THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

by Jordan Wiebe EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

The sun tries to shine through the dark clouds that hang in the grey sky.

Large trees surround the cemetary. The ground is covered in snow.

A group of a dozen people, all dressed in black, stand in a semi circle around a wooden casket.

BILLY HASKINS, 12, stands next to his MOTHER, 32. His eyes are fixed on the casket. His mother gazes off into the distance, her eyes filled with tears.

A MINISTER, 40, stands in front of the casket with a black bible in his hand.

MINISTER

Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our Brother Daniel. In this life you embraced him with your tender love, deliver him now from every evil and bid him enter eternal rest. Welcome him into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping nor pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with your son and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Billy reaches for his mother's hand and squeezes.

He stares at the casket as it lowers into the earth.

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Christmas music plays on the stereo.

A large Christmas tree sits in the corner of the living room, underneath are several presents.

Fire CRACKLES from the fire place, three stockings hang from above.

Billy's mother sits in a recliner on the opposite side of the room. A cigarette dangles between her fingers, she has a glass of read wine in her other hand. She has a blank expression on her face. She takes a drag from her cigarette then has a sip of wine.

Billy sits on the floor across the room in front of the fire place.

A large piece of blue construction paper lies in front of him.

There are several pictures surrounding him.

He picks up on of the pictures. It is of him and his FATHER, who is in his early thirties, on a boat in the middle of a lake.

He stares at the picture which comes alive in his hands. The boat moves slowly on the water. Billy stares deeper into the picture.

EXT. LAKE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Billy and his father sit side by side in a small row boat in the middle of the lake. Billy's dad picks up a fishing pole and hands it over to him. Both have smiles on their faces.

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

The picture in Billy's hand moves no more. He flips it over and puts glue on the back. He pastes it to the large blue piece of construction paper.

The paper is already filled with pictures of Billy and his father, there are also a few family photo's pasted on as well.

Billy looks up towards his mother.

BILLY

Mom?

She stares at him like she's looking through him.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Mom!

She snaps out of it.

MOM

Yes Billy.

BILLY

Remember when we went to Stanley park and we were at the sea wall? I can't find any of those pictures. There was one of me and dad standing on the ledge getting soaked by a large wave, it was really cool. Do you know where they are?

MOM

I don't know. They could be anywhere. I don't feel like looking for them right now.

BILLY

You don't have to look. I'll do it. Do you have an idea where they might be?

MOM

I just told you I didn't know! Don't you think if I knew I would have told you the first time you asked?

Billy looks at his mother, who still seems to be looking right through him.

Billy gets up off the floor and walks away.

BILLY

(as he leaves) You're not the only one whose hurting ya know.

He exits the living room.

Billy's mother takes out a cigarette and lights it up. She then has another sip of wine.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is lit with a dim blue night light. The full moon from outside gives a little extra light.

The floor is covered with dirty socks and underwear. There is also dress pants and dress shirt that lay on the floor. A tie hangs around the door knob.

Billy's walls are covered with posters. There are some of rock bands and some of horror and sci-fi movies.

There is a large Vancouver Canucks banner that hangs on the far wall.

Under the banner is a desk with a computer on it. Next to the desk is a night stand with a stereo on top.

Rock music BLARES from the stereo.

Billy is dressed in grey sweatpants and a white t-shirt.

He sits on his unmade bed with his head in his hands. A tear rolls down the side of his face.

He looks over at the clock that sits on his desk. It reads 2:37 AM.

The MUSIC playing on the stereo goes to STATIC. High pitched SCREECHES blare out.

Billy runs over to the stereo and turns it off.

His room suddenly fills with a bright white light for a split second. Billy, startled, hustles over to the window.

The backyard is large and open. Behind the yard is the woods. The full moon shining on the snow makes it easy to see.

Billy looks around. Nothing.

He steps away from the window and heads back to the stereo. He turns it on. Rock music plays.

He slowly turns around and looks at his window. He slowly walks over to it again. He peers outside.

A FIGURE almost hidden in the shadows of the trees, lurks about.

Billy opens his window. The figure scurries into the forest.

Billy quickly slams the window shut and LOCKS it. He steps backwards until he reaches his bed.

He sits down.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Billy lies awake in bed. He stares at the alarm clock that sits on a night stand next to the bed. The clock reads 6:59.

The clock changes to 7:00. Rock music BLARES. Billy lies still and keeps staring at the clock.

