

ST. NICK

by David Lowery

SHOOTING DRAFT
Revised 1/24/08

8	<u>EXT. COUNTRY ROAD -- CONTINUOUS</u>	8	*
	They walk down a narrow country road. The sun is beginning to set. They've been walking for a long time. Houses are beginning to appear - they're entering an old, slightly rural neighborhood.		*
9	<u>INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS</u>	9	*
	ECU on THREE BENT NAILS protruding from a door jamb.		*
	In the background, out of focus, the boy and girl enter their new home.		
10	<u>INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - CONTINUOUS</u>	10	
	STATIC SERIES: they walk around the house, exploring the rooms, opening cabinets - all empty - and flipping light switches, none of which work. The girl sets her treasure chest down on the fireplace hearth.		
11	<u>EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- LATER</u>	11	*
	As the light begins to fade, the boy gathers sticks and brush from the yard.		*
12	<u>INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- LATER</u>	12	*
	He sets about lighting a fire with a match and some paper. The fire strikes up and burns famously.		*
13	<u>EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS</u>	13	*
	A few minutes pass. Then, suddenly, the living room windows are pushed open and smoke billows out.		*
14	<u>INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS</u>	14	*
	The house is full of smoke. The boy opens up the doors and windows while the girl covers her mouth with her hands, trying not to breath the fumes.		*
	Soon, all that's left in the house is a dim haze. The boy reaches into the fireplace and opens up the flu. It makes a harsh grating sound, and soot and ash cascade down from the darkness above.		
15	<u>INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- NIGHT</u>	15	*
	Before too long, the sun has set and the house is dark - save for the warm scene before the hearth. The girl sits on her sleeping bag, watching the crackling flames and the sparks drift upwards. The boy is sprawled out on his back beside her.		*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: 15

He throws his hands under his head and shuts his eyes tight.
The girl unlocks her treasure chest and opens it.

16 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- NIGHT 16 *

The hour is late. The house is almost completely dark. All that's left of the fire is a few dull pink embers. A wisp of ashen paper drifts upward in a draft. *

Somewhere outside, an AMBULANCE passes in the night, its siren ringing out. As it passes, all the dogs in the neighborhood let loose and howl. An unsettling, almost terrifying sound.

The boy and girl both awaken. Neither move. They listen to the wailing chorus as it reaches its cacophonous peak and then recedes as the siren grows distant.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the boy as he stares straight ahead, his brow furled. Lost in some dark thought.

FADE TO BLACK. *

17 EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE / NEIGHBORHOOD -- MORNING 17 *

STATIC SERIES of the house and its surroundings. Establishing the geography for the first time. *

At a nearby school, children are playing on the playground.

18 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- MORNING 18 *

The girl stirs in the morning light. She sits up and coughs a deep throaty cough. *

19 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- MORNING 19 *

They lay out their things and take stock of their belongings. *

1. Extra clothes.
2. A frying pan, with twine.
3. A mandolin case, containing a mandolin with no strings.
4. The girl's treasure chest.
5. The sleeping bags.
6. A box of matches.
7. A pocket knife.
8. A big map of some foreign country.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 19

9. A canteen, which the girl shakes the last few drops from.

10. Some spare change, which the boy counts in his hand.

GIRL

I'm hungry.

20 EXT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY 20 *

The boy walks past a line of payphones outside a grocery store and feels in the change receptacle for any spare coins. *

21 EXT. GROCERY STORE -- MOMENTS LATER 21 *

The boy emerges from a dumpster in the back of the store. He's got a loaf of bread, which he sets next to some produce already resting on the edge of the dumpster. *

He dips back down and then emerges once more, this time with a big box of crayons that's been inexplicably discarded.

22 EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAY 22 *

The girl sits at the top of a tall tree, looking out with a telescope on the scenery around her. *

POV TELESCOPE: She catches sight of the boy returning, the spoils of his journey tucked under his arm.

23 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAY 23 *

The boy stands in the kitchen, scraping together some lunch out of the food he's found. Sandwiches and stuff. He smells the ingredients before he uses them. *

The girl walks past, carrying her telescope with her.

The boy sets the food down on the floor and they eat. Ravenously.

The boy looks around as he chews.

BOY

We're gonna have to fix this place up. It ain't much now, but I bet we could make something out of it.

GIRL

It looks like grandma's house.

BOY

No it doesn't. It's only one story for one thing and it's way bigger.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BOY (CONT'D)

(beat)

You know what would be nice? If we could put a window right here...and I think we need to repaint the walls too. Get some furniture in. And we'll need to put some traps up so no one can get in. It's gonna be our, our castle keep. Ain't no grown-ups gonna be allowed in.

He nods to himself.

BOY (CONT'D)

What do you think?

GIRL

Why are you talking like that?

BOY

Like what?

GIRL

Like you're from Texas.

The boy pauses and reflects upon his twang. He takes another bite of food. The girl's finished hers.

GIRL (CONT'D)

I'm still hungry.

BOY

Here, finish mine.

GIRL

It's got your germs on it.

BOY

It's got all sorts of people's germs on it. It came out of the garbage.

24 EXT. BATHROOM -- DAY

24 *

The boy stands in front of the toilet and zips up his pants. He hits the handle, and nothing happens. He jiggles it, but there ain't any running water to flush.

*

He calls out.

BOY

Hey, don't use this bathroom!

25 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- LATER

25 *

STATIC SERIES: all the faucets in the house are dry.

*

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

Boredom sets in.

The girl picks at a scab on her leg.

26 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- EVENING 26 *

Outside the dirty window, night falls. The house sinks into total darkness. *

The sound of a MATCH STRIKING - a flame blooms out of the blackness. Candlelight.

He carries it through the house, looking for his sister. He finds her in one of the rooms, looking at something in her treasure chest.

BOY
What are you looking at?

GIRL
It's a secret.

BOY
Can I see it though?

ALTERNATE (ALSO FOR SCENE 51):

The girl holds up a photo clipped from a magazine.

GIRL
What about this one?

The boy looks at the picture.

BOY
It sort of looks like her.

27 INT. BATHROOM -- EVENING 27 *

The boy stands in front of the mirror and with pliers begins to pull the braces from his teeth. He winces as the brackets pop free, but keeps on tugging nonetheless. *

28 EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- NIGHT 28 *

All is quiet. No sirens, no dogs howling. *

CUT TO BLACK

29 EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- AFTERNOON 29 *

The boy and girl are crouched on the porch. The boy is listening attentively for something... *

(CONTINUED)

GIRL

Is it time yet?

BOY

Shhh. He tilts his head, and then - there it is - a SCHOOL BELL, ringing out from several blocks away, signalling that it's safe to go out.

30 EXT. PARK -- DAY

30 *

The run up to a drinking fountain at the park and rehydrate themselves. Guzzling the weak little jet.

*

Thus replenished...

31 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- CONTINUOUS

31 *

Reverie. The girl runs down the sidewalk exuberantly, laughing, glad to be free. The afternoon sun sparkles through the barren trees.

*

The boy walks more slowly, taking every aspect of his surroundings into account. In front of nearly every house is a pile of trash and old junk, left out for curbside pickup. Couches and chairs and old TVs and desks. All potential furnishings for their house.

BEAT

He passes a YOUNG MOTHER raking leaves in her front yard. A toddler is sitting on her porch, raising hell.

The young woman glances at him as he walks by, and for a split second their eyes meet. He breaks off the contact immediately and moves on, trying to act casual. He pokes around a junk pile one house down, but doesn't linger.

GIRL

Come on!

They continue on. A few blocks down, the boy spots amongst some other refuse an old bicycle that looks hardly the worse for wear, and extricate it from the scrap.

A little kid runs up to them.

LITTLE KID

Hey!

Whatcha doing with that bike?

BOY

Taking it.

He pulls himself out from under the house, carefully pulling something with him. The girl runs over to see what it is.

GIRL
What is it?

She kneels down next to him.

It's a DOG SKELETON. Almost completely intact on a bed of leaves. A puppy or a chihuahua or some other small breed.

GIRL (CONT'D)
Is it a dog?

BOY
I think so.

She leans closer.

GIRL
Can I touch it?

Without waiting for an answer, she reaches out and gingerly touches the decaying bones.

GIRL (CONT'D)
Ew, it's still got its nose.

Indeed, the skeleton's leathery snout is still intact.

BOY
You think we should bury it?

38 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- EVENING

38 *

The dog is now in a cardboard box on the mantle. The girl adjusts its bones. *

GIRL
Remember Max?

BOY
Sure.

GIRL
Think he remembers us?

BOY
No.

GIRL
I bet he does. I'm his favorite.

BOY
Favorite what?

(CONTINUED)

GIRL

He loved me. I could tell.

BOY

Dogs don't think that way. Soon as you're gone more than, like, a week, they forget. He's forgotten all about you by now.

GIRL

No he hasn't.

BOY

It's science. If you came back he'd remember you and forget you were ever gone. But right now you're just an old smell in his brain.

The girl is hurt by this.

GIRL

That's not true.

BOY

It's just the way it works.

GIRL

Maybe for you.

She puts the dog skeleton on the floor and curls up next to it, and touches its little nose.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Where'd you ever learn so much about dogs, anyway?

39 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAY

39 *

In one room, the girl makes a tent out of old sheets and blankets. CAMERA FOLLOWS her as she crawls inside and hides her treasure chest in the recesses of her patchwork cave.

*

40 EXT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY

40 *

The boy is climbing around the dumpster, looking for food, when he hears a delivery truck backing up in the parking lot. He crouches low, peering over the edge of the dumpster, watching as palettes of non-perishables are unloaded by surly delivery men (OFF SCREEN).

*

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 40

Something clicks in his head.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- DAY 41 *

The boy hurries down the street, a box of plastic-wrapped
canned goods in his arms. *

42 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAY 42 *

The boy finishes prying open the lid of the beans with a
knife and pours them into his pan, which he holds over the
fireplace. They begin to sizzle - the handle of the pan heats
up. *

BOY

Ow...

He sets the pan down on some logs, watching as the flames
lick the bottom, stirring the beans with a stick. Thinking.

BOY (CONT'D)

You ever steal anything before?

GIRL

Uh uh.

BOY

I guess it's okay because we're poor
and we don't want to starve. It's
like Robin Hood, right?

GIRL

I guess. What'd you get?

BOY

Just a bunch of beans.

43 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAY 43 *

STATIC SERIES: The cupboards begin to fill up with food. *

STATIC SERIES: Furnishings begin to appear around the house.
A ratty old couch. Some chairs.

ANGLE ON: A makeshift sundial, keeping track of the passage
of time.

44 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAY 44 *

ENNUI sets in. *

CAMERA PUSHES PAST crayon drawings, littering the floor.

(CONTINUED)

The girl is sitting on the floor, bent over a scrap of paper with her crayons. Dust blows about in the sunbeams.

The boy is messing with the mandolin, trying to string it with some old strings.

The boy looks over at the girl's drawing, but doesn't comment. She continues to color away, making hard, deft lines.

After a few moments, the drawing moves of its own accord.

45 EXT. STREET -- DAY

45 *

The boy walks down the side of a busy road. Shuffling his feet in the grass. He kicks something - A MAGAZINE - and then stops to pick it up.

*

He continues to walk. Turning the pages. It's a porno mag, waterlogged and tattered.

46 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAY

46 *

The water bottles lined up by the wall are empty.

*

47 EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE -- DAY

47 *

The boy hops over the fence, from his yard into the neighbor's driveway. He looks around, trying to determine if anyone is home or not. The place looks pretty deserted; whoever lives there must be gone for work.

