

After a second, from inside, something pushes back on his hand...

A great ROAR shakes the earth. Hollis looks back out into the storm.

3

INT. RESEARCH STATION - BUNK HOUSE - NIGHT

3

"My Blue Heaven" by Gene Austin becomes diegetic as MARIANNE (40s) stands in front of a record player. She turns the volume knob, making it louder.

In the hazy bunk house are FIVE PEOPLE of various ages.

SONG (O.S.)

"When Whippoorwill calls... And evening is nigh... I hurry to my, blue heaven... "

Start

Marianne smiles and turns to face the rest of the group and does a small dance move - almost to herself.

BENNETT (40's), MILT (60's), EVANS (30's), and LANE (20's) sit at a small table playing cards.

Marianne walks over to Lane and taps him on the shoulder. He looks up at her. She extends her hand. Lane looks around and then back at her.

LANE

(Surprised)

Me?

MARIANNE

(Playful flirtation)

Before I change my mind.

She takes his cigarette, takes a puff before putting it in the ashtray, and takes his hand. Bennett looks up from his cards.

BENNETT

Hey, hey... Who gets your chips?

LANE

(Over his shoulder,
engulfed in Marianne)

Whoever's gonna patch the hole.

MILT

That'll be me...

Milt reaches over and grabs Lane's poker chips.

Marianne leads Lane away from the table, and they start to dance. She leads, teaching him along the way.

Snow falls through a large broken board in the ceiling and lands on them.

LANE
Say, this is nice.

MARIANNE
Best you don't get used to it.

Lane adjusts his glasses.

LANE
I wouldn't dare.

Bravery growing, he dips her, and she laughs.

EVANS
Better turn that music down, or
you'll wake the boss.

LANE
Wouldn't wanna do that now would
we... Not until this dance is over.

Bennett laughs.

BENNETT
Remember last time...

He stands up doing an impression.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
Murderation! Turn that racket down
or I'll buy your family home and
raze it!

MARIANNE/BENNETT
Or my name isn't Merriell Sunday
Senior!!

Everyone bursts out laughing.

A ROAR in the distance stops the laughter immediately.

They look to the windows and the presence of something outside.

SONG (O.S.)
"A smiling face, a fireplace, a
cozy room. A little nest that's
nestled where the roses bloom.
(MORE)

End