

RESCUED

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EXT. BIG BEAR, CA - DAY

Establishing. Mountains. Lake. Forest.

INT. TRUCK - BIG BEAR INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HEAD - DAY

A few cars. But not highly trafficked.

JULIETTE (27) dressed in a Park Ranger uniform. Parked. Jots a note, leaning on the wheel. Writing on quality stock - thick. The nice paper stands out from the multicolor 3 layer government documents on her clipboard.

We peek the words: "Sorry for the trouble. -Juliette"

She folds the letter into thirds. Places it into an envelope. Seals it. Writes "Ryan" on the front in neat cursive. Leaves it on the seat.

EXT. BIG BEAR INTERPRETIVE TRAIL HEAD - DAY

Juliette closes the truck door. Shoulders a pack and radio.

HIKER 1, at the edge of the parking lot, talking to HIKER 2 who's unseen, around the bend of the trail.

HIKER 1

(shouting)

Seriously, he just turned 30 and he won't move out from his parents.

Juliette suspects-- these Hikers are odd.

HIKER 2 (O.S.)

(shouting)

I mean, housing's expensive. I'm thinking of buying a triplex. Rent out two units to pay for mine. And the mortgage. And taxes. And so I don't have to work.

Juliette-- definitely morons.

HIKER 1

Do you know how to fix things?

HIKER 2 (O.S.)

Nah. But whatever, my landlord never fixes anything. I can do that.

Juliette approaches the trailhead, Hiker 1.

HIKER 1

Oh, don't go there. My friend's  
heeding the call of the wild. You  
know, bathroom.

Juliette instinctually puts on her grade school teacher hat.

JULIETTE

But that's the trail.  
(pointing)  
There's an outhouse.

HIKER 1

He wants the full outdoorsy  
experience.

HIKER 2 (O.S.)

(shouting)  
My first shit in the woods! It's  
glorious.

Juliette pulls a wag bag out of her pack.

JULIETTE

(come on now)  
You can take it home with you so  
you'll never forget.  
(to Hiker 1)  
Make sure he cleans it up.

Juliette hands Hiker 1 the wag bag.

HIKER 1

Gross.

EXT. BIG BEAR INTERPRETIVE TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

Juliette walks past the Hikers. Hiker 2 is stooped down with  
a stick and the wag bag. Trying to get the poop in the bag.

Hiker 1 stands near, disgusted. Not looking.

Juliette gets a ways away. Sigh of relief being away from the  
goons.

HIKER 2

(distantly)  
Let's make a campfire!

Juliette-- Really? Distracted.

WUMP. SCRAPE.

Missstep. Scraping her shin against a rock.

JULIETTE  
 (expressions of pain)  
 Bitch. Mother fucker.

She rubs her shin and breathes through the pain.

Pulling up her pant leg to inspect-- small abrasion.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 (about herself)  
 You sissy.

Then the blood.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 Oh there it goes.

Juliette drops her pack. Pulls out a gauze pad and tape.

SNATCH!

A MAN in black sweats grabs her bag and runs.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 Come on! What the fuck?

EXT. BIG BEAR INTERPRETIVE TRAIL - CHASE

Juliette chases the man.

Off trail. Up through the woods. Sprinting.

EXT. HOLCOMB VALLEY - LOST IN THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

The steep terrain is hard to manage. He trips jumping over a log. Drops her bag.

The contents spill out on the hillside: radio, med-kit, tarp, climbing shoes, chalk, prescription medication.

He runs off. Leaving Juliette's stuff.

JULIETTE  
 (yelling after)  
 But why!?  
 (catching her breath)  
 Fucking asshole.

She gathers her belongings and repacks.

Looking around. Trying to orient.

Juliette pulls out her phone and GPS app to see where she is.

Orienting the digital map, she looks around. Starts walking up a hill. Staring at her phone.

Distracted by the GPS she walks into low laying tree branches. Gets twigs tangled in her hair.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 (frustrated - get off me!)  
 Fuckedy Fuck! Get off!

She wrestles the branches away. Stops. Takes a deep breath.

A COYOTE.

The animal stands a few yards away. Staring at her.

Juliette doesn't move. The coyote doesn't move. Just stares.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 (freak out)  
 What?! What do you want?  
 (waving her arms)  
 Raaaaahhh! Scram!

The coyote-- "whatever." Then turns and saunters away.

Juliette sighs. Then continues up the hill.

SMOOSH.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 God damn it. Who does that?

She's stepped on dog shit. Not coyote shit. Dog shit in a doggie bag. Bagged then left by it's asshole owner.

Juliette picks it up. Double bags it. And puts in the side pouch of her pack.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 The worst.

Continue walking. Finally connecting with a climbers trail that leads up to

EXT. COYOTE PEAK - CONTINUOUS

She stops and takes in the landscape. It is beautiful.

She takes off her bag. Unpacks her climbing shoes and chalk bag. Lays down the blue tarp. Pinning down the edges so it doesn't blow away. Organizes everything.

Then pulls out her radio.

JULIETTE

(into the radio)

This is Juliette Long, San Bernardino District Ranger, calling in an accident at Coyote Peak.

DISPATCH - GERRY

(through radio)

Go ahead Juliette.

JULIETTE

Body found. Dead. No pulse. No Respirations. Obvious fractures. Significant blood loss.

DISPATCH - GERRY

(through radio)

Patient description and location?

JULIETTE

Female, early 30's, caucasian.

RYAN

(through radio)

Juliette?

JULIETTE

Ryan, put Gerry back on.

RYAN

(through radio)

You ok Jules?

JULIETTE

I need a SAR team, a litter, and helicopter for pick up. Hurry up, I don't want a hiker or climber to see this.

RYAN

(through radio)

Julie. Don't do anything crazy. I'll be right there. Just hold tight. Breathe--

SMASH!

Juliette smashes the radio on the rocks.

JULIETTE

Fucking breathe your face! Fuck!  
Fuck! Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

Tantrum: SMASH! SMASH! SMASH!

Deep breath. Exhale. Relax.

Juliette sits and looks out at the trees below and the landscape that extends for hundreds of miles: the mountains and forests.

She pulls on her climbing shoes. Methodically lacing them.

Standing up. She ties the chalk bag around her waist and opens the pouch. Chalking up her hands.

She steps to the rock. Directly above the tarp. She touches the first holds.

The rock. She can feel it. From fingers to spine. The wind too. She closes her eyes--

THUNK!

A body falls. Right onto the tarp.

Juliette-- Flinches cartoonishly.

NICK, 30's, writhes in pain. Moaning incoherent agony. Broken and bloodied. Covered in abrasions and lacerations. Angulated fractures. Wearing a pair of tighty whitey's.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

Seriously?  
(switching modes)  
Fine.

Juliette scans the scene. Looks up for any other falling objects. Scans Nick's injured body.

Nick pisses himself. She pulls out gloves.

Juliette stoops down and approaches.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

Hi. My name is Juliette. I have medical training. Can I help?

NICK

(gargles pain)

Nick-- Unconscious, begins coming to.

JULIETTE

(good patient care)

I know you're hurting. But I gotta see if anything is life threatening. Try not to move ok? Can you open your mouth?

Nick-- too much pain. Juliette forces his mouth open and looks inside. Gravel. With two fingers she scoops the rocks out. Several times to get it all.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

Can you breathe?

Nick labors, trying to take a breath.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

That's good. Try again.

She feels his ribs while he inhales.

Juliette moves her hand to his wrist to check for a radial pulse. Then she begins sweeping his body for large areas of bleeding. Sticking her hands under him. Then checking her gloves. Then back under. She finds blood.

She pulls gauze out of her bag.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)

Hey buddy. I'm going to roll you onto your side. You don't have to do anything but try and remain still ok?

Nick-- hazy but coming to.