The MUSIC stops. The radio host starts to talk. Billy SLAMS the off button.

He sits up and gets off the bed.

He walks over to the bedroom window. He looks outside. Nothing, just the snow that covers the ground and the trees from the forest.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Billy sits at the kitchen table. A plate with back bacon, toast, and eggs lays in front of him. Next to the plate is a tall glass of orange juice.

Billy's mother is by the sink. She has two small white pills in her hands. She puts them in her mouth then pours herself a glass of water.

She turns towards Billy. There is a look on her face like she is about to say something, but she remains silent.

She turns around and walks out of the kitchen.

Billy turns and watches her exit. He turns back to his plate.

EXT. BILLY'S BACKYARD - MORNING

The sky is grey, snow falls from above.

Billy comes out of the house wearing a dark green ski jacket and a black toque. His BREATH can be seen in the air.

He makes his way towards the forest. He reaches the spot where he spotted the figure the night before.

He looks down at the ground.

There are several foot prints scattered about. They look similar to human footprints but the toes are much longer and skinnier.

Billy kneels down.

The footprints appear to head off into the woods. He gets up and makes like he is going to follow them into the forest.

From behind his mother opens the back door.

MOM

(shouting) Billy! Where do you think you're going? You're gonna be late for school!

Billy turns around.

BILLY

I'm coming mom.

Billy runs towards the house.

MOM It's your last day before the holidays. You don't want to be late do you?

BILLY

No.

Billy enters the house. His mother closes the door.

The shrubs about twenty feet from where Billy was begin to move.

Long grey fingers poke out through the shrubs.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Light pokes out of the grey sky, beams of sunlight shine through.

A Canadian flag, that is attached to a large pole ripples in the air.

A school bus drives up to the front of the school. Several children are walking along the property.

Billy walks up to the front of the school with a backpack slung over his shoulder and his hands in his pockets.

JASPER SULLIVAN, 12, short, skinny, with pale white skin, runs up to Billy.

JASPER

Hey Billy.

BILLY

Hi Jasper.

JASPER

Your first day back and it's the last day before Christmas break. Why did you even bother?

BILLY My mom wanted me to go.

JASPER

How are you two holdin' up?

BILLY

I'm not sure, as good as we can I guess.

Billy spots a young girl, ANDREA CARTER, 12, near the entrance of the school. Jasper looks over as well.

JASPER You like Andrea don't ya?

BILLY No! Why do you say that?

JASPER Cause you're always goggling at her.

BILLY

Shut up.

Billy gives Jasper a playful shove.

JASPER

I bet you gotta chance with her, with your dad just dyin' and all, I bet you'll get the sympathy thing going for you.

Billy turns to Jasper sharply with a very disagreeable look on his face.

JASPER (CONT'D) Whoa dude I `m so sorry, that came out really bad. I didn't mean to say that I

swear. It just popped outta my mouth.

Billy takes a deep BREATH.

BILLY

It's okay Jasper.

Billy takes off his toque and scratches his matted hair. He looks over at Andrea who enters the school.

> JASPER We're gonna have a snowball fight at lunch, us verses the eighth graders, do you wanna come?

Billy turns to Jasper.

BILLY Yeah sure, I think we could kick their butts.

JASPER I KNOW we can kick their butts.

The school bell RINGS.

JASPER (CONT'D) Race you to class.

BILLY

You're on.

Billy shoves Jasper to the ground and jets towards the school.

Jasper pushes himself up.

JASPER (shouting) You cheater!

He runs after Billy.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

The sky is clear, the orange sun glows in the sky.

A BOY, 13, gets a snowball right in the face. He falls back onto his butt.

BOY

You buggers!

Billy and Jasper hide behind a large mound of snow. Jasper has huge grin on his face from ear to ear.

> JASPER Did you see that? I got him right in the shnoz.

Suddenly a group of kids move towards Billy and Jasper and unload a fury of snowballs on them.

Both Billy and Jasper hold their hands up to protect themselves from the snow balls.

A male TEACHER, 30's, runs towards the group of kids.

TEACHER Hey you kids! What the heck do you think you're doing? You know there are no snow ball fights aloud!

The group of kids throw a few more snow balls at Billy and Jasper, then take off as they LAUGH.

> TEACHER (CONT'D) Hey! Where do you think you're going? I'm not done talking with you yet!

The teacher runs after the group of kids.

Jasper looks over at Billy who is wiping snow off of his face.

JASPER

You okay?

