

### Logline:

A young teenage boy and his family move from Texas to an isolated area of Alaska where he must adjust to a new life among a new culture in which he and his parents are strangers.

### Premise:

The oil drilling industry threatens Alaska's way of life. Some of the Alaskan Natives want to work on the rigs because there is good money in the jobs even without college degrees. However, there are more in need of the jobs than jobs. The Lowick family is viewed with suspicion by the local population. Calvin Lowick is an oil executive with a family history as Texas oilmen who wants to serve a company he believes is doing a service to the country. Enola Lowick unhappily leaves her social life behind to support her husband's career as the faithful wife. The most discontented is their son Paul. The move before his senior year threatens his plans to play basketball for a major college program so that he can become a professional player.

### Target Audience:

Teens

### Characters:

**Paul Lowick** is tall, lean and blonde with green eyes. His life is basketball and, as a star player, he thought he had a future as a professional player but the move to Alaska has affected those plans. In the isolated community, he does not think he will have the competition to help him develop into the caliber of player he wants to become or the attention that will get him a scholarship on a big-time college team. He resents what his father and mother have done to him but does not know that the move will set him on an adventure he could not imagine. Paul is a weak-side forward in high school but hopes to find a college where he could play guard, possibly point guard even with his height. He knows that he is small for a

forward in the pros but would be an outstanding guard with his quickness and ball-handling abilities.

Paul is so focused on his basketball goals that he misses the life happening around him. He does not see the potential of living in such a challenging area of America. Paul needs to learn that basketball is just a small part of his larger life and what will come after he can no longer play ball on a competitive level. Paul will discover the potential adventure in drilling for oil using his father's principles. Paul's greatest struggle will be falling in love with Kili while still planning to leave Point Hope.

**Calvin Lowick** is Paul's father, a 40-year-old man, is tall, dark brown hair, blue-eyed with a skinny shoulder width and rough and wiry hands. He is an oilman from a long line of Texas oilmen and hoped that Paul would follow him into the business. He loves being an oilman, it is his life and he has sacrificed everything for his career, although he does not realize that included his family since he is too focused on the oil industry.

He is so detached from his family that he does not know of Paul's basketball plans nor of his wife's love for the social life she has in Texas. His need is to discover his family and learn to appreciate them more than the oil business. Calvin ethical principles learned from his grandfather and father will be challenged by the unscrupulous executive in Ram Oil Company who only care about profits while Calvin was taught to care about the land, the environment and especially people. It is his squeaky clean reputation and that of his family that he was chosen for the Point Hope project. There are executives in the company who know there are dangerous problems with the project and their solution is not to fix them but to send a man to run the project who has a good reputation. They know the problems could destroy Calvin's reputation and corrupt his integrity but profits over principle. Calvin needs to learn how to deal with such men as he protects his family, his reputation and the oil business that he loves.

**Enola Lowick** is Paul's mother, a short stocky woman but skinny by Alaskan Native standards. She is from the northern states, so her body is built to handle the cold though she has lived most of her adult life in Texas since marrying Calvin. She has blonde hair and green eyes. Her life centered around her social activities in Texas; charity drives, parties and ladies card clubs. Then the move to Alaska disrupts her well ordered life. However, like a good corporate wife, she tries to adjust and will seek out the social life of the community only to discover it is nothing like the glamorous one she had in Texas. She was left by Calvin's addiction to his work in the oil industry to raise their son but Paul received her attention only after her social pursuits. She knows about his desire to play basketball in college and regularly attended his games but has never understood his desire to play a game professionally. The idea is foreign to her. she needs to learn how to make her husband fall back in love with her and transform his love for the oil industry into a healthy balance of family, life and career. She also needs to discover how to help her son accomplish his goals which means that, first she will have to learn to appreciate his love of basketball.

**Steven Ahtuanguaruak** is of a heavy build, very muscular, with stark white skin, black eyes and hair. He is taller than Paul's father. He is on a mission to make sure Ram Oil Company stops drilling. His wound is the death of his son, killed by an accident he blames on the oil industry. The link to Ram Oil and his son's death is more in his mind than fact though the company's presence did contribute to the death. Like many environmental activists, Steven does not consider the consequences of shutting down an energy industry. He has a simplistic view of how to meet the energy needs of the country. It is only gradually that others, including Kili, notice the extent that Steven has been mentally effected by his son's death and what he is willing to do to take revenge.

**Nukilik** is an Alaskan Native everyone calls **Kili**. She is taller than Paul with has stark white skin, black hair and blue eyes. She is the star of the

local high school women's basketball team and has the skills to be competitive with Paul on the court. She is Steven's step-daughter and works at the local hardware store. Her mother died unexpectedly leaving her without any other family so Steven is all that she has. She loves him like a father but does not understand his obsession with Ram Oil. Her step-father never told her about his obsession with blaming Ram Oil Company for his son's death. Kili loves Point Hope and Alaska and cannot understand why Paul would want to go to college on the Lower 48. Initially, she finds Paul interesting, though quirky with his Texas drawl and Southern manners. She is slower than Paul to fall in love mostly because of his obsession with professional basketball and his desire to get out of Point Hope as soon as possible.

**Character note: Alaskan Natives are often born either tall and muscular or small and heavysset. It is a natural way of helping the body stay warm as muscularity forces the body to burn calories to create heat while a stout bulkiness provides a layer against the cold.**

Story Chapter Overview:

Chapter 1

Story opens with the last basketball game of the season; the Texas State 1A Division 1 Championship. Paul Lowick is the star of the game and the team MVP. A junior at Travis High School, Richmond Texas, Paul is the weak-side forward; his tall but lean stature with his quickness has made him the team's season leading scorer. With decent grades and his pick of girlfriends, life at the high school is good for him. However, his home life is strained. The night was tarnished by the absence of his father at his biggest moment, for which Enola Lowick gives him the standard excuse that his father wanted to be there but a crisis called him away. Yeah right, in the oil business there are always crisis and Paul has become callous to the constant excuses. His mother does not know that Paul has written off his parents from his future. One more year and he expects to be free from them for the rest of his life. His father is a workaholic, an executive at Ram

