

RESTRICTED TERRITORY

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Act VI

[Rescue]

Act VI, Scene 1

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Scene: Dark, outside in the forest. The snow is about 6 inches to a foot deep. The full moon affords broken patches of light that transit the scene. It is eerily quiet except for Sam's steps in the snow and the wind rushing through the trees. Snow is falling steadily.

Sam: (Sam obviously doesn't know who the men at the ranch are, but because the kids are running from them, they can't be good guys. He is dragging a hoe behind him to make a return track, in a hushed call, trying not to be discovered by the thugs at the ranch, he calls to the kids.) Hey! Can you hear me. Where are you guys? What's going on? If you can hear me, call out. (Camera: From kids' perspective, Sam is approaching. Sam's footsteps can be heard getting closer. Camera moves back to reveal kids as Sam reaches them. The kids don't move.) Oh my God! What the hell?

Sam reaches the kids, drops the hoe, falls to his knees and shakes Victoria to see if she is alive. Victoria wakes in a start, but she has little energy to move. Sam shakes Austin. Austin does not respond.

Sam: Damn it!

Sam feels for a carotid pulse on Austin, looks at Victoria and sees that she is only half wet. He sits her up. Sam takes off his coat and wraps Austin in it.

Sam: Is there anybody else?

Victoria, her mind working slowly, finally understands the question and shakes her head no.

Sam: (Realizing that Victoria is in shock, he looks directly into her eyes and talks deliberately and clearly, so she can understand.) We have to get you to the cabin. I can't carry both of you, so you're going to have to help me out as much as possible. We only have to go a few hundred feet.

Sam helps Victoria to her feet and steadies her to keep her standing . Victoria is extremely weak and unsteady on her feet.

Sam: (To Victoria.) Come on. Grab on.

Sam picks up Austin in a cradle carry. Sam grabs Victoria's forearm and puts her hand on his arm.

Sam: I'll do most of the work, just keep holding on. Let's go.

Sam carries Austin, dragging Victoria along, as she holds on to his arm. Victoria stumbles often as Sam struggles to move the kids to the cabin. They make it about a hundred feet before Victoria stumbles and falls. Sam, again, gets her to her feet.

Sam: (To Victoria, encouraging her as they continue.) You can do this! We have to keep going. I know it's hard. C'mon. We're so close now.

When they get to the corner of the barn, Victoria collapses once again. Sam looks at her, then looks at the door to the cabin.

Sam: (To Victoria.) You have to stay awake. I don't want to lose you both. I'm gonna need you to keep fighting.

Sam puts Austin down, adjusting the coat, where necessary, to keep him wrapped well. Using a fireman's carry, he picks up Victoria and rushes toward the cabin. Sam gets half way to the cabin and looks back at Austin's motionless body. He picks up his pace as he struggles to get Victoria into the cabin.

Act VI, Scene 2

[Warming Up]

Once in the cabin, he puts her down in the ante room.

Sam: (He quickly removes her boots. He then stands Victoria up and removes her dress, dropping it to the floor.) Hurry, you have to help me here. We need to get your wet clothes off and get you warmed up. Stay awake. Keep working on this, (Sam puts Victoria's hands on the buttons of her petticoat.) I'm gonna be right back.

Sam leaves Victoria propped up against the wall and rushes off. Victoria tries to remove her petticoat. Her fingers do not work well and she is confused. Camera: Sam has returned to Austin. He picks him up and rushes back toward the cabin.

Sam: (On his way back to the cabin, speaking to Austin.) Stay with me little guy. I'll get you warmed up soon. Don't give up.

Sam arrives back in the cabin carrying Austin. He kicks the door closed behind him and rushes over to the ante room where Victoria is sitting, propped up against the wall.

Sam: Come on girl, we need to get you in the tub.

Sam gently puts Austin down on the floor next to Victoria's feet, then, reaching over, checks the water temperature in the tub.

Sam: (Addressing Victoria, referring to her clothes.) We'll get the rest off once you get you a little warmer.

Sam gently helps Victoria into the tub.

Sam: This is gonna sting a little. You'll just have to endure it for a couple minutes, then it'll feel pretty good.

Once Victoria is in the tub, Sam positions her head back so her face doesn't fall into the water.

Sam: Girl. You have to keep your head up. I'll help in just a minute. Just concentrate on keeping your face up.

Sam then begins to remove Austin's wet clothes.

Sam: Your turn young man.

He first removes Austin's shirts. He sees the wounds left by the belt.

Sam: (To Austin as he ever so gently moves his fingers over the wounds.) You poor little guy. (Austin does not flinch at the touch.)

Sam finishes getting Austin undressed and places him in the tub in Victoria's arms. The water has streaks of red from Austin's injuries.

Sam: Here. (Sam puts Victoria's arms around Austin. He tilts Austin's head back against Victoria's shoulder.) Hold on to him. Can you hear me? If you can hear me open your eyes. (Sternly, as a command.) Open your eyes!

Victoria manages to barely open her eyes.

Sam: Good. Now, keep his face out of the water. It's super important that you keep his face out of the water. (Sam is sweating. He takes off his hat then puts the hat on Victoria. Sam takes Victoria's hand trying to reassure her.) This is going to be uncomfortable for just a little while, but it's necessary. Okay? I've got some things to do here in the cabin, but I'm not going anywhere. I'll be right here. Okay? (Victoria's only response is a slow head shake, no.)

Sam tries to leave the tub side, but Victoria will not let go of his hand.

Sam: I've got to put more water on the stove. I'm gonna be right here.

Sam pries his hand out of Victoria's grip and places his hand on top of hers.

Sam: I'm right here, but I need my hand so I can get you two warmed up.

