Dylan. You hear that? You're not
safe here.

From the front door, Jonah watches until Ned has driven down
the road.

JONAH

You're coming to work with me,
Macy.

Puwagat, with a rifle over one arm stands with Dylan,
watching from a doorway.

MACY

I can stay here with Piyan. I'll
lock the doors and keep my phone
with me.

(crooked grin)

And Piyan's a better shot than even
you.

INT. WILLET HOME - DAY

Later in the day, Macy holds her phone to her ear, pulls back
the plastic from the kitchen area, ganders in.

MACY (INTO PHONE)

Yeah, I'm here all day. The quicker
we can get an estimate, the better.

Macy tidies coffee cups, tosses pizza boxes and paper plates.

PUWAGAT

*You no longer need me,
Granddaughter. I will go home.*

MACY

But I'll be all by myself!

PUWAGAT

*As you should be. Use the time to
contemplate on your deeds.*

Macy's shoulders fall with shame.

MACY

Why am I so bad, Piyon?

PUWAGAT

*Your spirit has not found its true
purpose yet. But you have a gift
that few will ever possess.*

MACY

*That's crazy. I'm a fuck-up! I mess
up everyone's life.*

PUWAGAT

*Self-pity is uglier than your
selfish acts.*

MACY

That's not nice, Piyon!

PUWAGAT

*Why do you believe you need nice? I
was nice to your mother when she
was young and she shunned her gifts
that could have helped our people.*

That stops Macy dead in her tracks, she stares at Puwagat.

MACY

Mom had gifts?

PUWAGAT

*Now you must make up for what she
threw away. Get dressed.*

EXT. ROAD - DAY

An ancient Ford Ranger pickup drives up a steep gravel road.

Parks beside other seen-better-days vehicles parked
haphazardly in a field.

Puwagat and Macy emerge, walk toward an old church that needs a coat of paint.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

NATIVE AMERICANS sit scattered in pews. As Macy and Puwagat walk in the front doors, Puwagat takes Macy's hand.

They move to the front stage, where an aging Native American MAN reads from a program.

He looks up at Puwagat.

MAN

*Here is our great Puwagat Kaav,
Medicine Woman on the Mountain who
called this meeting.*

Macy tries not to walk up on the stage, but Puwagat keeps her hand, forces her on stage.

They stand behind the podium.

PUWAGAT

*My granddaughter, Macy Willet
earned her Ute name in her first
sweat.*

Longstride stands from a front pew.

LONGSTRIDE

She is Vision Keeper.

Macy looks as stunned as the crowd does.

Many AAHs of approval sound out.

MACY

*(low to Puwagat)
Piyon, what is this?*

PUWAGAT

*Though she may be young, her power
surpasses her years. With Vision
Keeper's gifts, we can once again
set about making our voices heard.*

Many persons in the room nod, CHATTER builds as Macy stands mute and in shock at Puwagat's words. A WOMAN in the audience speaks up.

WOMAN

*Vision Keeper, my husband is ill
after working in the green tunnel
of the mine.*

Macy's petrified to speak, but everyone still waits...

MACY

*(rambling, at a loss)
Um, my mother worked at the mining
company. Clerical. But she died
also. She didn't talk about the
mine that much...*

A MAN jumps up, shouts...

MAN

*The serpent was seen in the bowels
of the Erath Mine!*

Macy freezes! She shakes and murmurs...

MACY

That snake...

She turns to Puwagat -- panicked!

MACY (CONT'D)

*(whisper)
Puwagat, take me home. Please?!*

As Macy runs out of the building, Longstride follows.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

By Puwagat's pickup, Macy rocks on her heels, shivers.

LONGSTRIDE

*Vision Keeper, did you see a
serpent in the flames at the sweat?*

MACY

But why? Why did I see a snake?

PUWAGAT

*Wrong question. Ask how your powers
can and must facilitate ridding our
people of the evil.*

INT./EXT. FORD RANGER (TRAVELING) - DAY

The sun is setting as they drive away from the church.

Macy shivers as Puwagat drives.

PUWAGAT

The Vision Keeper has seen the serpent. Evil is in full attack.

MACY

It is evil -- I agree. And the evil may have a spiritual aspect. But, Piyan! There has to be a physical form of danger! Maybe something in the mine?

Piyan remains silent thinking, finally responds.

PUWAGAT

You must not forsake the spiritual. We will not survive.

EXT. WILLET HOME - NIGHT

The Jeep is parked in front.

Macy slowly climbs out of the Ranger, watches as Piyan drives away.

INT. WILLET HOME - GREAT ROOM - NIGHT

Jonah sits on the sofa with Dylan, who is crying.

Macy slips in the front door, freezes.

MACY

Oh no! Is Sybil okay?!

JONAH

There's been no change for Sybil but Dylan's dad has disappeared.

MACY

Well, fuck -- good news.

Dylan cries even harder.

JONAH

Seriously. Keys, vehicle, phone, wallet. In the wind.

Macy sits next to them.

MACY

I'm sorry, Dylan. We're here for you.

DYLAN

But they'll take me away. Like Foster Care.

MACY

No they will not!! Dad, we can get that stopped, right? We'll adopt you, Dylan!

Jonah looks at Macy like she's lost her marbles.

JONAH

Macy, you have no idea--

Macy bounds up, towers over him.

MACY

--NO! Don't say that!

Jonah blinks and goes silent.

MACY (CONT'D)

CPS! Right, that's who we call? That's who let's us keep Dylan. I'll figure it all out, but you're the legal adult in the room, Dad, so I'll hand you the phone. Got it!

She stares daggers at Jonah, who nods.

INT. WILLET HOME - MACY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dylan and Partner sleep on the pallet on the floor.

Macy peruses Tayan's folders of pics of family trips - she laughs and her eyes mist over as she touches pics of Tayan.

She wipes tears, forces determination.

She does a search on the laptop for "Urchin."

A folder appears, but it's password protected. Macy enters her birthday and it opens.

MACY

So secure, Mom.
(shoulders fall in grief)
Mama...

She forces her attention back to the laptop.

She opens the "Urchin" folder: In it are two pics Tayan took of papers in Fletcher's file drawer: a bill of lading at Coos Bay, Oregon for an unspecified "ore"; a formal order from Bulgarian Traders for 1000 tons of said "ore."

MACY (CONT'D)

What does this mean? And what the fuck does it have to do with "Urchin"?

Dylan grumbles and turns over.

There's also a document in the folder: "Research Info"

She clicks on a link in that doc called "Urchin."

ON HER LAPTOP: A reference to Los Alamos and a picture of a crude Atomic bomb circa WWII and pages of scientific gobbledygook.

MACY (CONT'D)

Dylan! Up!

Dylan pops to standing, rubs his eyes.

MACY (CONT'D)

Do atomic bombs use Molybdenum?

DYLAN

No.

But he plops beside her, gazing at the Los Alamos site.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

See... it's beryllium surrounding plutonium. If the mine has plutonium... that would kill fish. If we had a sample from the mine...

Macy rubs a knuckle in Dylan's scalp.

MACY

Smarty! ... But how does that help us unless we can test the sample?

DYLAN

Chemistry lab at the high school? If you're ever not suspended.

He jumps out of her reach.

INT./EXT. JEEP (TRAVELING) - NIGHT

The dead of night, a new moon provides little light.

Macy, dressed in all black, eases the Jeep up a blacktop road, passes the sign with the circular label:

"THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UINTA MOUNTAINS, UTE TRIBE, UTAH"

She shuts off the headlamps and turns onto the smaller road with the sign:

"ENTERING UTE TERRITORY
ERATH MINE ACCESS"

A hundred yards from the mine entrance she parks the Jeep in a clump of firs.

She places a facetime call on her cell and whispers...

MACY (INTO PHONE)
Okay, I'm fixing to enter the mine.

DYLAN (FROM PHONE)
Macy, stop. I'm scared.