Oil Company and the family life centers around the Fort Bend Country Club of which his mother is fiercely active. Paul enjoys golfing and hanging at the pool with his friends, and social dinners usually accompanied by his latest girlfriend Katy. But basketball is Paul's life and his goal is to play professional basketball. He is obsessed with developing his skills, plays pickup games with the stars from other schools to hone his skills, attends All American Basketball Camp during the summers and takes lessons at a private sports training center. Nevertheless, life is about to change with the end of the school year. His girlfriend, who is a year ahead of him in school, is graduating. She throws him a shocker when she decides it is best if they see other people. After all she is going off to college. Paul has never been dumped by a girl before and it is a new and humiliating experience which he masks by claiming with his friends that it was all his idea. Just when he thinks life cannot get any worse, his father tells the family that they are moving to Point Hope, Alaska. He is angry at his father for disrupting his life and failing to understand what is important to him. There is a fight, the kind that never ends well when teenagers are involved. Words are spoken and cannot be taken back. Enola has to step in and mediate between father and son even though she is in agreement with Paul, she is the good wife and takes her husband's side. Calvin does not understand Paul's fascination with basketball. In the older man's mind, there is no future in it. He wants Paul to follow him into the oil business just as all the Lowick men have done. He remembers when he was a boy Paul's age and could not wait to get out of school so that he could work on the rigs fulltime. How could Paul not want that as well? Paul tells his coach how frustrated he is that he will not be playing for the Travis High School basketball team next year. The coach was more a father than his father. His Texan basketball coach played at a major college. He had a shot at the pros, though he was the low man on the roster but had to settle for semi-pro ball for a couple of years then gave that up to marry and start a family. He told Paul stories of what it was like and that only motivated the boy more to make it to the big time. Instead Paul will be moving to a Godforsaken town with a population

of less than one thousand people. For Paul Lowick, life is about to change and he does not think it for the better.

In the offices of Ram Oil Company, executive meet. There is a group, men committed to company profits because that means they make money, and they have a problem. The Point Hope project is in danger. They made the choice to maximize profits by using substandard parts and one crucial group of parts involves the seals. They weighed the gain against the potential loss should there be a spill if the seals failed and determined that, even with a mild environmental crisis, the gains offset any projected payouts in damages, governmental payouts and payments to locals for damages. However, at this point, they speak in cryptic sentences and the reasons the project is in trouble are not revealed. It is decided that they have to act in a manner that will save the company's public profile and that means using a man who has an impeccable reputation, Calvin Lowick. They know that they are sending him to deal with any crisis and his reputation will be damaged if anything happens but the company will hide behind him. The decision is made. Lowick will be promoted to a project VP and sent to the project with the authority he needs to deal with the situation. (Writing note: The reader is kept in the dark about what that situation might be and the unethical behavior by the executives which leads to the problems. This section serves to set up the overall conflict and ticking clock in the reader's mind without specifically revealing the coming crisis.) Calvin Lowick is a proud man who thinks that the offered promotion is a compliment to his principles and methods of extracting oil. He is blinded to those within the company that does not operate as he does.

## Chapter 2

Calvin Lowick, Jr is Paul's father and has accepted a promotion with Ram Oil Company. He pridefully makes the decision without consulting his wife nor talking with Paul about the potential change in the family. Calvin does not know about the trouble he is walking into in Alaska. He is an oilman from a family of oilmen; his great-grandfather was one of the first Texas

oilmen and his father went to Kuwait with the legendary Red Adair in the 1990s to fight the oil fires set by Saddam Hussein when his army retreated during the first Gulf War. He is proud of his industry and always thought that it was an honorable profession. He is part of a breed that brought up the oil without killing the land or the people who lived on it. His grandfather and father taught him principles that he has lived by as an oilman. He is being setup by his company with a promotion, salary and stock options which he thinks are meant to reward a job well done but are there to lock in his loyalty when the situation becomes known. They are luring him in, then will force him to make compromises. He knows that he is walking into a social powder keg with the unpopular image of drilling project in Alaska among many Alaskan residents. He thinks he will have two challenges; getting the project back on schedule and a bit of PR work to convince the locals that the company will be good for them. However, Calvin does not know that Ram Oil Company is destroying the environment, breaking all sorts of laws, regulations greed, etc. He will later realize that he should have known or suspected but was always too busy bringing up oil to pay attention to how his company was behaving. It will be a revelation and allegory for his relationship with his son. Enola Lowick is unhappy about leaving her many social activities but she is, at this point, a docile wife which she must learn to overcome as she transforms into the wife that Calvin really needs. She does not really support offshore drilling but has turned a blind eye to her husband's job because of the lifestyle it provided. She will learn that Calvin is an honorable man who does not wreck environments, which is her perception of his job at the onset of the story. However, now that they are headed to Alaska where her husband will oversee Ram Oil Company drilling off shore in the Arctic Ocean she is forced to deal with the issue and is uncomfortable with it. The family flies while a moving van carries their belongs to Alaska. Paul stares at the ground from the airplane as they prepare to land on the one and only runway at the small Point Hope Airport. The peninsula looks like a pointy nose on an unfamiliar face.

As Paul walks around the village, the residents express their opinions of the oil industry issue. Relationships between the residents and the oil company workers are introduced. The Alaskan Natives and the other residents of Point Hope are divided about the drilling and Ram Oil Company. The company has given them all the assurances that they will do everything possible to protect the land and the environment. They are even sent a new executive to oversee the operations, a man of integrity in the oil industry. A portion of the town is happy for the jobs, while many Alaskan Natives the other residents are not happy about it. Teenagers practicing their crossovers and fade-away jumper shots in the Tikigaq gymnasium, the home of the Harpooners, are equally split on the subject. But overall, there is a mistrust among even those who work for the company. Paul is in sympathy with them as he does not like the company because they promoted his father and that brought him to Alaska and away from Texas and his dream.

### Chapter 3

The Lowick family arrives in Hope Point just in time for the three-day festivities of Kamaktoaq and Uniqsiksiicauq, two festivals celebrated together in Tikigaq. (notes on the festival later)The weather is windy and cold. Wind in Point Hope is the strongest in the entire state. The personal belongings of the Lowick family arrive at the house the Ram Oil Company has leased for them, but it is small and crowded. The realtor who meets the family suggests they have flashlights or candles ready for when the lights go out. Power outages are a regular occurrence. It is summer and the land is green and lush with vegetation and wildlife. Paul and Enola are surprised when they leave the airport by the beauty of the place while Calvin is immediately engrossed in his new responsibilities. The family picks up where they left off in Texas, divided and undetached with each other. Calvin naturally goes off to the office and the project site while Enola is preoccupied with setting up the house, it is smaller than she imagined it would be. Paul is left to explore his new “village” and is depressed by what he finds; small and boring. Paul meets a few of his potential teammates

when he wanders into the Tikigaq gymnasium and hears them talking about Ram Oil Company but takes pains not to let them know that the new Ram Oil Company executive is his father. He plays in a pickup game and is secretly unimpressed with the level of their skills. He feels his college career melting away and his pro possibilities completely vanish.

Paul is sent by his mother into town to the Point Hope Native Store on Qalgi Ave to pick up the items they need. A pretty Alaskan Native behind the counter of the hardware store is helpful and friendly. Her name is Nukilik, but her friends call her Kili. Their conversation turns to basketball and how the teens gather almost every evening at the Tikigaq gymnasium to play. It is the home of the Harpooners, the Class 2A Alaska State Basketball Champions. Kili explains that no one will be playing for the next few days due to the festival and offers to show him around the festivities. Paul goes to bed that night listening to the wind howl outside his window and missing his friends, but happy to have something to do the next day. He is already bored with his new life. Kili finds the new boy quirky with his Texas accent and his Southern manners. On the other hand, Paul is accustomed to the upper class society of Texas so Kili and the other kids, devoid of the trappings of money, are unpretentious however, he finds that strange. They live more simple lifestyles. Kili saw Paul wandering around during the festivals so she was prepared to meet him, even planned how she might when he walks into the store.