BILLY Yeah I'm fine. I just got one in the face is all.

The two of them get up on their feet.

JASPER I gotta take a whizz, you wanna watch me write my name in the snow?

BILLY No, that's okay, I'd really rather not.

JASPER Oh well. I'll be back in a quick.

Jasper runs behind some trees a few yards away.

A hand touches Billy on the shoulder from behind. Billy jumps and turns around sharply.

Standing in front of him is Andrea.

BILLY Whoa! You scared me.

ANDREA

I'm sorry.

BILLY

It's fine.

ANDREA

I saw you and Jasper getting pulverized by those eighth graders. That was pretty funny.

BILLY

Oh yeah, it was a real hoot.

ANDREA

Anyways, Jasper said that you wanted to talk with me.

A confused look overcomes Billy.

BILLY

He said what?

ANDREA

He said you had something you wanted to ask me.

Jasper walks out from behind the trees as he zips up his pants. Billy turns towards him. Jasper gives him a smile and a thumbs up.

Billy turns back to Andrea.

ANDREA (CONT'D) So what is it that you wanted to ask me?

BILLY Um, well, um, are you gonna go to the festival of ice tonight?

ANDREA Of course, I mean who isn't going?

BILLY Yeah you're right.

Billy COUGHS.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Well I was kinda wondering if you would like to go with me?

Andrea smiles.

Billy Haskins are you asking me out on a date?

BILLY

Um, well yeah.

ANDREA I would love to go with you Billy.

BILLY

Really?

ANDREA

Yeah.

BILLY Wow, that wasn't the answer I was expecting.

ANDREA Well life's full of surprises.

BILLY Tell me about it. So I'll pick you up at seven thirty? We can walk there together.

ANDREA

Sounds great.

She turns around and hustles away.

ANDREA (CONT'D) See ya at seven thirty.

BILLY (as he waves his hand) See ya.

Jasper walks up from behind.

JASPER Looks like someone's got a date tonight.

Billy turns to Jasper.

BILLY Why did you do that? Do you know what kind of position you put me in?

JASPER

I did it because I knew you wouldn't have the guts to do it yourself. And why you buggin' anyway, it worked out for ya didn't it?

BILLY

Yeah it did, but still, you shouldn't do stuff like that.

JASPER Well what's done is done and you gotta date tonight so no point in being all up tight, you should be happy.

BILLY

I am, thanks.

JASPER You know what a time like this calls for?

BILLY

What?

JASPER A good old fashioned face wash.

Jasper tackles Billy and pushes his face into the snow.

EXT. BILLY'S BACKYARD - DAY

Billy enters the backyard with his backpack slung over his shoulder. He drops it to the ground and walks towards the foot prints he saw earlier.

He finds the footprints and follows them into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Billy slowly walks through the woods. The snow CRUNCHES with every footstep.

He heads deeper into the woods. He comes across a large tree. Up in the tree is a tree house.

EXT. WOODS - DAY - FLASHBACK

It's summer. The large orange sun shines in the clear blue sky.

Billy, now 10, looks up at the large oak tree. His father finishes nailing the last board to the tree house.

He looks down at Billy with a proud look on his face.

DAD What do you think Billy? Pretty cool huh?

BILLY It looks awesome.

DAD

Well don't just stand there. Come on up, take a look around and see what your old man was able to do.

Billy grabs the first board

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Billy grabs one of the boards and pulls himself up.

He makes it halfway up the tree.

JASPER (O.S.)

Billy!

Billy, startled, looses his grip and falls down onto the snow covered ground.

JASPER (CONT'D) Nice fall. Did you hurt yourself?

Billy looks over at Jasper and pushes himself up.

BILLY My butt's sore, but that's about it.

JASPER I scared you good didn't I?

BILLY You startled me, you didn't scare me.

JASPER Bull. I bet you stained your shorts.

BILLY You're so gross ya know that?

JASPER But that's why you like me.

BILLY So what you doin' over here?

JASPER

Just wanted to see if you wanted to go to lake Mead, a bunch of us are gonna build a huge snow fort. It's gonna be awesome.

Billy turns and looks up at the tree house, then back to Jasper.

BILLY Sure, but I can't stay long ya know.

JASPER Oh right, you gotta get all dolled up for your big date tonight.

BILLY I'm a guy, guys don't get dolled up.

JASPER Well you knew what I meant. C'mon lets go.

BILLY

Okay I'm coming.

The two boys head out of the woods.

