

Karl realizes he's been punk'd.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(laughs)

If you could see the look on your face!

The group nervously laughs.

KARL

(laughs)

Oh man, you really had me going there.

JOAN

Had you going!? He had me going!

KARL

(friendly)

I know! I was starting to think you were a tree hugger, Marty!

Marty immediately stops laughing and stares daggers at Karl.

Brodie looks around nervously. Jillian's eyes go wide. Joan looks to the ground. Bobby starts giggling with a mouth full of marshmallows, but sees how serious Marty looks and stops, which makes him start choking on his marshmallows.

MARTY

(seriously)

What did you just say?

KARL

Oh I didn't mean anythi--

Marty erupts in laughter.

MARTY

(playfully)

Good Lord Karl! You are too easy! You gotta lighten up! I think that oil company's got you wound just a little too tight.

The tension breaks and everybody erupts in laughter. There's some kind of bonding happening.

BRODIE

Forgive my father, Mr. Garbi. He's a giant jokester.

KARL
(to Marty)
Twice! That's twice you got me!

The family continues to laugh.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

28

The woods are almost pitch black. The family's laughter is a distant sound. On the body of a tall tree, a hand, draped with bones to look like a skeleton, slowly feels the tree.

The moonlight catches a glimpse of an animal snout on the face. After a beat, the figure slinks back into the shadows.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. BACKYARD/FIRE PIT - NIGHT

29

The laughter starts to fade away. Joan looks up to the sky.

JOAN
Ya know Marty, I gotta tell you
it's beautiful out here. You never
get stars like this in the city.

MARTY
That's why we love it out here. Big
skies, bright stars. Always
something to do. Wouldn't give it
up for the world.

Karl looks at the land.

KARL
It is beautiful.
(beat)
But you know, you could probably
turn this land around for a *pretty*
penny.

MARTY
Ah, nah I'd never sell.

Marty scoff laughs.

MARTY (CONT'D)
This land has been in the family
for years.
(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)

My dad passed it onto me, and one day, I'll pass it onto Brodie. Ya can't break a family tradition.

Karl raises his eyebrows as if to say "whatever you say." A moment passes and a coyote howls in this distance. The Garbi's react slightly alarmed.

JOAN

What was that?

MARTY

Just a coyote.

Joan seems concerned.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Ah, don't worry. You don't mess with them, they don't mess with you.

Karl's eyes light up.

KARL

Well, you know what? I think that is a perfect Segway into a little scary story time.

BOBBY

Oh cmon dad. Your stories are lame.

KARL

No listen, this is a really good one.

MARTY

Well I'm interested Karl. What you got?

KARL

Have you ever heard of the Russian sleep experiment?

MARTY

No sir, I have not.

JILLIAN

Oh dad stop! I read this online like 3 weeks ago.

KARL

I swear Marty, these kids nowadays don't appreciate a damn thing.