Kili's backstory, her father dies and her mother is alone until she meets Steven. Then her mother dies but Kili and Steven have developed a unique father/daughter relationship that is different from other fathers and daughters. It is based on their mutual need for each other and respect. Kili submits to Steven's authority as her only surviving parent but that will be tested in the days to come. For the moment, they have little conflict between them, mostly because Kili is patient even with Steven's passion for kicking Ram Oil out of the community. She understands the environmental concerns but does not get the need for revenge.

## Chapter 4

Calvin Lowick begins his new job only to learn that not everything is as he was told by his bosses. He has hints that there is a potential mess which has inherited. He does not know that he is dealing with several groups. A majority are employees who are just doing their jobs and unaware of the real problems. Another smaller group knows about the problems except for the ticking bomb of the seals but do not know if Calvin is a good guy or bad guy. They will wait to commit to him until they are sure which side he is on. The third group is made up a small contingent who are in on the company's malfeasance for their own reasons. There are two who know why management sent Calvin but the rest do not so they are suspicious of him. Among the bad guys are two who know everything but care more about the money than the land or people, call them Max and Gregory. (Writing note: These two bad guys are the representatives of the bad element of the company and will serve as a vehicle for the reader to understand the price the bad guys will pay. They will give the wrongdoing a human face.) There is pressure building while Calvin tries to convince the locals and particularly the Alaskan Natives that they have a big stake in oil revenue and that he will protect the environment along the way. To complicate matters, some of the mistakes and regulation oversights his predecessor made led to the deaths of two people which were quickly covered up. Calvin will learn about these deaths later and be distracted from the ticking bomb of the seals thinking that the major problem is safety. Calvin also discovers that the identity of the Alaskan Native people is tied to the bowhead whale. For them the thought of the impact of offshore drilling or a potential oil spill is very terrifying. It is a multifaceted problem. Calvin is blinded to the dangers he faces as the VP of the project by his past. Texans as a whole have long accepted oil drilling, many a family fortune was made in the oil business. He does not have the capacity to empathize with locals on the environmental concerns. This is a learning curve Calvin will have to reaching a point where he can comprehend the local's discomfort with the oil industry. In these initial chapters, Calvin is being set up. Will he grow

and become a good guy or will he fall into the darkness as a bad guy? The reader is left to wonder. (Writing note: given that teens are the primary audience, a balance should be kept for Calvin. Paul, like the readers, will have the standard teen view of adults and their parents that they are stupid people who cannot change, dinosaurs who should just die off. Then Calvin will gradually return to Paul's and the readers' good graces.)

What Calvin does not know is that one particular Alaskan Native, Steven Ahtuanguak, is on a mission to make sure that Ram Oil Company stops drilling. He has an activist group and works the festival crowds to gain support to stop the drilling. Steven relives the backstory of his son's death when he was killed in an explosion at the project site. His son was his entire life. Then his second wife, Kili's mother, also died and, though her death had nothing to do with the oil company, he still blamed Ram Oil Company. Therefore, Steven has nothing more to lose. He is determined to stop the drilling even if it means sabotaging a ship or kidnapping an executive. He has a collection of marginal people who are part of his group but he is the leader. (Writing note: this would be a place to add comic relief with the characters who are members of the activist group. Make them kooky and fun with quirky traits. They are marginal people even in their own community.)

Kili picks Paul up on an ATV to go to the festival. They drive to the outskirts of town. Crowds gather around as people are thrown high into the air on a blanket. She explains they cannot throw people too high or the wind will catch them and toss them 30 feet into the air. This is the beginning of their friendship as she shares with him the village and life that she loves. She cannot imagine living anywhere but Alaska. (Writing note: potentially add a few pages describing the festivals from Paul's perspective as an outsider. He is bored so he attends but feels out of place.)

As Kili and Paul get to know each other, she learns Paul's father is with Ram Oil Company and grows quiet. She explains that the people in Point

Hope need the food from their lands and waters to feed their families. She laments that her father was killed during an old fashioned hunt during one particularly harsh winter. They cannot afford to buy foods transported to the Arctic because they are so expensive they would take a family's entire paycheck just to eat. The local people are fearful that one oil spill will wreak havoc on the environment and endanger those food sources. This is the beginning of Paul's education in the dangers of oil drilling which his father will also have to learn. Paul grew up in the upper-class Texas society and never had to think about hunting as more than just sport or reducing an animal population that risks outstripping its food source. Paul repeats what he heard from his father. Something about how the residents will get a check from the state every year instead of paying income tax. He is a little sketchy on the details (as any teenager would be). That intrigues her and he appreciates her open mind. She invites him to come to the gym to meet others and join in a game of basketball. For the most part, he is not impressed with the competition. Paul learns that Kili is something of a basketball player when she gives him a lesson with a head fake then takes the ball to the hole around him. In one sense, his pride takes a small hit but he also knows never to take her for granted again. After the game, Paul makes the mistake of sharing his future goal with her and she finds it amusing which hurts his feelings but he hides it. In his mind, he expects to be gone from this nowhere place in a year anyway. Point Hope is not the end of the world but Paul can see it from the village limits. (Writer's note: the relationship between Paul and Kili begins with their shared abilities at basketball. The difference is that Paul wants to use his skills to leave Alaska while Kili just enjoys the game and cannot understand why he would want to leave. It would serve to describe a few of Kili's games along with Paul's to demonstrate her skills as a player and potential for playing on a college level.)

## Chapter 5

Steven is the step-father of Kili. He is having a rough time at village meetings convincing the village people that no one should continue or

accept jobs from the oil rig company. Many of the people want the jobs so that their families can survive and even more don't see the issue with accepting high paying jobs just to suck oil on the ground. A handful of them see the oil pumping as an issue of the town and becoming possibly dependent on the oil rig company if the situation isn't handled correctly. He feels as though nothing is ever resolved or achieved with the locals as they are more concerned with their own lives than the danger to the environment. But he is blinded by his son's death and his objections are more revenge oriented but does not see it. Surrounded by his quirky bunch of activists, his extreme views are stoked by them instead of engaging in logical debate. Steven initially tries legal means to be rid of Ram Oil and that is what his activist group is about but he will eventually turn to illegal methods when the legal ones fail or disappoint him in their outcome.

Calvin is not happy with the safety equipment on the project and places an order to upgrade everything. He is alarmed by the number of accidents, though they are not significant, he is concerned that they are leading up to a bigger one. Not a problem, he is more cautious than most project VPs when it comes to safety. He is used to upper management complaining about the costs. There are hints of the seals becoming a problem but Calvin is too focused on the safety issues and sets the data aside that would normally alert him to the cheaper seals. Max and Gregory do their best to keep him distracted as well.