Up towards the entrance of the tree house, two long, thin, grey fingers poke out. They curl around the wood. BREATH can be seen escaping out.

EXT. FESTIVAL OF ICE - NIGHT

The quarter moon shines in the sky lighting up the snow on the ground.

In a large clearing there are several large ice castles, green, blue and red lights shine on them which makes them glow.

All the trees are light up, and all have Angels or stars on top of them.

A children's choir SINGS Christmas carols as dozens of people move about.

In the center of the clearing is a frozen lake. There are people of all ages skating.

Billy and Andrea walk past the children's choir. Both have ice skates slung over their shoulders.

ANDREA

Wow. Look at all the people. It looks like twice as many people as last year.

BILLY

I know. Soon their gonna have to find a bigger place to have it.

The two approach the lake. They take off their boots and put on their skates.

ANDREA

Now it's been a while since I skated, so don't laugh if I fall.

BILLY I'm sorry, but I can't help it. If you fall and I think it's funny I'm gonna laugh.

ANDREA

So you think people falling down is funny?

BILLY

Yeah, sometimes, as long as it's not me.

Andrea gives Billy a playful smile, then sticks her tongue out.

ANDREA

Well if I fall I'm gonna make sure to take you with me.

BILLY

I'd love to see you try.

The two of them step onto the ice. Andrea slips right away. Billy grabs her and pulls her close to him.

ANDREA

Thanks. I told you it's been a while.

BILLY

That's okay. I'm sure you'll get used to it in a bit. Wanna hold hands. I'll make sure you don't fall on your butt. Andrea GIGGLES.

ANDREA That's just an excuse so you can hold my hand isn't it?

BILLY Yeah, well I thought it was a pretty good one.

Andrea grabs his hand. The two skate on the lake hand in hand.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

A long grey foot, with four skinny toes, CRUNCHES down onto the snow.

The feet reach the end of the woods.

Two grey skinny hands reach out and pull the bushes aside.

Out in the distance is the festival of ice. The entire area glows with lights.

EXT. FESTIVAL OF ICE - NIGHT

Billy and Andrea skate hand in hand. Billy looks over and her grinning from ear to ear.

From the other side of the lake comes Jasper. He has on only his boots. He tries to keep his balance as he runs.

Jasper is almost at Billy and Andrea.

JASPER

(shouting) Hey Billy!

Jasper slips and falls. He slides all the way over to Andrea and knocks her down. She falls on top oh him brining Billy down with her. He lands right on top of her.

> JASPER (CONT'D) Wow, my first Ménage À Trois.

ANDREA

You perv!

Close, I'm Catholic.

Billy gets off of Andrea, who gets off of Jasper.

BILLY

What the heck are you doing out here with no skates?

JASPER

I was looking for you. The fireworks are about to start and if you wanna get a good spot you better pick one out now.

ANDREA

That's probably a good idea.

Andrea grabs Billy's hand. The two of them skate away.

JASPER (as he pushes himself up) Hey! You guys are just leavin' me?

Andrea turns around.

ANDREA

You gotta find your own spot there buddy boy.

JASPER

Aww man!

EXT. HILL - NIGHT

Billy and Andrea sit next to each other on a small hill. There are a few other people around, but most are on the clearing below.

The sky fills up with red light as a firework EXPLODES. The snow on the ground glows red.

There is a green EXPLOSION in the sky.

Billy turns to Andrea and looks straight into her eyes. She looks back at him. Billy turns away.

ANDREA

What?

BILLY

Nothing.

ANDREA That didn't seem like nothing.

BILLY

I dunno.

ANDREA You wanted to kiss me didn't you?

Billy slowly turns his head towards Andrea.

BILLY

Maybe.

ANDREA Then why didn't you?

BILLY Cause I'm scared.

ANDREA You're scared that I might not want to?

BILLY

Yeah.

ANDREA I don't think you need any reason to be scared.

BILLY

Really?

ANDREA Uh huh. Just don't use any tongue okay? Not on a first date.

BILLY I wouldn't even dare do that.

Billy moves in for a kiss. There lips touch. The sky EXPLODES with green, red and blue light and shines down on the two of them.

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Billy walks through the front door and takes off his boots. His mother sits on a recliner with a glass of wine in one hand and a picture frame clamped in her other hand.

Billy moves forward.

Hey mom.

MOM (staring at the ground)

BILLY Man you shoulda come, it was awesome. There were so many people there I couldn't believe it.

