

14 INT. DINER - LATER

14

Abe sits next to Katie, mid-conversation.

ABE
So, if you need me to plow, hang
holiday lights...

KATIE
Yeah, you told me already.

ABE
But I didn't tell you I can cook.

KATIE
Man of many talents.

ABE
My breakfast is 5-star.

KATIE
Are you flirting with me, Abe?

ABE
(playful)
Flirting? Me? Just letting you know
I have skills.
(MORE)

ABE (CONT'D)

I mean, if you find yourself snowed in with somebody, you want to at least know that they can build a fire, protect and feed you.

KATIE

Are we talkin' squirrel or rabbit?

ABE

I can make anything taste good.

KATIE

No doubt in my mind.

ABE

So, plans to be under the mistletoe with anyone on New Years Eve?

Katie grows serious.

ABE (CONT'D)

Did I say something wrong?

KATIE

Long story. Some other time. You?

ABE

Usually stay to myself. It's a strange time of year for me. Lost my grandma around this time. She was my rock. Told me hold on to our land no matter what. And I failed her.

KATIE

How.

ABE

Jason. I was broke during COVID. He convinced me I could turn a profit with my land and that I'd have a say in how it was used. I'd get half the money up front and the rest later. I'm still waiting for the rest. And I'm not the only one.

KATIE

Why aren't you fighting back?

ABE

I tried. Jason has a mountain of money to burn. I didn't see the loopholes. I took the settlement.

KATIE

He's gotta be stopped.

ABE

I've killed him a thousand times in my head. Sometimes, I...anyway, you said you had two questions.

KATIE

Did you know Debbie?

ABE

Salt of the earth. If she needed anything, I'd do it for free. Still have her office keys.

KATIE

Did she have enemies?

ABE

If you own land you always have enemies.

KATIE

Bethel said Debbie was in the process of submitting her paperwork for housing. You still have her keys. I know it's late but...

ABE

Let's go.

They exit.