In the corporate offices, those in the conspiracy are pleased. Calvin Lowick's emphasis on the safety equipment will keep his attention away from the real issues. It is the predictable response they were hoping from Calvin. The longer the company makes money before any problems the greater crisis the company can weather. They are gambling with the people of Point Hope.

When Steven arrives at the Lowick home to get Kili, he realizes that Calvin Lowick is there and they become involved in a heated debate. Calvin's

lack of empathy prevents him from understanding Steven's point of view and he does not know about his son's death. (Writing note: that should be a revelation for Calvin later in the story. He will find out that Steven's son was killed in an accident.) Enola Lowick returns home and thinks that the two men are close to becoming involved in a fistfight. She has to step in as a mediator to prevent it. She is more concerned about how it will appear than the issues the two men were fighting over.

## Chapter 6

Enola Lowick forces Calvin and Steven to sit at the table and serves coffee and cake while they wait for Paul and Kili. She is reverting to the role of the hostess which is what she knows how best to do. Calvin thinks the issue with the Ram Oil is over with but Steven is actually using this time in the house to check out the family's house for later. He is thinking evil thoughts but in his mind, it is justified. Finally, Kili and Paul arrive and Kili is surprised to find her step-father there. Quietly, Steven scolds Kili for befriending *that* boy. What an embarrassment to their family that she would betray the community. Kili is upset with the reprimand. She does not understand why adults cannot learn to work together but keeps her opinion to herself. Steven abruptly takes his step-daughter and leaves.

Paul returns from his room and finds that Kili and Steve made an apparently strange exist. Angrily, Paul blames his father for offending Steven with his attitude on drilling for oil. Not everyone has his father's love for the industry. Another adult/teen fight that happens when father and son are out of touch with each other. This is Paul's first opportunity to hurt his father by using the oil industry against him. It feels good to Paul but Calvin is taken by surprise. He secretly hoped and hopes that the Alaskan experience, getting Paul away from the Texas teen social life, would spark an interest in becoming an oilman. To his surprise, the opposite seems to be happening. Paul stomps off to his "little" room, another chance to snipe at his father as his room is so much smaller than his old Texas room was. In his room, Paul wonders why Kili really left without saying goodbye.

Calvin and Enola talk about the uneasiness with Steven. Enola has been hearing disturbing talk while running errands but Calvin is deaf to what she is saying. He still cannot understand the mentality among the villagers. That alarms Enola as she sees difficulties coming because of her husband's attitude. Then Calvin is called away by a problem at the drilling site. Enola had plans for a meal as a family but that is now impossible. Her family, for the first time in her life, is her primary concern as she does not have any social events to distract her. She has a new friend, Margaret, a neighbor woman who risks befriending her. They meet and discuss the situation. Enola is taking the first steps to being the woman, the wife and mother she needs to be.

At the drilling site, Calvin is starting to discover the hidden problems which initially put the project behind schedule. His problem with his son and the near fight with Steven are forgotten as the oilman is quietly disturbed. There is a persistent problem with the seals. There seems to always be problems with the seals and he does not understand why. The inspectors tell him that the leaks are within acceptable ranges but not to Calvin. What Calvin does not know is that they are not using the quality of seals they claim to be using. Someone in procurement switched to a cheaper seal but hides the fact. The buyer was given an order from his boss that came from his boss and both passed down the admonition to keep quiet about it or suffer the consequences. It is just one of many shortcuts to profits that Calvin will discover along the way. He will share his concern about the seal problem with Max, a mistake that will come back to haunt him. Calvin thinks that Max is like him, an oilman from way back. However, Max is only interested in Max and what is good for Max. Max is in Alaska to make his fortune then move to a much warmer climate. (Writing note: this is a good point to teach a bit about oil drilling with the dangers and set up the ticking clock that Calvin will have to stop later.)

Chapter 7

At school, everyone now knows that Paul is the son of the new managing VP at Ram Oil Company. Paul reminisces about his old school as he is not the popular basketball star athlete and there are those kids who resent that his father is with Ram Oil Company. He is treated with resentment by some and indifference by the rest. Kili is the only one who will associate with him. Through her, he begins to understand the fear the locals have with the oil industry. Paul is attracted to the local activist group by his growing friendship with Kili and his perception of what his father and his company are doing to the area. He is also motivated to hurt his father for bringing him to Alaska. It is also a means to being less alienated from his peers. However, Steven runs the activist group and does not trust Paul as the son of his biggest adversary so Paul is not allowed to participate. Kili thinks that Steven is foolish. Paul has his reasons for not liking the oil company and they could use all the help they can get but Steven is adamant.

After a day at school, Kili invites Paul to go whale hunting with her step-father and he agrees. Paul walks home by himself this time as he watches Kili travel in a different direction. He expresses his inner thoughts about wanting to be with her but fearing what the other kids would do and, worse, her step-father.

## Chapter 8

Paul goes whale hunting with Steven and Kili on their boat. Kili explains to Paul the tradition of whale hunting to Paul. (Writing note: this would be a good place for some backstory on the Native Alaskan's whale hunts of the past including folklore and some real event from the past.) He secretly thinks it's just a barbaric practice but his friendship with her motivates him to go anyway and is starting to fall in love but does not yet recognize it as such. While on the boat, however, Paul realizes the patience, tenacity, and the amazing teamwork required to catch a whale. Paul is exhilarated by the new experience only to have Steven trample on it with a rant about Calvin Lowick and Ram Oil Company. But the heated argument quickly

ends when they spot then catch a whale. Paul is caught up in the excitement of the hunt, a new experience for a boy from Texas. Paul travels back with the group to see how the whale is cut and stored. His presence endears him to the activists and Kili while Steven is still wary of him. Some of the members of the hunt are Paul's classmates and potential teammates.

## Chapter 9

Paul goes back to school with Kili and he notices that there is a slight change in the way the kids at the school are treating him. Paul inquires with Kili, who tells them that they are lowering their guard because they are beginning to notice that he is not like his father.

He begins to feel even more a part of the new school when he tries out for the team and easily earns a spot. (Writer's note: introducing Paul's success in making the team allows for inserting games and practices throughout the rest of the story. Whenever there is a problem or challenge, the team allows Paul to revert back to his first love and plan his escape from this place that he hates. However, he slowly learns to love Point Hope by loving Kili.) In the locker room and on the court, he is in his element. It is a chance to escape the life that waits for him after practice. However, his new coach is not like his Texas coach. The man was short and stubby and obviously never played beyond high school. And the level of competition is weak compared with what Paul faced in the Texas high school system. His former high school was in the top division. His new school would be several divisions below the Texas school. Secretly, he almost relishes the upcoming season because he intends to dominate the Alaskan division. It shows his youthful arrogance that will change. Never mind all that, Paul is just glad to be playing ball again.

