INT. MISS CROSS' HOUSE. NIGHT

There is a knock on her windowpane. She gets up and pulls open the blinds. Max is outside on the roof wearing his parka and ski cap in the falling snow. He waves.

MISS CROSS

Max! What are you doing here?

MAX

(dazed) I don't know. Jesus. They came at me out of no where. It was -

MISS CROSS

What?

MAX

So sudden. I just - (pause)

I'm sorry. Can I use your phone? I just got hit by a car.

MISS CROSS

Oh, my God. Are you OK?

MAX

(disoriented) What?

Miss Cross notices a little cut over Max's eye. She lifts up the front of Max's ski cap. There is blood all over his forehead. She looks shocked.

MISS CROSS

Come inside.

MAX

(climbing in) Thank you.

Max goes to Miss Cross' bed. He lies down and stares at the ceiling.

Miss Cross goes into the bathroom.

Max looks around the room.

MAX

So this is where it all happens?

MISS CROSS

(from the bathroom) All what happens?
MAX

I wouldn't know.

Miss Cross comes back into the bedroom.

Why'd you dump Blume?

Miss Cross stops. Pause.

MISS CROSS

That's none of your business.

MAX

I know it's not. But I'm a little confused right now. I mean. I thought you dumped me for Blume. Then I hear -

MISS CROSS

I never dumped you because we were never going out.

MAX

But it doesn't make any sense. I -

MISS CROSS

Well, I am confused, too. But why don't we just deal with getting you -

MAX

Because it would help me if you would talk to me for a minute. And tell me what happened.

Silence.

MAX

OK. (pause)

Well. A. He's a married man.

And B. He hates himself.

I mean. He smashed your bicycle, didn't he?

MAX

(pause) My previous bicycle. Yes.

MISS CROSS

Well, what kind of person does something like that?

MAX

I don't know. (pause)
War does funny things to men.

Silence. Miss Cross sits down in a rocking chair beside the bed. She opens the bottle of hydrogen peroxide.

MAX

He thinks you dumped him because of Edward Appleby.

MISS CROSS

What does that mean?

MAX

I don't know. I mean. You live in this room.

Max looks around the room. There are trophies and ribbons, a chemistry set, a poster from the Olympics, three large fish tanks, a picture of Jacques Cousteau, and some model planes in dogfights hanging from the ceiling.

MAX

With all his stuff. It's kind of --

MISS CROSS

I was married to him.

MAX

(pause) I know you were.

Silence.

MISS CROSS

Although I will say Edward has more spark and character and imagination in one fingernail than Herman Blume has in his entire body.

MAX

One dead fingernail.

Miss Cross fixes Max with a hard stare.

MISS CROSS

Right. One dead fingernail.

Silence.

MAX

How'd he die?

MISS CROSS

He drowned. (pause)
How'd your mother die?

MAX

She got cancer.

Miss Cross nods. She sighs.

MISS CROSS

Lie still for a minute, OK?

MAX

OK.

Miss Cross pushes Max's hair back with her hand. She looks at him for a minute. She touches the blood on his forehead with a cotton ball. She stops.

MISS CROSS

Is this fake blood?

MAX

(pause) Yes, it is.

MISS CROSS

You know, you and Herman deserve each other. You're little children. Let me show you to the door.

Max gets up and goes over to the window. He climbs out onto the roof. He looks back to Miss Cross.

MAX

That wasn't a very satisfying conversation.

Miss Cross shrugs. Silence.

All right. Goodbye, Miss Cross.

MISS CROSS

Goodbye, Max.