She sits there silently.

Hi.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Mom?

No response.

BILLY (CONT'D) Is there anything you wanna talk about?

Still no response.

BILLY (CONT'D) Fine! It feels like both my parents are dead!

He storms out of the room.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Billy lies in bed as he stares up at the ceiling. He turns his head to his clock radio. It reads 12:30 AM.

He sits up and walks over to the window. He looks out.

A figure stands under a tree. Billy can't totally make it out.

BILLY (to himself) Who are you?

EXT. BILLY'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Billy exits the house with a flashlight in his hands. He makes his way over to the tree where he saw the figure.

He aims his flashlight but sees nothing.

Hello? Anybody there?

There is a RUSTLE by some shrubs a few feet into the woods. Billy aims his flashlight. Nothing. Billy walks towards the shrubs.

On the ground, in the snow are more of the strange footprints he saw before. They lead off into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Billy is deep with in the woods. He points his flashlight to his left and right.

There is another RUSTLE a little further ahead.

Billy moves faster. He bolts around the shrubs. Nothing.

Suddenly he hears footsteps CRUNCH in the snow behind him.

He turns around. Five feet away stands a tall, thin, grey skinned ALIEN. It's head is large and it's eyes are like eight balls. It has two small slits for a nose, and a small slit for a mouth.

Billy's eyes open wide as his jaw drops.

ALIEN

Fear me not.

In a second Billy turns around and runs. He trips over a piece of wood only a few feet away and lands on the ground. He hits his head on a rock. He turns to his back. Everything goes fuzzy.

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Billy lies on his back with his eyes closed. A trickle of blood runs down the side of his head. He opens his eyes.

Standing above him is the tall Alien.

Billy sits up quickly and pushes himself up against a tree.

BILLY Pleas don't hurt me.

The Alien moves closer.

ALIEN I will not harm you small one.

BILLY

What are you?

ALIEN I am a stranger to your land. What is this place called?

BILLY Prince Rupert. Where are you from?

ALIEN Some place very far from here.

Billy relaxes a bit.

BILLY

How do you know our language?

ALIEN

I know the language of many worlds.

The Alien moves closer then sits down across from Billy.

BILLY Why are you here? Did you crash?

ALIEN No. I was brought here by my people.

BILLY Why did they bring you here?

ALIEN I do not know. My father said I must come here, but he gave me no reason.

BILLY So what are you, some kind of explorer?

ALIEN In some ways I guess I am. So what's your name?

ALIEN You would not be able to pronounce my name.

BILLY

I may surprise you.

A loud SCREECH blares out of the Aliens mouth. Billy puts his hands over his ears.

BILLY (CONT'D) (shouting) Stop it! Stop it! Stop it!

The Aline stops. Billy takes his hands away from his ears.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Okay, um, ya, I think I'm just gonna call you Joe okay? Cause I never wanna hear that sound again.

ALIEN I am sorry small one.

BILLY It's okay, but don't call me small one, my name is Billy.

ALIEN It's nice to meet you Billy.

BILLY Nice to meet you to Joe. So where have you been staying.

The Alien turns and points to the tree house.

ALIEN

There.

BILLY You know my dad made that for me?

ALIEN Your father, was he a builder? BILLY No, he was just handy, he was actually an accountant, but he's nothing anymore cause he's dead.

ALIEN

His life ended?

BILLY I guess that's a way to say it.

ALIEN I am sorry Billy. Sometimes I feel my father has abandoned me as well.

BILLY There's a bit of a difference.

ALIEN

Yes, you are right.

Billy holds himself in his arms as he tries to keep himself warm.

BILLY So how long are you gonna be here?

ALIEN Until they come for me.

BILLY The people that brought you here?

ALIEN No, the one's who want me. The ones who want to end my life.

BILLY

End your life? Why do they want to kill you?

ALIEN I will tell you, but not tonight. You are cold. You must go inside to rest.

BILLY

Are you cold?

ALIEN

Yes.

BILLY Wait up in my tree house. I'll bring you some blankets.

ALIEN Thank you Billy. You are kind.

BILLY

It's not a problem.

Billy and the Alien get up on their feet.

BILLY (CONT'D) I'll be there in bit okay?

ALIEN

Okay Billy.

Billy turns around and runs away. He looks over his shoulder as he takes off.

The Alien looks up into the stars.

ALIEN (CONT'D) (to himself) Where are you father. What is it you want of me.