## Chapter 10

Calvin Lowick had determined that the drilling site is not up to code but he still does not know about the seals. Down under the rig, there is a ticking bomb waiting to go off and Calvin has been set up to take the fall if it

happens. He is appalled to find numerous violations and begins working with his crew in order to bring the operation up to code and regulation. The crew is initially secretly skeptical about Calvin's motives as Calvin but he starts to bring them around to trusting him. He wins the respect of the first group just there to do a job and slowly starts to win over the second who gradually tell him about ways the former project VP mismanaged the site. Calvin feels the pressure to correct the problems before they are discovered by inspectors. The down side is that his old work habits have kept him from knowing how his family is doing in their new surroundings. He knows that Paul made the team but does not ask about any games. Enola tells him when the first game will be but it does not register that she thinks he should be there. She is beginning to push her husband to become a father before it is too late.

Paul plays in his first game with Kili and Enola in the stands. He is quietly disappointed in the size of the crowd. Even though the entire community shows up, it is such a small crowd nevertheless. Noticeably absent is his father. His team wins and he is naturally the high scorer. Paul and Kili share some basketball banter. They are bonding. He jokes that they should go out and she surprisingly agrees. Kili sees Paul as just a friend at this point without any romantic interest. Paul, on the other hand, is considering a short-term romantic relationship but at the end of the school year, college awaits. Enola notices and says something but Paul's response is that they are just friends. She is not his type when it comes to girlfriends, Paul claims and she is not like any girlfriend he has ever had.

## Chapter 11

The pressure is on for Paul. He knew how to date a girl in Texas but what do Alaskan girls expect? He raids the refrigerator, much to Enola's quiet amusement, and packs a picnic lunch. Paul is in denial with his mother about what he is doing. He claims to be throwing together a few things for a walk. It's for school, but she knows that's a lie. Paul takes Kili on a romantic picnic out in the wild, away from the village where they can have

privacy. Their conversation is stiff and lacks intimacy as friends and especially not romantic interests. The two of them begin to talk about school and Paul makes comparisons to what his world used to be like in Texas. He talks about his life when he was in Texas and all the social events where, as a basketball star, he was the center of attention and pretends that it bothered him. He says that much of the time he just went to them because his mother was on a committee organizing this event or that party. As he nervously rattles on trying to impress her, she is the opposite. She is bored and Texas does not sound all that exciting with all those formal parties and other events. Paul can feel that Kili is bored but does not know what to say or do so he continues to drizzle on about Texas and the life of a high school basketball star. The harder he tries to impress her the more he does not. He is becoming infatuated with her and wants her to like him. Even more than liking him, he is starting to consider her as a long-term girlfriend. She might follow him to college. Yet, she is not reciprocating the feelings he has for her. With his status back in Texas, he could practically have any girl he wanted but now, in Alaska, he meets the first girl he cannot hook with one date. His pride is a bit stung by her apparent rejection.

After a while, the two of them begin to walk back into town. Paul accidentally makes a joke relating to basketball and Kili laughs. Wow, he feels he finally made a connection with her and tells another joke. The connection is made and, as they reach her house, Paul is feeling more than just friendship and takes a chance to lean in for a kiss. But Kili is taken by surprise, she likes Paul but his goals and the cultural differences between them are a hindrance to her feelings for him being more than just friends. And friends don't kiss. There is an uncomfortable moment. Steven suddenly opens the door and ruins the moment as far as Paul is concerned by Kili is a bit relieved. But Kili's step-father is not happy with what he perceives just happened. Paul is unceremoniously dismissed.

Walking home, Paul mentally considers the date a success. What he does not know is what is taking place in Kili's house.

In Kili's house, Steven is firm in his insistence that Kili leave Paul alone, no more contact. She snidely snaps back that his orders will be hard to obey since it is a small community and a very small school. They are close to having a fight but, as always, Kili backs down before that happens. There are times when her step-father worries her. nevertheless, she is suddenly thrust into one of those teen dilemmas; when an adult says not to do something, a teen wants to do it more than ever. Kili's thoughts for Paul have become complicated; romance or friendship?

Calvin returns late but Enola is waiting for him in bed, reading. She tries to tell him about Paul and how she has a mother's intuition that he is really attracted to the Alaskan girl. However, Calvin is tired and his mind preoccupied with the job so he is not listening.

## Chapter 12

Joshua, one of Paul's team members, has been attracted to Kili for the longest time, grew up with her and is now jealous of Paul. In such a small town and such an open view, nearly everyone at school began talking about the fact that Paul and Kili had a date. There is tension between Joshua and Paul as he is angry that he's being out-shown by some school-newbie. Paul thinks it is because he is a better player and Joshua is unhappy at losing his place as the team's leading scorer. Joshua has been relegated to the strong forward side of the formation where he is expected to set picks, block out and rebound. Joshua's stats are half his last season's stats. This is how Paul sees life through athletic skill and does not recognize the real reason, romantic jealousy. Joshua fills Paul's backpack with a ziplock bag of oil sludge. When Paul goes to pick up his backpack to go to basketball practice the pressure causes the plastic bag inside to open, his practice uniform is covered in oil and he has to wash it out and ends up wearing borrowed stuff from the coach. Word of the prank

spreads quickly and Kili learns who the culprit is but chooses not to tell Paul so as not to create anymore animosity between their two families because Joshua is a member of the activist group, a believer that Ram Oil Company should pack up and leaves. Instead, she quietly scolds Joshua but does not know that others heard her do it. Polluting someone else's backpack is not different than what the activists accuse the oil company of doing, just on a smaller scale. In the world of teens there are few secrets as they tend to talk and not understand that no one really keeps secrets. .

Joshua's idea was to embarrass Paul and ostracize him from the team. The opposite effect of what Joshua wanted actually happens. Some of Paul's teammates are now more sympathetic toward Paul. They see Paul as the chance for the team to have a great season. They set a few hard picks that land Joshua on the floor and he has a few of his shots blocked back into his face. The message is sent, don't mess with the team's leading scorer. The coach has mixed feelings about the change in his team. It is nice that Paul is accepted by part of the team but it is not good that it appears to be causes a division. However, between Kili's scolding and the team's physical response, Joshua has even more animosity toward Paul.

Steven is among those who overhear Kili chastise Joshua and it gives him an idea. He will create the appearance of an environmental accident at the company's parts and equipment storage facility. And he will use young Joshua since he is already predisposed to take actions on the edge of ethical.

Meanwhile, Enola finds the wet practice uniform in the clothes hamper that also has an oily feel to it. She is sensitive to oil in clothing since she is married to an oilman. But when she asks Paul about it, he shrugs it off as nothing important. Her mother's instinct tells her that it is more than he is letting on but he will not talk to her and there is no use telling Calvin as he barely pays attention to her as it is. She has the feeling that something is

wrong at the company's drilling project but Calvin is just as uncommunicative as his son.