*

He finds a GARDEN HOSE coiled up neatly at the base of the house. He takes it and begins to unspool it across the driveway...

NEIGHBOR

Hey - is that my hose?

The boy looks up. He's been caught red-handed.

BOY

I guess.

NEIGHBOR

What are you doing with it?

BOY

I don't know. Just...getting some water.

NEIGHBOR

Did you think about asking first?

BOY

Can I use it?

(CONTINUED)

NEIGHBOR

No. You ever hear of a water bill?

BOY

I guess so.

NEIGHBOR

Why aren't you in school?

BOY

What?

NEIGHBOR

Why aren't you in school?

BOY

...only a half day today.

NEIGHBOR

What's wrong with the water at your house?

BOY

There isn't any.

NEIGHBOR

Well, tell your parents to pay up and the city'll turn it back on. You've got parents, don't you?

BOY

No.

NEIGHBOR

Come here.

BOY

No.

NEIGHBOR

What's your name?

The boy gets up and runs away as fast as he can.

MATCH CUT TO:

48 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- DAY

48 *

The girl rides the old bike down the street. She's a little wobbly at first, but gradually she gets steadier. The sound of laughter leads her to...

*

A BIRTHDAY PARTY in the park. Kids running and playing. A pinata bursting, its guts spilling out on the grass. The birthday boy pulls his blindfold off and scrambles to scoop up the candy. *

The girl hops off the bike and walks across the park, keeping her distance from the party but eyeing it enviously.

She reaches the swing set and takes a seat on one of the swings, drifting idly, letting her feet rake the gravel. Gradually, the other kids, having scooped up all the candy, migrate in the same direction. They slide down the slide, climb on the monkey bars...

A little boy (AVEN) walks over to her and hops onto the swing next to her. After fruitlessly trying to pump the chains, he looks over at her.

AVEN

I can't swing very good.

GIRL

It's easy. You just have to pull on the chains like this.

She shows him. He tries to imitate her, but doesn't quite get it.

AVEN

I don't think I can do it.

An OLDER GIRL (SUSIE) approaches.

SUSIE

Are you in Kate's class?

GIRL

No.

SUSIE

What grade are you in?

GIRL

I don't go to school anymore.

SUSIE

How come? Are you super smart or something?

GIRL

I'm pretty smart.

(CONTINUED)

SUSIE

I'm in GT classes already.

The girl keeps mum. Her antagonist looks for some other button to push.

SUSIE(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Your clothes have holes in them.

GIRL

So?

SUSIE

So why don't you dress up nice? Are you even part of this birthday party?

The girl doesn't respond.

SUSIE(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Whatever.

She takes off.

The girl touches the worn seams of her shirt and pants, suddenly self conscious.

Aven, still trying to swing, shrugs.

AVEN

I don't go to school either. I get to start kindergarten next year.

GIRL

I went to kindergarten.

AVEN

Is it fun?

GIRL

Sometimes.

They continue to talk.

AVEN

Where do you live?

GIRL

I've got my own house.

AVEN

Your own house?

GIRL

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

AVEN

Can I come over to play?

GIRL

Sure.

AVEN

What about your mother and father?

GIRL

They aren't around.

AVEN

Why not?

GIRL

Because they have their own house
and my brother didn't want to live
there anymore. So we came here.

AVEN

Do you have a pool?

GIRL

No.

AVEN

We've got a pool at my house.

GIRL

It's too cold to swim.

AVEN

I'll ask my mom if I can come over.

The girl thinks for a moment. Her faced darkening.

GIRL

It's not very much fun, though.
There's nothing to do most of the
time.

AVEN

You can come over to my house if you
want.

ONE OF THE PARENTS calls out from the picnic tables.

PARENT

Okay, everyone, time for cake!

She looks at the kids as they all clamor towards the table
with the cake and ice cream. She sits down at an adjacent
picnic table as the partygoers all sing Happy Birthday.

(CONTINUED)

The cake is sliced onto paper plates.