The Alien hangs his head.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Billy runs up to the large tree where his tree house sits and climbs up. He has a large green blanket over his shoulder.

INT. TREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Alien is curled up in the far corner of the tree house. It's arms wrapped around It's knees.

The large green blanket flies into the tree house through the opening and lands near the Alien's feet. Billy crawls in seconds later.

> BILLY There ya go Joe. ALIEN Thank you Billy.

The Alien picks up the blanket and wraps himself with it.

BILLY You're welcome. It's kinda getting late so I better get off to bed, but I'll come up to see you first thing in the morning.

ALIEN I would like that.

BILLY So good night, sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite.

ALIEN What are bed bugs?

BILLY Nothing, it's just a saying.

ALIEN That is strange.

BILLY Well an alien sleeping in my tree house is strange. Anyway, see ya in the morning.

ALIEN

See you Billy.

Billy turns around and crawls out of the tree house. The Alien lies down and closes his eyes.

INT. KITCHEN(BILLY'S HOUSE) - MORNING

Billy sits at the kitchen table with a bowl of cereal and a glass of orange juice in front of him.

His mother sits in front of him with a cigarette in her hand and a cup of coffee in the other. She has a blank expression on her face.

BILLY

Mom?

No response. Billy's eyebrows frown.

BILLY (CONT'D) Is this what's it's gonna be like? Are you gonna ignore me the rest of my life? She slowly turns to him and glares through him.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Well?

She takes a drag from her cigarette. The smoke slowly escapes her nose and mouth.

MOM (dazed) You were up late last night.

BILLY That's not what I asked!

MOM You know you shouldn't stay up so late. Santa's watching.

BILLY I'm twelve, you think I still believe in Santa?

MOM He knows everything.

Billy gets up out of his chair and storms out of the kitchen.

His mother takes another drag from her cigarette.

INT. TREE HOUSE - MORNING

The Alien lies asleep curled up in a ball with the green blanket wrapped around itself.

The Alien SNORES very loudly.

Billy sits in front of the Alien with his legs crossed.

The Alien opens It's large black eyes.

BILLY Boy you sure can snore. I bet you kept the entire forest up all night.

The Alien sits up.

ALIEN What do you mean snore?

Billy imitates the Alien's SNORE.

ALIEN (CONT'D) That is the sound we make when we sleep.

BILLY How the heck could anyone on your planet get any sleep?

ALIEN It is normal for us.

BILLY Normal or not, that would drive me up the freakin' wall.

The Alien yawns and exposes it's sharp jagged teeth that line It's mouth.

BILLY (CONT'D) Do you have an ocean where you're from?

ALIEN We have very little water on my world.

BILLY You wanna see something really neat?

ALIEN

Yes I would.

BILLY

Follow me then.

Billy climbs out of the tree house. The Alien follows.

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - MORNING

Billy's mother sits in a recliner with a full glass of wine in her hand. She grasps onto a framed picture with her other hand.

The picture is a family photo that looks to be taken not too long ago. She pulls it towards her chest. Tears pour from her eyes.

She brings the glass of wine to her lips and swallows every last drop.

EXT. CLIFF - MORNING

The sky is grey. The orange sun tires to poke through.

Billy and the Alien exit the woods and walk up to the edge of the cliff.

BILLY

Pretty cool huh?

The Alien looks down at the crashing water. It backs up. Billy looks over at the Alien.

ALIEN

Is it safe?

BILLY

As long as you don't fall.

The Aline slowly creeps back over towards Billy. It gazes across the landscape.

ALIEN

It is very beautiful. We have nothing like this on my world.

BILLY

This is one of my favorite places. My dad used to take me up here all the time, but that's never gonna happen again.

ALIEN I feel sad for you Billy.

BILLY Don't, I don't need anymore pity.

ALIEN May I ask how your father's life ended?

Billy turns from the Alien.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A red Sedan drives along a narrow curved road. From the other direction comes a large black pick up truck.

Heavy snow falls from the sky. The road is covered with snow.

Suddenly the large pick up skids across the road. The red sedan CRASHES into the pick up and flips over several times before it CRASHES into a tree.

EXT. CLIFF - MORNING

Billy stares out into the ocean.

BILLY He was killed in a car accident. He died instantly.

ALIEN And your mother?

BILLY She's alive physically, but really she's just a living corpse.

ALIEN I do not understand.

BILLY

It means she's just as good as dead.

Billy backs up and sits on a rock.

