

INT. - BILLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

BILLY

I am happiest when I'm not here.

The computer in front of BILLY crackles as a THERAPIST reconnects on a Zoom call.

THERAPIST

Elaborate.

BILLY

I don't know how.

Beat.

THERAPIST

Try. Name one specific place where you are happy.

Pause.

BILLY

...The...beach.

THERAPIST

Good.

Pause.

BILLY

Do you want me to name another?

THERAPIST

Do you have another?

BILLY

Well, I'm just confused about what you want me to say.

THERAPIST

It seems like you have another.

Pause.

BILLY

Crater Lake in the summertime.

Beat.

THERAPIST
That sounds pretty.

BILLY
I've never gone.

Pause.

THERAPIST
Tell me about it.

Long pause.

BILLY
It's in Oregon, I think. Like right at
the bottom. If you wanted to, you could
go to the Redwoods and Crater Lake
within a day of each other, I'm pretty
sure. It's pretty.

Beat.

THERAPIST
But you've never gone.

BILLY
Yeah.

THERAPIST
Why?

BILLY
I'm too young. And I need a dog.

THERAPIST
Why do you need a dog?

BILLY
So that way if someone tried to kidnap
me, I could cry to my dog.

Pause.

BILLY
What?

THERAPIST
I thought you'd say that the dog would
stop you from getting kidnapped.

Beat.

BILLY

No.

THERAPIST

Why a dog?

BILLY

I've always wanted one.

THERAPIST

Why Crater Lake?

Pause.

BILLY

It's not here.

Long pause.

THERAPIST

Billy.

Beat.

THERAPIST

Are you unhappy?

Billy thinks about this for quite some time.

BILLY

No.

Beat.

THERAPIST

Are you bored?

There is a shift in Billy's face.

BILLY

Would it be stupid to say I am?

THERAPIST

I don't think that is stupid at all.

Beat.

BILLY

It's just... my whole life, I've been waiting for someone to teach me something new. And they haven't. And I can't even get angry because I understand the process and the emotions and the backyard and the interstate and every football field in the goddamn city. I know how to get to any friend's house and where everyone likes to eat. And I love it, and I'm happy, and I'm so, so bored.

Long pause.

THERAPIST

Billy.

Beat.

BILLY

Yeah?

THERAPIST

When are you happiest?

Beat.

BILLY

When nothing is certain.

Beat.

THERAPIST

And?

Billy hesitates.

THERAPIST

It's okay. There's something else.

BILLY

When I'm learning. Like, really, really learning.

Billy pauses.

BILLY

I just miss that thrill.