PARENT (CONT'D)

All right, get in a line. No pushing.
Alex, come get yours first, it's
your birthday.

The little boy hops off the swing. The girl follows him, up to the line of children. Without missing a beat, without saying a word, she takes her plate of cake and ice cream and goes and sits down next to the boy with it.

LITTLE BOY

This isn't real ice cream. Real ice
cream is bad for cows.

The girl looks up and sees her new arch-nemesis whispering something to her own MOTHER.

GIRL

Do you really think I could come
over to your house? Is your mom nice?

The boy shrugs.

Susie's mother approaches.

SUSIE'S MOTHER

Excuse me. Aven, is this a friend of
yours?

Aven shakes his head.

SUSIE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Were you invited to this party?

The girl stares at her blankly.

SUSIE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Where's your mother?

The girl looks down at her plate.

SUSIE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

You need to run along if you weren't
invited, this isn't -- this is for
Jack and Kate's friends.

Another parent shows up.

PARENT 2

What's the problem, Diane?

The girl gets up from the table and slinks away.

(CONTINUED)

SUSIE'S MOTHER

This little girl -- she's --excuse
me --

She walks, quickening her pace, away from the party. Back to her bike. As she gets on her bike she begins to cry. She pedals away from the party, crying all the way.

50 OMITTED

50 *

51 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- LATER

51 *

The girl is sitting in the dark. *

In the background behind her, a light begins to glow. Growing brighter, diffused by the cloth behind her.

He sets the candle down and places a mason jar over it. The glass diffuses the light, illuminating the room.

BOY

How's that?

The girl looks away from him.

BOY (CONT'D)

Are you mad or something?

The boy leaves the room. The girl picks up a magazine from the floor, and a pair of oversized scissors. She begins to cut out a picture.

In the background behind her, spots of light appear in the sheet behind her as the boy lights more candles.

After a few moments, he returns.

BOY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

She doesn't respond.

BOY (CONT'D)

Can I see?

Beat.

BOY (CONT'D)

I'm leaving.

The boy walks through the neighborhood, his hand jammed in his pockets. Scowling. Occasionally muttering something to himself, things too quiet to hear.

He doesn't pay attention to where he's going...

Eventually he comes to a corner. CAMERA SWINGS LEFT, AND THEN RIGHT. He turns around. He doesn't recognize a thing.

He's lost.

He continues to walk, a bit more hurriedly. He's getting upset again; upset and scared.

Then, from down the street, the SOUND OF MUSIC comes a-drifting. A sweet voice and a gently strummed melody.

On a porch nearby he finds a WOMAN PLAYING THE GUITAR and singing quietly to herself. He stands against a tree on the side of the house, hidden in the dark, and listens to her play.

He listens for a while. His anger dissipates.

And then he steps on a twig and she stops.

He holds his breath.

The woman looks up and sees him there in the shadows. She hesitates, sizing him up, and then greets him:

WOMAN

Hey there.

The boy stammers.

BOY

I like that song.

WOMAN

Thank you.

He turns around and walks away.

On and on.

INSERT SCENE WITH YOUNG WOMAN?

The little girl, still tearful, still sniffing, curled up next to the dog skeleton and clutching something in her hand: A PHOTOGRAPH.

53 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- DAWN

53 *

The boy enters the house. He walks to his sister's room.

*

(CONTINUED)

BOY

Hey...

He peeks past the hanging curtains and folds of cloth. She's not there.

He sees her TREASURE CHEST. He looks around cautiously, and then crouches down and opens it.

He pulls from it a photograph. An old picture. THEIR PARENTS?

And then more pictures. Pictures of the two of them, back at home. *

He looks at the pictures for a long time, shuffling through them over and over. *

Suddenly nervous, he quickly shuts everything back up inside the treasure chest and leaves the confines of the girl's space.

ALTERNATE: he tears them up and hides the torn up pieces in a hole in the floor. *

He continues on through the house, looking for his sister. *

Finally, in one of the other bedrooms, he catches sight of something in the closet. TWO FEET DANGLING from the top of the closet.

