

INT. BIVOUAC - NIGHT

START

Coates takes a swig from a flask. The liquor spills out the side of his mouth. His face mask makes it hard to drink. He wipes it away but Parker notices this.

PARKER

How come you wear that mask?

He looks over at her. Not answering. Not sure where to begin.

PARKER (CONT'D)

I've seen 'em before. When I was a kid, my dad would take me to the VFW. Some of the guys had faces... masks.

COATES

Your father was in the war?

PARKER

In Paderborn.

Coates raises his flask and takes a drink.

COATES

What's his name?

PARKER

Franklin.

COATES

I had a daughter. Was a field nurse during the war. Said if I was there she should be there also. Would've been about your age.

The others hear this. Take it in.

PARKER

What was it like?

COATES

What did Franklin tell you?

PARKER

He wouldn't.

END

Coates takes this in. Agrees. Nothing is better.

INT. RESEARCH OUTPOST - MAIN BUILDING - REC ROOM - FOGGY NIGHT

START

BANG. Something crashes into the door, nearly breaking it down. Ellie gets to her feet. They all watch the door, scared. Finally, the door flings open.

Is it a monster? No... Coates steps in half frozen in the doorframe, covered in Parker's blood. In his hand, the bear trap.

BOOKER

Man alive!

Coates stumbles inside.

ELLIE

Coates, are you hurt?!

He tosses the bloody bear trap at JR's feet. JR looks down at it. At the Sunday Moniker.

JR

(To himself)

No. Where's Belle?... Coates!?
Where is she?

Coates doesn't respond; he walks to a chair and sits down.

Ellie hangs her head. JR backs off in disbelief, knowing.

JR (CONT'D)

Coates, what happened to Parker?!
Coates!?! God --

Booker sensing in Coates - a trauma - recognized by those few who had seen the war.

BOOKER

Give him space.

Long pause.

COATES

Belle stepped in this trap - too scared to scream. I was carryin' her and we were set upon.

JR

By the bear?!

Coates shakes his head no.

ELLIE

Did you see it?

COATES

The shape of it. Walked on two legs. Like a man. Matted hair. Fangs. Hands four times size o' mine. Ripped Parker in half and ran off with her parts before I could blink. It's a...

(Muttering to himself)

Christ, I don't... it's beyond us. Beyond Christ.

Coates stands and begins to load his rifle. He has lost his composure.

JR

Where are you going?

COATES

To hunt it before it hunts us. If it isn't already. Tried to follow it but lost track. The steps, three times the size of any man... just disappeared.

He finishes reloading his rifle.

COATES (CONT'D)

I'll find it. For Belle.

JR

You can't leave. You're our protection. I'm ordering you not to go!

COATES

You killed that girl bringing her here. Don't play high hat now, pansy.

END

Coates moves to the door.