NICK

(mutters)

Ok.

JULIETTE

(relief)

You can talk a little. That's good. Just keep breathing. I'm going to see how bad the bleeding is ok?

Juliette scoots close to Nick. Puts one of his legs over the other. Moves his arm above his head. Grabs his shoulder and chunk of his thigh and rolls him towards her on his side.

Juliette looks at Nick's back. Seeing a large laceration that is gushing blood. She takes the handful of gauze and stuffs it in the wound. Then adds more gauze as the layers fill up with blood. She puts pressure on the wound.

NICK  
 (real pain)  
 Ahhh bitch mother fuck!

JULIETTE  
 (more relief)  
 It's good you can talk.  
 (beat)  
 Maybe we try nicer words?

Nick tries to laugh. But it hurts.

Juliette uses Nicks leg and arm to kick stand his body in this sideways position (modified Haynes position).

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
 You know where you are?

She moves to his back. Holding pressure on the wound.

Nick-- awake and mostly oriented, with memory loss.

NICK  
 (coming to - labors)  
 On a mountain?

JULIETTE  
 (suspects amnesia)  
 Below it. You remember which peak?

NICK  
 (labors)  
 I'm bad with names.

JULIETTE  
 Uh huh. You don't remember.

NICK  
 (admits)  
 No.

JULIETTE  
 (no worries)  
 Coyote Peak. Just gotta hang out like this until the bleeding stops. You don't feel like you're bleeding or wet anywhere else do you?

NICK  
 (taking stock)  
 I pissed myself.

Looks down at the puddle.

JULIETTE  
 (it's ok)  
 Yeah I saw. Do you remember  
 falling?

NICK  
 No.  
 (beat)  
 Was I climbing?

JULIETTE  
 I'm assuming you were. Do you know  
 where your clothes are?

Nick-- awake and oriented, getting personality back.

NICK  
 Thought you might know.

JULIETTE  
 (laughs)  
 No. You just fell next to me. Like  
 this.

NICK  
 (getting lighter)  
 Weird.  
 (beat)  
 And convenient?

JULIETTE  
 Search and Rescue is on it's way.

NICK  
 (confused)  
 You already called them?

JULIETTE  
 Yeah.

NICK  
 I didn't hear the call.

JULIETTE  
 Before you fell.  
 (realizes she gave  
 something away)

Nick-- totally coherent. But with gaps of memory.

NICK  
 What for?

Long pause-- Nick begins realizing there is more to Juliette's story. Juliette's unwilling to reveal anything.

Juliette pulls out a notepad and pen. Writes down findings.

NICK (CONT'D)  
(to break tension)  
You a ranger?

JULIETTE  
I'm a ranger.

NICK  
I remember falling for a long time.

JULIETTE  
What?

NICK  
I remember having at least half a dozen thoughts.  
(beat)  
I was up top.

JULIETTE  
(looks up)  
How are you alive?

NICK  
(making light)  
Guess life loves me that much.

JULIETTE  
(making dark)  
Or hates me that much.

NICK  
Woof. You're mean.

JULIETTE  
Anything coming back about your clothes?

NICK  
(genuine)  
No. I'm sorry about all this.

JULIETTE  
(genuine)  
It's not your fault.

NICK  
(remembering)  
Shit.

JULIETTE  
What is it?

NICK  
It is my fault.

JULIETTE  
What do you remember?

NICK  
(deflecting)  
It's a long story.

JULIETTE  
(laughs)  
We have time.

NICK  
I took a bunch of acid.

JULIETTE  
That's the long story?  
(beat)  
What's a bunch?

NICK  
~~Like~~ 6 tabs.

JULIETTE  
But you're not tripping now?

NICK  
Guess pain sobers you up fast.

Juliette rechecks the wound.

JULIETTE  
(good news)  
Bleeding stopped.

NICK  
I can get up?

JULIETTE  
No! Jesus, you definitely broke--  
like everything. Your back. Jesus,  
I don't know. But no. You're  
getting airlifted out of here.