He opens the door. The girl is sitting on the top shelf of the closet.

BOY (CONT'D)

How did you get up there?

54 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- NIGHT

54 *

The boy sits by candlelight and with a needle and thread tries to stitch up the girl's clothing (TIME TRAVEL MONOLOGUE?). *

BOY

You ever think about time travel?

(beat)

You ever think like - sometimes I feel like if I stand real still and shut my eyes and hold my breath and don't think, I'll be able to just slip out of right now. And when I open them again, I'll be somewhere else. In the past. I'll be back to the way things used to be.

55 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- AFTERNOON

55 *

ECU: a crayon line is drawn on the wall.

*

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

The girl has moved past the boundaries of scrap paper and is now decorating the wall with great big stick figure murals.

56 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- NIGHT

56 *

CAMERA PANS along the walls as a the HARSH SOUND of metal striking metal rings out repeatedly, rhythmically. *

CAMERA COMES TO REST at the doorway of the kitchen. The boy is standing at the counter, opening a can of black beans by stabbing it with a knife.

It's steady going until he plunges the knife down and instead of a metallic crunch there comes a dull thud. Something's gotten in between the blade and its target - and of course, that something is his thumb. The knife has gone clear through the skin between his thumb and the rest of his hand.

He doesn't register any pain. He looks at blade, almost in disbelief, and then jerks it out. Within the blink of an eye, blood rushes to the surface. A real gusher.

BOY

Uh oh.

He looks around for his sister.

BOY (CONT'D)

Hey, come look at this!

He looks at it himself for a moment more, and then:

BOY (CONT'D)

I think I'm gonna need a band-aid.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- NIGHT

57 *

The boy walks down the street, down towards the gas station, holding tight his bleeding hand. He's wrapped a sock around it, but the blood is still running. His hands are a mess of red. *

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: 57

It's late. No one's about.

CUT TO:

58 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- THAT MOMENT 58 *

The girl touches the blood on the counter with her fingertip. *

CUT TO:

59 INT. NEIGHBORHOOD - THAT MOMENT 59

The boy passes the house of the young woman who was on the porch that one afternoon.

WOMAN

What happened to your hand?

CUT TO:

60 INT. WOMAN'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS 60 *

The young woman crouches down in the bathroom and dabs disinfectant on the boy's hand. *

WOMAN

You live with your mom and dad?

BOY

Naw. Me and my sister, I live with her.

WOMAN

What does your sister do?

BOY

I don't know. She draws pictures and reads. She's really smart, but she doesn't talk much.

WOMAN

But it's her house?

BOY

No. She's only seven.

The woman wraps a bandage on the boy's hand.

WOMAN

What about your parents?

BOY

They're dead. They're...yeah, they're dead.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BOY (CONT'D)

(beat)
They just...

WOMAN

Move your hand for me.

The boy flexes his hand.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

How does that feel?

BOY

Okay. It still hurts.

WOMAN

You can move all your fingers?

BOY

Yeah.

WOMAN

Okay. You're gonna be fine. Okay?

CUT TO:

- 61 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- DUSK 61 *
- STATIC ANGLE on the high eaves of a house, all lit up with Christmas lights. Night begins to fall. After a while, a shooting star arcs across the pale sky. *
- 62 EXT. GROCERY STORE -- MORNING 62 *
- It's a cold blue morning. The boy and girl walk towards a grocery store. The lights are out. The door is locked. A handwritten sign hangs on the front door: *
- CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!
- CUT TO BLACK
- 62A EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- NIGHT 62A *
- STATIC WIDE SHOT LOOKING DOWN STREET: a group of friends cross the street in the distance, hooting and hollering. One of them throws a mostly empty bottle of champagne. The bottle shatters in the street. *
- 63 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- MORNING 63 *
- More time has past. The windows are white with whorls of frost. The house looks frozen solid. *

He sits up. Goes to the window and looks out. A guy (SAM) in a cheap suit is getting out of a truck and walking up towards the house.