BILLY (CONT'D) Last night you said that there were people on your world that wanna kill you. What did you mean by that?

ALIEN

There are many on my world that see me as dangerous.

BILLY You? Dangerous? I don't get it?

ALIEN I have been chosen by my father to save my people.

BILLY

Save them from who?

ALIEN

From themselves, to give them hope, but many on my world think I am a liar, someone with false teachings, so they fear me.

BILLY

So your father sent you here for protection?

ALIEN No, he gave me no reason why I was to come here. I do know they will come for me, I feel they are already near.

BILLY What will they do when they find you?

ALIEN

They will take me back to my world, then they will end my life.

BILLY

I'll hide you. They'll never find you.

ALIEN

Yes they will Billy, it has already been foretold.

BILLY Why doesn't your dad do anything to protect you?

ALIEN He has accepted my fate, as have I.

BILLY

That's crap! I know if my dad were here he wouldn't let anything happen to me.

ALIEN

But my life must end to do what it is I must do.

BILLY I won't let any of them Buggers touch you!

ALIEN

You must.

BILLY So you're just gonna sit and wit for them to take you away.

ALIEN

I want to know why my father sent me here. I want to know what it is I am supposed to do.

BILLY

Maybe he's just trying to hide you, keep you safe.

ALIEN

I do not fear my fate.

BILLY

What about your friends? Won't your friends miss you.

ALIEN

They have also excepted my fate, some more so than others.

BILLY

Who's your best friend, then again I don't wanna know, if I hear that noise again my heads gonna explode.

ALIEN Who is your best friend?

BILLY

Jasper probably, but now I gotta girlfriend, so I don't know if my girlfriend is supposed to be my best friend or if it's separate.

ALIEN

Girlfriend? Is she like a mate?

BILLY

If we were monkey's I guess that's what you'd call her.

ALIEN

I do not understand.

BILLY

She is like, um, well, she's a friend, who's a girl and you like hold hands and go on dates and stuff. Don't you have girlfriends and boyfriends on your world?

ALIEN

Yes, we have mates.

The Alien looks up at the grey sky.

ALIEN (CONT'D) They are very near, yet, I do not know my purpose here.

BILLY I don't want them to take you. Billy gets up off the rock and walks towards the end of the cliff. The Lien moves right beside him.

BILLY

I'm supposed to go see Andrea this afternoon.

ALIEN

Andrea is your mate?

BILLY

She's my girlfriend, not my mate, but I'm gonna stay here with you.

ALIEN Go see your Andrea, I will wait for you.

BILLY What if your people come to take you away while I'm gone.

ALIEN

They are close, but they are not that close.

BILLY

Maybe I'll go for just a bit, but I'll be back soon okay?

ALIEN

Okay Billy.

BILLY Stay in my tree house so no one sees you.

ALIEN

Yes.

Billy and the Alien turn around and enter the woods.

INT. SKATE'O'RAMA - DAY

The dark skate arena is light by colored lights. Dozens of kids on skateboards and roller blades are skating in the center of the arena.

Loud rock music BLARES from the speakers.

Billy and Andrea stand at the top of a ramp with skateboards by their feet.

ANDREA

You wanna race?

BILLY

You're on.

Both of them get on their boards and head down the ramp. Billy is in the lead as they head towards the top of the next ramp.

Andrea builds up speed as she passes Billy. She reaches the top of the next ramp, Billy is right behind her. He then passes her on the way down the ramp.

Andrea builds up more momentum on the next ramp and passes Billy.

Billy is now far behind Andrea as she reaches the top of the last ramp.

Billy finally reaches the top.

BILLY (CONT'D) Looks like you win.

ANDREA

Yay for me!

BILLY Don't get too cocky, I may have let you win.

ANDREA

No you didn't.

BILLY Yeah, you're right.

The two head off the ramp towards the seating area. The both take a seat next to each other.

BILLY (CONT'D) Thanks for going with me to the festival of ice yesterday.

ANDREA

It was fun.

Billy looks at her for a few seconds, then looks away.

What?

BILLY

Nothing.

ANDREA

That's the same look you gave me last night when you wanted to kiss me. Do you want another kiss? Is that it?

BILLY

No, it's nothing like that.

ANDREA

Then what is it?

BILLY

It's something big. It's so big that I can't tell you, at least not yet.

ANDREA You should be able to tell me anything.

BILLY I know, but this, well, it's a lot different, trust me.

ANDREA

Will you ever tell me?