Sam leaves the ante room crossing the kitchen to the cook stove. He puts another couple of pieces of wood in the cook stove and checks the temperature of the water. He glances back at the tub and sees both their heads out of the water. He then dashes over to the heating stove. He puts some more wood in it as well. He dashes back to a position that affords him a view of the tub to make sure their heads are up. He then dashes into his room and grabs some towels. He quickly goes back to the tub. Neither one of the kids have moved at all.

Sam: (Touching Victoria's hand.) See? I'm not going anywhere.

Sam rolls up towels and places them around both Victoria's and Austin's necks for collars. Sam takes the hat off Victoria and puts it on Austin while he wraps her head in a towel.

Sam: This will help keep your heat in. (Sam is making small talk, trying to keep Victoria's spirits up.) I know it's not very fashionable, but it helps a lot.

Sam puts his hand back on Victoria's. Then he removes his hand to check for Austin's carotid pulse, then he checks Austin's radial pulse. He then checks the capillary refill of Austin's fingers by gently squeezing the finger tip and the finger nail and quickly releasing them. Color returns slowly.

Sam: (To Austin. In a reassuring and calm tone.) A little slow, but not too bad. Not too bad. (Sam checks the capillary refill of Austin's toes. Camera on Austin's toes - Sam gently squeezes Austin's big toe, like he did his finger. There is no color return within the two seconds.)

Sam: (To Austin.) Hey big guy. Keep fighting! We need to get better circulation to those toes.

Sam moves to the head of the tub.

Sam: Let's warm up that handsome head of yours.

Sam removes the hat from Austin. Austin starts to shiver as Sam dries his hair with one of the towels.

Sam: (Even though Austin is unconscious, he is speaking to Austin as though Austin was awake.) Oh yeah! Shivering's a good thing. Keep it up buddy.

Sam goes to the stove and puts some hot water on a small towel. He then returns to the tub and drapes the hot towel over Austin's head.

Sam: Hey, little fella. Hang in there. Keep fighting. I need to see you open your eyes buddy. (Now addressing Victoria.) Hey girl, what's your name? Can you tell me your name?

Victoria slowly shakes her head in the negative. Sam is desperately trying to get Victoria thinking again and get her able to take warm fluids.

Sam: Hey, girl. I hate to just keep calling you 'girl'. I need you to tell me your name. I'm going to the stove to get you some soup. When I get back, you have to tell me your name.

Sam quickly goes to the stove where there is a pot with soup in it. He pours some into a cup, spilling some on the stove top. Because Sam has the stove so hot, it instantly boils off. He returns to the tub with the soup. He checks the temperature of the towel on Austin's head and removes it. He then grabs another towel and dries Austin's hair some more.

Sam: Okay, I kept my side of the bargain. Now you have to tell me your name. (Sam wraps a towel around Austin's head too.) I need to know who you are and who you are holding. Is that your brother?

Victoria nods in the affirmative.

Sam: Okay, at least we are getting somewhere. I'm sure he has a name and it's probably not Buddy. But first, I need to know *your* name.

Victoria does not respond.

Sam: Since you're not helping me out here, I'll just have to start from the beginning. Abigail? (Victoria shakes her head slowly.) Alice? Beth? (Victoria continues shaking her head slowly.) You know, this could take all night. (Trying to lighten the mood.)

Sam checks the water temperature. He takes a bucket, and dips out some water and takes it to the stove. He grabs the other bucket from the stove, returns and pours it slowly and carefully into the tub, making sure to not burn the kids.

Sam: Okay, let's try this again. Where was I? Barbra? (Victoria shakes her head slowly.) You have to help me out here. Give it a try.

Victoria starts to say something, then stops.

Sam: Yeah. Try again.

Victoria: (In a very hoarse, airy voice.) Vict

Sam: Vic? (Sam tries to coax Victoria into a higher level of consciousness by making her think and adding humor to their communication.) Vic sounds like a man's name. It certainly isn't Vic. A beautiful young lady

must have an equally beautiful name. . . . Vic . (Victoria shakes her head.) Victor . Vicky (Victoria stops shaking her head.) . . I must be getting close. . . Victoria. Are you Victoria?

Victoria nods in the affirmative.

Sam: (Happy to get an affirmative response.) Okay, Victoria. Since you can give me that much, you should be able to handle the soup. You think you can try it? (Victoria gives a small nod.) Now take very small sips. Start with just a taste; don't choke. Okay? (Victoria gives a slight, slow nod to indicate her understanding.) This is to help get you warmed up from the inside too. You understand?

Victoria nods a few times. Sam helps Victoria with the cup. Austin is moved slightly, by Sam, to allow Victoria to drink some soup. Austin shivers once in a while. Victoria sees him shiver and looks at Sam.

Sam: (Reaches up and gently puts his hand under Austin's chin. He softly strokes his thumb across Austin's cheek a couple times. Reassuring Victoria.) Shivering is the body's way of fighting the cold. He's not out of the woods yet, but he has a fighting chance. He seems to be a tough little guy.

Victoria: (Victoria nods once to verify is toughness.)Yes. (Sam smiles at the verbal response. He then checks the water temperature again.)

Sam: One or two more water changes and we'll see if you've warmed up enough that we can get you into bed.

Victoria: (Nods a couple times slowly.) 'Kay. (She looks at Austin's expressionless face and tears roll down her cheeks.)

Sam: We are doing all we can . . and he's responding. Don't worry. (Sam dries her tears with one of the towels he brought to the tub.) I'll be watching over him all night. I think we got to him on time.

Sam gets up, grabs the empty bucket and dips some water out of the tub. He crosses to the stove, puts the bucket on the stove, grabs the bucket that was on the stove. He walks to the back door where he cross bolts it and makes sure the curtain is completely covering the door's window.

End of Act VI

[To Act V](#)

[To Act VII](#)