The boy turns on his heels and darts through the house, shutting the doors and arming traps.

BOY

Someone's coming! Code Red! Come on!

A figure walks up to the front door, silhouetted in the glass. They hear the sound of a key going into the lock, and the lock turning and the doorknob turning.

The door opens. A PIN SNAPS and that big log goes hurtling through the front entryway, straight towards -

SAM

Holy -

He sidesteps the swinging battering ram and stays it with his hand as it swings back in the other direction.

SAM (CONT'D)

What the heck is going on here?

SCENE CONTINUES.

66 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE -- NIGHT

66 *

SLOW DOLLY SERIES

*

1. Discarded braces

2. The porno mag in the hearth, mostly burnt.

67 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE -- DAY

67 *

SERIES: LONG DOLLY SHOTS as the boy and girl cross the countryside.

*

68 EXT. RANCH -- DAY

68 *

The boy and girl walk through some ranchlands, past cows and horses.

*

The girl steps in a cowpie.

GIRL

Ewww. I stepped in cow poop.

Far off in the distance is a FENCE. Two RANCHANDS are working on it. They spot the boy and girl.

(CONTINUED)

RANCAHANDS

Hey! Hey you!

They hop over the fence and begin to run towards the boy and girl, who in turn begin to sprint. A CHASE ENSUES.

69 EXT. LAKE -- DAY

69 *

The boy fishes in a lake.

*

70 INT. SHED -- NIGHT

70 *

A WINTER THUNDERSTORM. The boy and girl wait it out under a shed and try to sleep.

*

71 EXT. COUNTRTSIDE -- DAY

71 *

The moisture has frozen on the trees. Everything is frosted over and white.

*

The girl coughs. She's shivering. The boy feels her forehead.

72 EXT. OLD CHURCH -- DAY

72 *

The boy and girl approach an old church.

*

73 INT. OLD CHURCH -- DAY

73 *

They boy kicks open the door and they enter the church. Dust fills the air, sparkling in the daylight. It looks like it hasn't been inhabited for years. The pews are all still there, some knocked over.

*

They find a spot in the back of the church and set up camp.

74 EXT. OLD CHURCH -- DAY

74 *

The boy sits outside the church, shivering in the winter air.

*

He stares at the adjacent train tracks.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON TRAIN TRACKS.

BOY

Fuck all y'all.

75 INT. OLD CHURCH -- NIGHT

75 *

The boy and girl are huddled up for the night, staying close to keep warm.

*

Suddenly the DOOR OPENS. The CHURCH CARETAKER enters, carrying a STATUE OF MARY in a wheelbarrow.

(CONTINUED)

The boy freezes. He puts his hand over the girl's mouth.

The caretaker is getting ready to pull the statue out of the wheelbarrow when -

- the GIRL COUGHS. A little cough. It could be anything.

The caretaker turns and looks off into the darkness - STRAIGHT AT THE BOY AND GIRL.

Neither of them move.

He stares for a long time. The boy and girl stare back. A stalemate.

Then, after an interminable period, the caretaker unloads the statue and wheels the wheelbarrow back out.

The boy breathes a sigh of relief. The girl unleashes a fit of coughing.

76 INT. GROCERY STORE -- DAY

76 *

The boy shoplifts medicine. The clerk gives chase and catches him, tackling him to the ground, bloodying his nose. *

77 INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

77 *

PUSH IN ON: the boy sits in the police station, holding ice to his nose as two cops talk amongst themselves. *

COP

...no ID.

COP 2

He won't talk...

COP

...missing child reports...

The boy lowers the ice.

BOY

(quietly)

My sister.

They don't hear him.

BOY (CONT'D)

I need my sister. *

The girl plays in her backyard. A little dog is running to
and fro, playfully evading her. *

GIRL *

Come here. *

The dog holds back, looking at her expectantly. *

GIRL (CONT'D) *

Come here boy. *

CUT TO BLACK