NICK  
I was joking. I don't want to move.  
Zero interest in trying.

JULIETTE

Good. Fuck.

Juliette comes around to Nick's front.

NICK

Wow, you're beautiful.

JULIETTE

(disappointed)

Don't make me regret helping.

NICK

Sorry. It's the drugs, you know?

JULIETTE

LSD makes you a creep?

NICK

Maybe the trauma? Brings out emotions?

Juliette jot down more of her findings down.

JULIETTE

I'm going to check your vitals.

She feels Nick's radial pulse. Staring at her watch.

NICK

What were you about to climb?

JULIETTE

(shush)

I'm counting.

15 seconds.

She keeps counting. Now watching his chest rise and fall.

15 seconds.

30 seconds-- Nick's adrenaline dump wears off. He begins drifting back into his altered state.

NICK

You were going to solo something?

Juliette writes her findings down.

JULIETTE

Any other memories coming back?

NICK  
I met a dog in the woods.

JULIETTE  
(suspecting)  
Before or after taking acid?

NICK  
Before it kicked in.  
(beat)  
Pretty sure.  
(beat)  
Maybe.

JULIETTE  
What kind of dog?

NICK  
It was real soft. We cuddled.

Juliette sees wounds that look like bite marks.

JULIETTE  
Sure it wasn't a coyote?

NICK  
White with a black patches? One  
over it's eye?

JULIETTE  
Dalmatian? Border Collie? English  
Setter?

NICK  
Collie.

JULIETTE  
I have a dog like that.

NICK  
Really? Maybe it was your dog?

JULIETTE  
(correcting)  
\*Had. No. Nicky died.

NICK  
Sorry.

JULIETTE  
So you cuddled with a dog. And?

Nick drifts into his memory.

EXT. HOLCOMB VALLEY - LOST IN THE WOODS - FLASHBACK - DAY

Nick walking through the woods high. Like Juliette before, with the trees and the coyote. Only Nick is blissed out.

NICK (V.O.)

Some tree branches combed their hands through my hair. Fingers. Tree fingers. Ha ha. I felt it. And there was the wind. And there were the birds. Oh and then this rock! How do I describe it? It was kind of lonely. But not bad lonely. It felt-- like there was nothing but this stone. Like nothing else mattered but the rock. But when I touched the rock, it just crumbled to sand in my hand. And so the rock didn't matter either. And not mattering. Well that seemed to make everything worth doing.

EXT. COYOTE PEAK - CONTINUOUS

JULIETTE

(oh boy)

You're definitely still fucked up.

(making fun of Nick)

You took off your clothes to be closer to nothing?

NICK

(loves it)

That'd be a great reason.

JULIETTE

(real question)

Why'd you leave the underwear on?

NICK

(sexy joking)

You'd prefer me without them?

JULIETTE

Stop.

NICK

I thought they were funny.

JULIETTE

They are.

NICK

(win)

Nice.

(beat)

Why'd you call Search and Rescue?

JULIETTE

This is not about me.

NICK

I'm worried about you. You look pretty bummed.

JULIETTE

I just found this guy who fell a hundred feet.

NICK

No. Something else.

JULIETTE

Stop projecting.

NICK

There's this dark cloud hanging over you.

Juliette looks up at the sky.

JULIETTE

Uh huh. It is getting cold.

Juliette pulls her coat around her a little tighter.

NICK

Something dark inside you.

JULIETTE

It's hard to tell what's the fall, the drugs, or you.

NICK

I can't tell either. Feels like a dream.

JULIETTE

Does it?

NICK

I remember talking to my buddy Alex. Going on about moving from our warehouse in the country to a place in the city.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

But then I was like, "wait the warehouse was in the city. And I haven't lived there in forever. And Alex has been dead for like 10 years."

JULIETTE

Sounds like a nightmare.

Nick starts shivering.

NICK

You don't ever remember something and then realize it was just a dream?