One of Paul's favorite things to happen is when, after both the boys and girls finish practicing, he and Kili go one-on-one. He always wins but she gives him a game every time. Unknowingly, he ruins one of their games by telling her how she could play for UConn or UT, the two best women's college programs. She forces a smile but the comment tells her that he does not understand her love for her community and her desire to stay in it. It only reminds her that he is still planning to leave and breaks her heart. That is why she must force herself to remain just friends with him. At this point in their lives, Paul sees romance as merely a social part of his life while Kili is thinking in terms of the future and finding her special person for life. She has so much in common with Paul and yet there is this big divide.

### Chapter 13

Paul's skill as a player is another boost to his feeling more at home in his new teenager society. An exciting game ends with Paul making the winning shot. He wants the ball when the pressure is on. The team is on a win streak which adds to Paul's acceptance by everyone on the team and the school in general. With that comes a little ribbing from the team about his relationship with Kili. The guys on the basketball team want details from Paul about the famous picnic. It seems that Kili has been talking to the girls and word has gotten around. Paul and Kili share a lunch together but it is awkward. Paul is toying with the idea of becoming a couple in that insecure way that teens have but culture, Steven's demand that Kili not see Paul and Calvin's job with Ram Oil Company makes it hard for them to overcome. He does not know that Steven is pressuring Kili not to be with him so he just thinks it is the culture thing and the oil company thing. Paul continues to be the high scorer for the team in the winning streak but it is family business as usual as Enola attends but not Calvin. The emotional

toll exhausts him and the wedge between him and his father grows. There are the usual excuses for not attending.

What Paul and Enola do not know is that some of reasons Calvin is absent are legitimate. Someone tripped the security system of the company's storage facility and spooked the guards when the alarms went off. What Calvin does not know is who tried to penetrate the storage facility fence and why.

The who is Steven and one of his activist people and the why is to condition the guards to the occurrences. Steven's plan is to annoy them with the random intrusions that appear to have not cause or reason for happening until the guards tire of it and switch off the system. He and his co-activist make the state-of-the-art security system sound the alarm then watch at a distance as the guards try to figure out what happened. They end up calling Calvin which delights Steven even more. He especially likes to cause havoc on nights when the boy's basketball team is playing. He imagines that Calvin resents being called away from watching his son play. Steven would never think of missing one of Kili's games but did duck out of one at halftime to trip the alarms then hurried back in time to catch most of the second half. It was a sacrifice but he only missed part of a quarter.

Enola gets involved with a charity organization to give her something constructive to do. The group wants to reform the ANC and help Native Alaskans. She has to work hard to overcome the quiet distrust many of the women have toward the wife of the Ram Oil Company VP. She is learning to adapt to the culture and finds her clothing out of place so she also begins to change how she dresses. (Writer's note: include background on the ANC. "Congress created the system of Alaska Native Corporations with the promise of bringing prosperity to a scattered indigenous population long stuck in poverty. Natives were granted shares in the corporations, which eventually gained special contracting privileges from Congress. But

decades later, the villages of Chenega Bay and Napaskiak testify to the broad gap in benefits that ANCs provide.” From Propublica article.)

Meanwhile, Calvin does not tell his family about the security problems. He hardly talks to his family and therefore does not know what is happening in their lives. He does not even notice his wife’s new look which frustrates Enola, though she does not tell him. But his gut tells him that something is not right.

## Chapter 14

However, things are going too good for Paul in his new life. The pressure for Paul at school intensifies as one of Calvin’s crew members is injured during a night-shift. A seal breaks and nearly causes a leak but the safety protocols work. Calvin is called in the middle of the night to deal with the crisis and blames it on the safety equipment. At this point, Calvin does not know about the cheap seals. News of the incident spreads quickly and sends Steven into a rage and he accosts Paul on his way into the school as he is the closest representative of the company Steven has available. Paul resents every bit of it. Taking the blame for his father’s company, a company he does not even like is so unfair. Paul’s thinking process shows his immaturity as he has never associated anything he has with the oil business. Kili has to intervene to protect Paul but the injured crew member’s son joins with Steven in harassing Paul. Later during the school day though, the crew member’s son picks a fight with Paul and fights dirty by having his friends help beat the living crap out of Paul. It takes the school principal to put a stop to the incident with the threat of force. The boys involved are suspended but not Paul. The principal also wants to suspend Paul but his teammates come to his aid otherwise he will not be allowed to play on the team. They argue for him that he was not at fault and only fought back to protect himself. In the end, the principal has to relent. As he sits there bloodied, Kili wonders why Paul does not take the test which could get him out of his final year. But Paul needs his senior year basketball stats to be as impressive as possible and if he tests out of

school, he would not be able to play ball. He is counting on the fact that the team is having a good season to garner some interest from a few major programs. As Kili walks him home, she is disappointed that he is still planning to leave for college. She is starting to consider a more intimate relationship with Paul but not if he is leaving. She does not want the pain of breaking up.

Enola learns about the accident while with her new charity women and immediately feels like an outcast, though she hides it from them.

At the Ram Oil Company offices, Calvin is suspicious of the seal failure, but he is once again confiding in the wrong person, Max. His colleague explains it all away, the leaks are within industry standards. But, of course, Max passes the information on to the corporate offices back in Texas. A cover-up is ordered by those in the know to destroy any records of the use of the cheaper seals. Calvin is noted in faked memos and emails concerning the quality of the seals so that it appears that, when the seals fail, the switch had to be made in Alaska. However, they are confident that it will never be discovered because, when and if Calvin learns about the seals, he will have to join in the cover-up to protect his reputation and future in the oil business.

Nevertheless, Calvin finds his first clue to the reason the seals are failing. The failed seal is brought up after being replaced and examined. It appears that it is a cheaper, lower quality product though the paperwork says differently. It seems impossible. He wants to investigate further only to be interrupted by other problems.

## Chapter 15

Calvin's shipment of safety equipment is delayed but he cannot shut the project down. He struggles with his conscience that he continues to run the drilling site out of pride. He cannot envision failing and success is seen on the balance sheet. He has chosen profit over the safety of the workplace.

It is just another compromise of the principles of a good oilman he learned from his grandfather and father. Tensions on the oil rig are high. One of the crew members expresses his anger toward Calvin and learns that a descendant of a long line of oilmen is both mentally and physically tough as he pushes Calvin too far and gets into a physical fight with Calvin. Though Calvin is tall, he does not appear to match up to the man but holds his own and is the winner. He wins a few points with the employees by only suspending the man and not firing him. He jokingly suggests the man use the employee suggestion box next time if he has a grievance, also winning points.

At the dinner table, Calvin is bloodied and sits across from Paul, who is also bloody. The two have a fight about fighting but what can Calvin say when he was also in a fight. It is another father and son fight that Enola has to moderate and eventually end before either of them says something they cannot take back. Paul's frustration with his father's lack of attention over the years is in the back of his mind. He also resents that his father's job has once again interred with his life goals. Calvin does not understand since he has never understood Paul's desire to play basketball. With Enola's help, they eventually come to an uneasy peace. Once Paul leaves, Enola tries to talk with Calvin about the community's view of the company but he does not listen to her. He does not know what she is learning by being a part of the charity work.

## Chapter 16

Paul goes back to school so that he can attend his final basketball game before the championships. The high school qualifies as a 3A school because of the number of students. However, Paul discovers that the tournament is the largest event in the state and takes place in Anchorage with thousands of people traveling to the city to watch. He sees the championship as the idea venue to showcase his talents for potential college programs. Eight teams are selected from each division and play in a two tiered tournament. Paul suspects that Kili is avoiding him. During

lunch, Paul sits with her before she can escape him and confronts her about it. She tells him that her step-father does not want the two of them talking any more. But Paul turns on the romantic charm and convinces her to continue their budding relationship. It is the last game of the season and a win is necessary to assure the team a shot at the championship. In the days leading up to the big game, Paul is focused and when he is not in class or studying, he is practicing. His teammates find his intensity humorous. For them, basketball is just another part of their lives and when it is over, they will move on. They know at this point that Paul dreams of playing professional ball but are more interested in the upcoming championship. Even Joshua is caught up in the excitement of qualifying for the championship for the first time in a long while.

Paul knows that he has two supporters in the stands, his mother and Kili. He no longer expects his father nor does he care anymore. He is going to show the world what he is capable of doing on the court and get out of this one seal town. Paul has one of his best games and the team wins. He is the high scorer and leads the team in the fourth quarter run that puts the game out of reach.

Steven plans to hit the company from two sides. Steven and the activists are preparing a court case to shutdown the drilling site. They are collecting information and some supplied by those working on the rig and other information by the reporters who covered the accident. He is also planning to infiltrate the storage facility and create another "accident" to demonstrate the company's poor safety record.

Steven is worried about Kili's relationship with Paul, paranoid that his plans might leak out. A barrier has developed between step-father and step-daughter and he knows who is to blame, that VP for Ram Oil company who brought that boy with him. Steven is sliding toward insanity in his hatred for Ram Oil and all those associated. He sends an anonymous threat to the company offices.

Calvin finally examines the seal from the leak and, with the secret help of an old friend, learns that it is the lower quality seal made to appear to be the high quality the company specifies. He realizes that he has to replace all the seals before something bad happens. Then his friend warns him. The only way that the seals could have been changed was if someone at the project site accepted them in. The trail leads back to Gregory and from there Max. Calvin knows that he has traitors among his colleagues and there is no telling how far up the ladder it goes. He quietly orders new seals, taking the biggest risk of his life by bringing them in secretly and masking their purchase so that his bosses do not know what he has done. He could be fired for what he has done, if not prosecuted. He wants to tell Enola but cannot bring himself to confiding in her.

## Chapter 17

The community is happy that the team won and is headed to the championships. Paul is no longer feeling the large pressure that his father previously had on his life and Paul has to attend a team meeting to prepare for the trip to Anchorage and the championship series. Kili greets him at the entrance to the school. Steven is also there, watching from his car in the drop off point as his step-daughter disobeys him.

It is mid February and they are in the heart of storm season. There is a massive blizzard on the way so most of the students do not attend class in order to prepare their homes for it and it seems to Paul as though only his basketball teammates and a few others are present at school. Once the basketball meeting is over, Paul is picked up by his mother and they go directly home without explanation. The house is locked tight and Enola finally explains the Paul's father called to warn her. The company received a credible threat that included the families of management personnel. It is best if his family remained in seclusion. Enola will keep Paul out of school for a few days until tensions cool and after the blizzard passes over. Great, Paul sees it as just another way his father has to screw up his life. He will

be so glad when he is gone. The outburst sends chills through Enola. For the first time in her life, she realizes that she could lose her son and the prospect frightens her.

Enola tries to talk to Calvin about losing their son and the community distrust of the company but he is too focused on the drilling rig and company safety to listen to her. He wants to tell her about the seals but pride gets in his way. How does he tell her that the company he so believed in has put profit over people and the environment?

## Chapter 18

Calvin arrives to see the safety equipment has been delivered. Work goes smoothly but the crew is on edge as Calvin is methodical and watches them closely. Rumors of the threat spread but there is no official company communication about it so they are all uneasy. The tensions show the differences between those who were born in Alaska and consider it home and those who are there solely for the job and will leave when it is over or something better comes along. The work seems to be going well. For a moment, Calvin allows himself to stroll the deck and appreciate the view of the ocean but it is quickly interrupted by news that there is a potential oil leak. A scuba team descends in special diving suits to examine the equipment. When the team returns with the data, Calvin realizing the leak has been there since before he arrived, the seals are not doing the job by his standards, but it was so small that it went undetected so no one knew that the operation should be shut down. The fault lay with the seals purchased by the old management in order to cut corners. Calvin was set up to fail by the hand he was dealt. All the safety equipment he has purchased and put in place will do nothing if the seals fail completely. Once again, Calvin is faced with a decision and the principles of his oilman family are at stake. He quietly researches it further and discovers the part that Max played and realizes that his "trusted" confidant has been sending reports to corporate to cover everyone's butt but Calvin's. He is on his own to solve the problem. However, his one advantage is that he knows the

seals are not up to standards and he can prove it once he replaces them. Also, what does he do with the knowledge once he has the bad seals up and replaced? Those questions are irrelevant if he does not get the new seals and replace the old ones. He will have to get around Max and Gregory to replace the seals before they contact the main office and have the replacement operation shut down because of cost. Putting in the new seals will wipe out a year's profit in cost and shutting down the operation long enough to replace them. Calvin has to get it done before what he is doing is realized by all concerned.

## Chapter 20

Tension hits the village as a massive storm is predicted. Everyone makes preparations including the Lowick family.

Paul does not understand the threat of the upcoming storm so he is at the high school gym practicing. By chance, Kili is out on her snowmobile and finds him just as the storm moves in but they make the mistake of thinking they can make it home, at least to Kili's home. They are wrong and the weather closes in around them while they are out in the open. Kili decides to pull out the emergency shelter and weather the storm. Paul is not sure of her strategy but he gives in to her experience with the climate.

Calvin returns home late only to notice that the house is quiet. This is not unusual but Calvin has a bad feeling then finds Enola in the living room, in tears. There is a storm coming in and she does not know where Paul is. Calvin decides to go in search of his son in the company truck but does not get out of the village as the storm is so intense and his visibility is too restricted. His path is blocked and he is forced to return home and wait out the storm with Enola. But they are not as skilled as the locals and so, when the blizzard hits, several things go wrong. The generator sputters as they are low on fuel and then something shatters one of the bedroom windows.

Calvin fears for his family. Enola is upset. This was not what she signed up for. The Lowicks weather the storm but barely.

