

Ben is manning the fire.

ROY
Your girlfriend here?

Roy is getting up. Leah and Stacy remain asleep. Roy joins Ben, who glances at Addison but says:

BEN
No. She needs her rest like the rest of us. Can't sleep?

ROY
Side-effect of...

Roy shakes his bottle of pain pills.

ROY (CONT'D)
Ironic, right? You think it'd be the other way around.
(then)
I'm sorry about before. Grabbing you like that. Worst part is -- I hate it when my dad puts hands on me. I swore I'd never be like him. Says every kid ever.

Addison looks at Roy.

(CONTINUED)

ADDISON

Ben, I had friends in the military who were sent to these places as kids. They said the hardest part was knowing nobody cared about them. Nobody cared if they ate breakfast or did well in school, nobody listened. And that's all anyone this age wants.

(what I mean is...)

Talk to him. Just talk to him like you would to us.

Ben thinks about that. Then goes with it --

BEN

I have a friend. He's a physicist. And he does this thing where he talks about life in terms of physics.

ADDISON

When I said talk to him like you would to us, I didn't mean it *literally*...

ROY

Your friend sounds like a riot.

BEN

It's more helpful than you'd think. For example, he'll talk about states of matter. Like water. You heat it and heat it but nothing happens. You swear it will never change, try as it might. But then one day, poof, it's steam. You didn't do anything new that day, you just didn't quit trying to change it.

ROY

(smiles)

Your friend couldn't just say don't quit trying to quit.

Off Ben's smile, Roy looks at his pain pills sadly.

ROY (CONT'D)

This 'water' here actually has quit before. In fact, I was sober before I got to Sierra Academy. Then I talked back and they put me in the box.

BEN

The box?

(CONTINUED)

ROY

You know the one, out in the parking lot. Size of a...thing no one should ever be put in. Two days in there, two days of Ringer and his crew telling me I was worthless. And... I believed them.

(CONTINUED)

BEN
(favoring Addison)
That doesn't sound like something a
school should do.

ROY
No, it does not, does it?

Roy looks again at the bottle of pain pills...

ROY (CONT'D)
States of matter, huh?

Then tucks the bottle back in his pocket without taking one.

ADDISON
Ben. I don't think this leap is
just about saving their lives. I
think there's more.

Ben and Addison lock eyes, agreeing but not knowing what that
means quite yet...

CUT TO: