

This time of night?
DANI
DANI grabs the bag from her. She pulls out bloodstained clothing—a man’s shirt and pants, and an axe.

What did you do?
DANI
SONYA
I didn’t do anything. They’re not mine.

Whose are they?
DANI
SONYA
Ross’s.

What happened to him? Is he hurt? Where is he?
DANI
SONYA
He’s not hurt.

Then what is this?
DANI
SONYA
He killed that old woman.

Look at this!
ROSS
ROSS bursts through the door as a ten year old. He cradles a wounded bird.
ROSS
DANI becomes twelve.
SONYA watches the memory.
He brings the bird over to DANI.

Ew! Ross, why did you bring that in here?
DANI

I think it's dying. ROSS

Get it away from me. DANI

We have to do something. ROSS

Mom is going to freak out if she sees this! DANI

I don't care what Mom does. It's hurt! We have to do something! Dad will know what to do. ROSS

Dad! Dad!

Where's Dad?

DANI doesn't respond. ROSS shoves the bird towards her.

You do something then. ROSS

DANI takes the bird. She looks it over. Frowns.

Turn around. DANI

Why? ROSS

Just do it. DANI

ROSS does.

She snaps its neck.

He turns back around.

What did you do? ROSS

It was suffering.

DANI

You killed it!

ROSS

I stopped its suffering. It was going to die anyway.

DANI

You don't know that. We could have taken it to the vet or something.

ROSS

It wouldn't have made it. I'm telling you, I did the right thing. You didn't want that bird to suffer, did you? Did you want it to be in pain?

DANI

ROSS cradles the bird.

It's just a bird, Ross.

DANI

You don't know a thing about it.

ROSS

Silence.

Dad's stuff is gone.

DANI

What stuff?

ROSS

All of it.

DANI

His clothes?

ROSS

Yeah.

DANI

His records?

ROSS

Yeah.

DANI

ROSS
His toothbrush?

DANI
Yes, Ross. Everything. He left.

ROSS
Why?

DANI
I don't know.

ROSS
But he's coming back though.

DANI
I don't know.

ROSS looks out the window. He holds the bird close to his chest.

ROSS
You're such an idiot, Dani. He left that whole pile of wood out there. Look, his axe is just sitting right there. He's going to come back to finish it. You're wrong about everything. You were wrong about the bird, and you're wrong about Dad.

Silence.

DANI finds a dictionary and opens it.

DANI
Saltwort. Do you remember that one?

I thought you were supposed to be the smartest ten year old in your class.

ROSS
A plant in the goosefoot family, or a strong-smelling coastal shrub.

DANI
That's right.

ROSS
What's the next one?

DANI
Salty. I think that's pretty self-explanatory. Alright, what's next? Salubrious.