

She gave him a look, hard as diamonds the revolver held tight in her hand.

"You can't know me, not really I lived a whole life before you and half a life since."

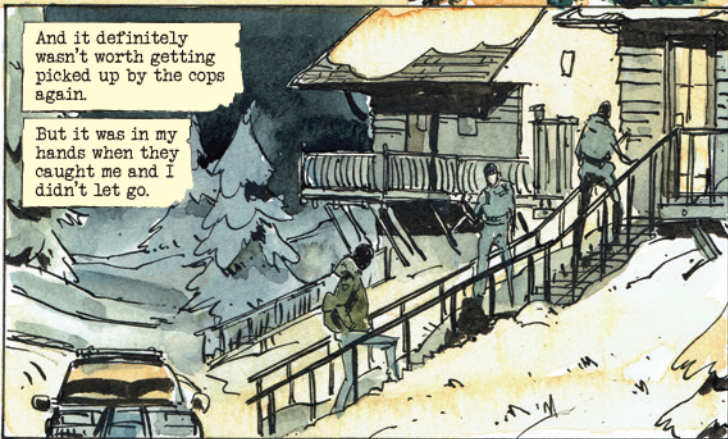


It's not exactly Chandler...



And it definitely wasn't worth getting picked up by the cops again.

But it was in my hands when they caught me and I didn't let go.



After last time my Dad asked me why I broke into a library of all places.

I didn't answer.

I didn't tell him that sometimes I feel like a stranger in my own home.



That I felt more comfortable around the pages of dead authors than I do my own parents.



"No one knows anyone, and why would you want to? We've all got bad beneath it all, why put that out in the world?"







COPS IN MY HOME...MY OWN DAMN SON BROUGHT COPS INTO MY HOME.

WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO 'BOUT IT? WE COULD GROUND HIM AGAIN?



WHAT'S THE POINT, JEN? HE SPENDS ALL'A HIS TIME ALONE IN HIS ROOM ANYWAY.



THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S GONE OUT IN WEEKS 'CEPT FOR SCHOOL, AND IT WAS TO BREAK INTO THAT DAMN LIBRARY AGAIN.



WHY CAN'T HE BE OUT CHASING GIRLS OR GETTING DRUNK LIKE A REGULAR KID?



YOU MEAN MORE LIKE HOW YOU WERE AT HIS AGE?

IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?

NO, NOT LIKE I WAS... BUT JUST...JUST ONE OF THE GUYS, YOU KNOW?



YOU JUST HAVE TO FACE IT, BILLY. TEDDY ISN'T LIKE YOU.

AND MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING.



No, Mom, I'm nothing like him.

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP



It doesn't matter, though.

As soon as I can, I'm leaving and won't be around to disappoint him anymore.



Nothing's going to stop me.



It's not like I had a choice about moving to Alaska.

We moved here, up from Louisiana, when I was a baby.



The "Dixie Winter BBQ." My Dad bringing some Southern charm to South Henley.



Doing it in the middle of winter was his idea of a joke.



It's funny (not the joke, it was as lame as any "Dad joke")...

...but Dad, he always spoke about the South, but I don't know anything about our lives there.



They never told me why we came to Alaska.

Or why, if they miss the South so much, we don't just move back there.