

INT. CABIN - DAY (D1)

BECKY enters to find Zane thumbing through stacks of old papers by the fireplace, catching up on several months-worth of news. Zane's face lights up when they see Becky.

ZANE

The world has been...busy. We've got TV stars in the White House and Buckingham Palace?

BECKY

(small smile)
Welcome back.

A beat. Becky wants to talk about Zane's loss, but isn't sure how.

BECKY (CONT'D)

I--at the bait shop, the guy told me--

Zane is unsure why she's so hesitant:

ZANE

(guessing)
He was...out of Funyuns?

BECKY

He told me about your sister.

And there it is. Zane's deepest wound exposed. Zane takes a moment to get gathered, then, covers with a wry smile.

ZANE

Pretty amazing that you can free yourself from the grip of time, but your story... is still your story.

BECKY

I know. Believe me. I know.

Zane's defenses kick in, not mad, but definitive.

ZANE

You don't. You don't know. After Chloe died, my family was ripped apart from the inside out. My parents couldn't even look at each other, and I ran headlong into every bad idea out there...it's been a nightmare.

BECKY

I imagine.

Sensing that Zane is aching to unburden and afraid to do so, she leans in.

BECKY (CONT'D)
You came back here, to this place...
because of Chloe?

ZANE
(nods, then)
My therapist thought I should go up.
Make peace with her death.
(hearing it)
Sounds so stupid.

BECKY
It doesn't.

ZANE
Well, then I'm stupid. Because I
couldn't do it. Just another failure
in my life. I stalled and stalled,
and then the storm hit.

BECKY
And that's when you took shelter in
the cave?

Becky identifies with this pain, more than Zane could know.

ZANE
I was prepared to die in there. But
instead of dying, that cave spit me
back out again. Why? Why me?

BECKY
I don't know Zane, but I think the
calling wants us to go there. Maybe
you'll find answers.

Zane stares at her, wanting to hide, to stay inside the shell of pain. But there is something about Becky that makes her seem trustworthy. Unsure why, Zane says:

ZANE
Okay. Let's go. Let's go back.