JULIETTE

I'm not sure I have dreams.

NICK

You don't dream?

JULIETTE

Yeah-- no-- I don't really sleep. Not without pills. And I don't remember anything when I take those.

NICK

Oh those drugs are dangerous.

JULIETTE

Seriously Dude?

NICK

Nick.

JULIETTE

What?

NICK

Nick.

JULIETTE

You're Nick? Like my dog?

NICK

I thought your dog was Nicky?

JULIETTE

Don't play dumb.

NICK

Yeah I'm Nick. And you're Juliette?

JULIETTE  
You heard me?

NICK  
Name tag.

JULIETTE  
Right.

Juliette unpins the tarp from the ground and wraps the sides around Nick to warm him up.

NICK  
Thank you.  
(gets back to it)  
So no ambitions either? What? A  
dead end job? Lots of debt?

JULIETTE  
What are you doing?

Nick moves from his spine stable position to more of a lounging position laying on his side. He pops up his head.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
(hey)  
Don't move around. Your spine.

NICK  
(persists)  
No friends or family either huh?

JULIETTE  
(sarcastic/annoyed)  
You got me. The drugs and the fall  
have turned you into a clairvoyant.

NICK  
And your boyfriend. That didn't  
work out either?

JULIETTE  
I liked creepy Nick better than  
therapist Nick. Actually I liked  
unresponsive Nick best.

NICK  
Dead dog to boot? I'm sorry Jules.

Nick's upset for Juliette. But more pleased that he's figured her out. His "gotchu" grin gives him away.

JULIETTE  
(correcting)  
Juliette. Maybe somebody pushed you  
off the cliff. I'm ready to.

NICK  
Who pushed you?

JULIETTE  
Ok I'm done. I'm not doing this.

Juliette steps away.

NICK  
Sorry. It's the drugs.

JULIETTE  
Bullshit. Fuck off Nick.

Juliette starts shoving stuff back in her bag.

Nick's shivering returns. Juliette holds her med kit.

She remembers she can't go. She sits back down.

NICK  
You're not leaving?

JULIETTE  
(trapped by duty)  
It would be abandonment. I gotta  
stay until "someone of equal or  
higher medical training relieves  
me."

NICK  
(genuine - kind)  
Sorry I was pushy.  
(beat)  
You don't have to stay.

JULIETTE  
No, I'm here.

NICK  
I can deny care, can't I? Tell you  
to go?

JULIETTE  
Yeah. But you're not all there. I  
kind of have to stay.

NICK  
I won't pry. I'll be good.

Pause.

JULIETTE  
(suddenly opening up)  
I'm just sick of all this.

NICK  
(hesitant)  
Of finding people who've fallen off  
cliffs?

JULIETTE  
I'm sick of everything. I'm tired  
of eating. Of sleeping.

NICK  
Of annoying people like me?

JULIETTE  
Yes of annoying people like you.  
Fuck, I'm annoying to me.  
Everyone's annoying. No one's  
trying.

NICK  
People are trying.

JULIETTE  
But just to get stuff for  
themselves. It's not about treating  
others better. It's about having  
the chance to treat others as badly  
as they've been treated.

NICK  
People are still figuring out how  
to love themselves.

JULIETTE  
"I gotta love myself. I gotta free  
myself of toxic energy." That just  
means "I'm not accountable for my  
actions and if you say otherwise  
I'm not hanging out with you  
anymore."

NICK  
It gets misused.

JULIETTE  
I just wish people would treat each  
other with basic decency. Is that  
really too much to ask?

NICK  
It kind of is.

JULIETTE  
Then why would I want to keep trying?

NICK  
To be your best. The best warrior you can be.

JULIETTE  
Even if you're sure to lose?

NICK  
Especially then. Do the thing because it is the right thing to do. Not for an outcome.

JULIETTE  
And you think you've chosen the right thing?

NICK  
Are you really asking me?