BILLY

Yes. I'm gonna have to tell somebody sometime.

ANDREA

Well then it's all good then isn't it? You wanna go for another round?

BILLY

Sure, but this time I won't let you win.

ANDREA

Ha-ha very funny mister.

The two get up off their seats and jet towards the skate ramps.

INT. TREE HOUSE - NIGHT

The Alien sits, curled up in a ball, in the far corner of the tree house.

Billy crawls in with a plastic bag in his hands.

BILLY Hey Joe. I thought you might be hungry so I brought **YMORE** me food.

ALIEN That is very nice of you Billy.

Billy hands the Alien the plastic bag. The Alien opens it up and pulls out a drumstick.

The Alien puts the drumstick in It's mouth and chomps down. The bone CRUNCHES inside It's mouth.

BILLY You don't eat the bone silly, just the meat.

ALIEN In my world we eat everything.

BILLY You don't like to leave anything to waste do ya?

ALIEN

No.

The Alien pits the rest of the drumstick in It's mouth and CHEWS away.

BILLY Have you figured out why you were sent here yet?

ALIEN

Yes.

BILLY Really? What is it?

ALIEN I was sent here for you.

BILLY For me? I don't get it?

ALIEN

You have shown me why I must do what it is I am supposed to do, more than words could ever do.

ALIEN(CONT'D)

This was the way my father wanted me to understand why I must do this.

BILLY How does your dad even know who I am.

ALIEN

My father knows all.

BILLY

You have shown me kindness, and the good that is in all beings, in all worlds.

Suddenly a bright white light fills the tree house. Billy shuts his eyes.

The light disappears.

ALIEN

They have come.

BILLY Let me hide you please!

ALIEN It will be okay Billy. Do not worry for me.

The alien gets up and walks towards the exit. He climbs down.

BILLY Where are you going?

The Alien looks up.

ALIEN

It is time.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Billy rushes down the tree. He runs up to the Alien.

BILLY Please Joe! I don't want them to take you.

ALIEN You must have faith Billy. This is my time.

BILLY No! It's not fair!

ALIEN

It has nothing to do with fair or unfair. It is something that must be done.

Suddenly three ALIENS that look like Joe enter come out from the shadows of the trees. Their mouths open showing their razor sharp teeth. Loud SCREECHES explode out of their mouths. Billy puts his hands over his ears.

The Alien looks over at the three others and a loud SCREECH comes out of his mouth. All the aliens stop SCREECHING.

Billy takes his hands away from his ears.

The three Aliens walk up to Billy. Joe the Alien cuts them off and blocks their way over to Billy.

The Alien turns towards Billy.

ALIEN (CONT'D) It is time Billy.

Tears roll down Billy's face.

BILLY

Please.

ALIEN It will be okay. Will you trust me on that?

BILLY

Yes.

Billy reaches out his hand. The Alien takes it. They shake hands.

ALIEN Do not fear my fate, it is not the end.

BILLY

(sobbing)

Okay.

The three other Aliens take a hold of Joe the Alien and they disappear into the trees.

Suddenly there is a bright light that fills the woods. Billy closes his eyes. The Bright light fades away.

Billy stands alone in the woods.

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Billy walks into the living room, his cheeks red and his eyes filled with water. His mother sits on the couch with tears in her eyes. Billy stops. His mother looks up at him.

> MOM Since the day you were born you meant everything to you father. He was so very proud of you. You wouldn't believe how often he would talk about you. I think he annoyed all our friends with stories of you. You were the lit of his life. He was proud about everything you did. Every decision he made in life was based on you, on what would be best for you. He loved you so much Billy, it's unfair that he was taken so quickly from you. My heart aches for you, but I know he's with you, he will always be with you, in your heart and apart of your soul. I wish I was a better mother, I wish I knew what to do. Your father was my life, with out him I feel so lost, but maybe together we can find our way again.

A smile slowly comes across Billy's tear filled face.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A telescope stands in front of billy's bedroom window. Billy pears through it.

Billy's mother enters the room. Billy turns around.

BILLY

Hi mom.

MOM Hey Billy. What are you doing?

BILLY

I'm just looking.

Billy goes back to looking through his telescope. His mother walks up behind him and puts her hand on his shoulder.

MOM Do you see anything?

BILLY

Yes.

MOM What do you see?

Billy looks up at his mother.

BILLY

Hope.

Billy and his mother look out of the window and stare into the dark sky that is lit up with stars.