MACY (INTO PHONE)
I'm putting you on mute, baby-baby.

EXT. ERATH MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

On foot, she sneaks toward the entrance where a Caucasian GUARD stands, plays a BEEPING game on his cell.

Macy picks up a rock and heaves it past the guard.

He jerks his head up as it CLATTERS. He draws his pistol and tip-toes toward the sound.

Macy runs silent as an Indian for the entrance, slips inside.

INT. ERATH MINE - MAIN AREA - NIGHT

Macy hides in a shadow.

A bin by the entrance contains worn gray jumpsuits. Macy nabs one and wiggles into it. It swallows her, but the orange reflective stripe is evident. She adds a hard hat.

She looks like a smaller version of other WORKERS. She smiles into her cell -- Dylan looks petrified.

She spots the neon green taped tunnel and ducks under the tape, pointing her cell camera in front of her.

INT. ERATH MINE - GREEN TUNNEL - NIGHT

Gazing down into the dark, she WHIMPERS with an unseen fear, but stifles it quickly.

She creeps slowly ahead, whispers.

MACY (INTO PHONE)
 Why is this different from other
 areas?
 (reassuring herself)
 It should be easy -- I just need to
 get a sample, right?

A white FOREMAN, someone used to commanding others, climbs toward her. He startles when he sees her.

She turns and runs.

FOREMAN
 Stop!

INT. ERATH MINE - MAIN AREA - NIGHT

Macy barges out of the green tape tunnel, sidles up to a WORKER sorting ore rocks off a conveyor belt.

FOREMAN (O.S.)
 Hey. Stop.

The worker's dark brown eyes take in her face, then view the Foreman scrambling from the green tape tunnel.

The worker hands Macy a rock and inclines his head to a cart. Macy tosses the rock in and accepts another from him.

The foreman scans the room, knows no one will help him.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
 You know the rules! Only green
 stripes can go down the green
 tunnel! Want to keep your jobs?
 Obey the rules!
 (under his breath)
 You pieces of shit.

No worker breaks stride, but everyone heard.

Macy stiffens! But relaxes when the worker next to her, starts a very low CHANT.

The foreman approaches the guard at the entrance, talks loud enough for everyone to hear.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
Make sure no one leaves when they
aren't supposed to. And everyone
must punch out!

The guard nods.

Macy keeps working -- taking gulping breaths, trying to calm herself.

A BELL sounds.

Workers, including the man next to her move toward the exit, shedding jumpsuits and punching out on their timecards.

Macy pockets a small piece of ore, jumps in the line, grabs a random time card.

A WORKER, without saying a word, nabs the timecard out of her hand. Other workers walk past her and exit.

They've all checked out and she's standing there. The guard runs at her, walky-talky out.

GUARD (INTO WALKY-TALKY)
Intruder!

As Macy sprints into one of the mine shafts, the guard pursues.

INT. ERATH MINE - MINE SHAFT - NIGHT

Macy's far ahead of the guard, ducks into a side tunnel. She slips on some loose rock, but steadies herself.

When the guard runs past her, she trips him. He spins at her, swinging his flashlight.

Macy ducks, jumps behind him, knocks him on the head with a rock, grabs the walky-talky.

VOICE (FROM WALKY-TALKY)
Hold him! Almost there.

Macy runs!

EXT. ERATH MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Macy sprints for her Jeep.

Just twenty yards more. The ROAR of a massive truck engine but no lights visible.

Ten yards... She's so close but the truck is moving fast.

Suddenly, she's blinded by five LED cab-roof running lights.

The truck screeches to a halt between her and her Jeep. Dust creates a cloud around her.

She switches directions to run behind the truck...

But... through the driver's window a pistol points at her.

MAN (O.S.)
Drop to the ground. Now.

Macy WHIMPERS and drops.

A giant of a MAN steps from the truck, holds the gun at the back of her skull.

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Ya'd think the lesson about your
Injun mom woulda stuck.

Macy suddenly understands her part in her mother's death.

MACY
Mama...

END OF ACT V

END OF PILOT