JULIETTE  
No.  
(sudden blaming)  
Did you even think for a second about what how your actions would impact anyone else?

NICK  
I didn't mean to fall.

JULIETTE  
Doesn't excuse you from being an asshole.

NICK  
Come here.

JULIETTE  
Why?

NICK  
You need a hug.

JULIETTE  
What did I say about being a creep?

NICK

I'm not being a creep. I'm trying to give you a hug. People need hugs.

JULIETTE

You're insane. Creepy and insane.

NICK

Suit yourself.

Silence.

The wind in the trees. The forest.

Nick's shivering becomes more and more evident.

Juliette can't help but notice. And it annoys her.

JULIETTE

You putting me on? You just trying to get me to cuddle?

NICK

I do like cuddling.

Juliette checks Nick's radial pulse and respirations again.

JULIETTE

You're vitals are speeding up.

NICK

(genuine question)  
That's not good?

JULIETTE

Your body's compensating for the blood loss. That's why you're shivering.

NICK

(deflecting)  
That and the no clothes.

JULIETTE

(i gotta get in the tarp)  
Fuck.

Juliette goes through he bag. She doesn't have anything useful. "I don't want to get in the tarp. How can I avoid getting in the tarp?"

NICK

What are you looking for?

JULIETTE  
(i gotta get in the tarp)  
God damn it.

Juliette crawls under the tarp with Nick. Wrapping the sides of the tarp to keep air from coming in.

INT. UNDER THE TARP - CONTINUOUS

JULIETTE  
Don't get weird.

She pulls all the edges in. So they're tucked away in a blue bubble isolated from the world.

Juliette wraps herself around Nick. His shivering slowly begins to calm.

Long beat.

NICK  
Sorry I stole your plan.

JULIETTE  
What's that?

NICK  
Falling off a route.

JULIETTE  
You fucked it up. You're alive.

She let's go. Laying on her back.

Nick rolls onto his back. So that they're side by side.

JULIETTE (CONT'D)  
You shouldn't move.

He puts his head onto her chest. Still shivering a little. He hugs her like a little kid hugging his mom.

Juliette slowly gets comfortable in the awkward situation.

Nick falls asleep.

Juliette glances down. Back at the blue tarp covering her face. Back at Nick.

She closes her eyes.

Sleep. BLACK.

INT. UNDER TARP - DUSK

STILL BLACK

Distantly: CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF

Juliette opens her eyes to the blue tarp again.

Everything is sleepy, quiet, and tender.

JULIETTE

You still with me Nick?

NICK

Mm hm.

JULIETTE

For a minute I forgot where I was.

NICK

Where were you?

JULIETTE

It was more that I forgot who I was.

(beat)

I've never felt that before. Always felt stuck.

NICK

Can I try something?

JULIETTE

I guess.

NICK

It's ~~a little~~ weird.

JULIETTE

I wouldn't expect less.

NICK

It's worth it.

JULIETTE

Ok.

Nick puts his hand on Juliette's stomach. She tenses up. But relaxes. Breathes deeply.

Something turns. It's uncomfortable. Painful. She breathes harder. Her face reveals the discomfort. The anguish.

## JULIETTE (CONT'D)

Nick. It hurts.

Growing louder: CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF

Nick exhales deeply. Inhales deeply. Almost breathing for her.

Juliette begins breathing more erratically. Sweating. Hyperventilating.

Nick reaches for her mouth. Opens it with his fingers. Puts his fingers inside. Juliette coughs. Gags.

Louder: CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF

He reaches deeper. Juliette's nose starts to bleed.

He reaches deeper still. She holds his hand. Tearing up.

Smoke comes out from her mouth. He pulls his fingers out. Holding a black stone.

Deafening: CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF CHUF

Nick puts the black stone in Juliette's hand.

The sound of a helicopter become clear.

Ryan and Search and Rescue voices shout indistinguishable commands back and forth as they approach.

Juliette in her blue tarp bubble looks at the stone with tears in her eyes.