However, Calvin does not understand Alaskan storms and decides to go in search of Paul while the last of the storm is still passing through. He gets stuck in his truck and is joined by Steven. Steven was searching the village for Kili, she did not tell him that she was going out with Paul. Steven's experience says that they will have to wait out the storm or use thermal imaging if they have any chance of finding them. But where do they find thermal imaging? Calvin knows. The company keeps a unit at the office for emergencies.

Meanwhile, Kili and Paul are huddled together to keep warm. They talk and her frustration finally spills out. She is tired of his talk about leaving the community. It is freeing for her but finally opens his eyes to the potential relationship they could have but his future plans prohibited. The two get into a comedic conversation and just when they are about to kiss, Paul is yanked out of their makeshift cave and on to the snowy land. Thanks to the town's only thermal imaging camera (provided by the oil company to detect heat buildup in pipes and kept in the oil company's office), Calvin and Steven are able to find Paul and Kili hidden under the snow. Steven looks down at him disapprovingly. They all go home. Steven resents Kili for placing him in a position where he had to cooperate with that man. Calvin is disappointed with his son for being so stupid as to be out when there was a storm warning.

## Chapter 21

Paul repairs the broken window and removes the boards put in place to block the wind while Calvin goes to work and Enola drives to the store to replenish their supplies. Kili drives over on her snowmobile with Paul's homework from the days he missed in school. They talk about how crazy their parents are and then Paul invites Kili inside for some hot coco. Kili is disappointed that Paul is still determined to go off to college the next year;

any college that will give him a scholarship to play basketball. No one is home and they have a passionate time together that is interrupted when Enola returns home from shopping.

## Chapter 19

Then Calvin Lowick and Ram Oil Company are taken to court by Steven and the activists seeking an injunction to shut the drilling operation down. However, the lawyers for the oil company are so good that Steven and the activists fail even though providing what would normally be enough evidence to justify a temporary shutdown. It creates animosity for Steven. He cannot stop the drilling legally which means he will have to explore other options. Calvin is faced with a quandary. In court, he stood with Ram Oil Company. Nevertheless, he knows that the company is in the wrong and it would be prudent to shut down the operation but the company would lose a ton of money.

But the lawsuit presented a problem for Calvin. He cannot reveal the bad seals without implicating himself in the conspiracy. He knows of the company's complicity in the bad seals could have and still might cause an environmental disaster. Once again he is caught in that duel between the oilman of old who operated on principle and the one he is afraid of becoming who puts profit first.

The seals arrive but are disguised as other equipment. He has them in the storage facility now he has to figure out how to go about the costly replacement without sounding the alarm. Reluctantly, he waits for the judge's decision on the lawsuit and curses the choices that he is making.

Meanwhile, Paul is focused on the championships. He is determined to have his best games. Then the unexpected happens, while practicing one evening, he and Kili play one-on-one and she beats him. Barely, but it is a win. She has never beaten him before. His confidence is shaken. During practice, he hesitates. He has never done that before and although no one

else on the team gave it a second thought, Paul is in a panic about his ability to play basketball at the level he thought he had achieved.

## Chapter 22

Paul is back in school and tensions have eased. Surprisingly, his classmates are considerate toward him. With the basketball team going to the championships and the court case out of the way, he has a certain status now among the students. The students expect great things from the team. But at the back of his mind is the loss to a “girl” and Paul is a bit rattled. He practices hard but will it be enough?

Kili quietly talks to Paul about her step-father. She is concerned that Steven took the loss in court hard. She does not know that Steven and his complicit activist member are planning their attack on the storage facility by once again tripping the alarm system.

Kili watches the basketball team practice but when the others hit the showers, Paul and Kili talk. He is excited about playing in the championship. In his view, it is an opportunity to show his skills on a larger sports stage, albeit a much smaller one than he had in Texas. Nevertheless, the game will give him some exposure he can use to interest colleges in him as a player. Kili does sense the doubt that has crept into Paul for the first time since she has known him. She wonders what he is covering up. Secretly, Kili is depressed by talk that he will be leaving for college.

## Chapter 23

Enola has had enough. She challenges Calvin for missing Paul’s last big game. The championship tournament is coming up and if he does not watch his son play, it may be the last time. The tension in Calvin spills out

and the couple fights. Calvin tells her about his struggle and the seals. He did not intend to but in the heat of the moment it all comes out. Enola finally understands much of what her husband has been dealing with.

Paul overhears the argument between Calvin and Enola as they discuss his pride and she learns his secret about the seals. Inside, he poorly judges his father as a money-hungry bum.

Paul is distracted at school the next day and in practice. Instead of playing Kili one-on-one, they talk and he tells her all he knows but makes her promise not to tell anyone else.

But Kili accidentally tells Steven when they argue over Paul. That gives Steven a better idea then causing an accident at the storage facility.

Steven and his accomplice discover the guards have switched off the alarms because they are annoying everyone. Calvin is not told by the supervisor who allowed it. Steven and the activist break into the facility and steal the seals. He takes them to an isolated shed where he hides them.

Calvin arrives at the storage facility and discovers the seals are missing. However, no one is worried since they were listed as part of the safety equipment replacement parts and are therefore considered unimportant. The security chief cannot understand who would have wasted the time and speculates that it is a prank by kids but Calvin knows it is not kids pulling a prank. He suspects Steven and his activist group. He drives to Steven's home but finds it empty.

## Chapter 24

Events seem to be settling into a routine. Paul is looking forward to the championship. He is focused on the chance to move forward with his dream of playing professional basketball.

Back at the drilling site, Calvin is desperate. Without the seals, they could have an environmental catastrophe as the data suggests that the leaks are increasing on the old seals. It is so slight that no one would suspect what they are reading but Calvin knows. He cannot tell anyone or he would lose the confidence he has gained by the employees and might incite panic in the community. He quietly asks innocent questions of some of the locals who work for him and learns of a cabin Steven owns. With a GPS unit, he drives out to find the place.

As Calvin approaches the cabin, Steven shoots his radiator and the truck stops in its tracks. Steven takes Calvin prisoner but now what does he do with his prisoner?

Paul is about to go off to school when Enola receives a call from the company drill site. Calvin is needed and has not arrived yet. Enola is in a panic. Calvin should already be there. But Paul assures her that he will find his father. He probably had truck troubles and was stranded somewhere. He heads over to Kili's home for her help. He wants to take out her snowmobiles to search for Calvin Lowick. But Kili is also concerned. Steven has also disappeared and she was about to look for him as well. Since the court case failed, she has witnessed a change in her step-father.

## Chapter 25

Paul and Kili start with the sheriff's office but since it has only been a few hours, the men could hardly be considered as missing persons. Therefore, the teens are on their own in looking for Calvin and Steven.

In the secluded shed, Calvin and Steven discuss the situation. Steven intends to hold Calvin hostage until seals break and leak oil. Then the company will be forced to shut the drilling project down. Calvin talks about his vision as an oilman for providing energy for the country and jobs for people while protecting the environment but Steven does not initially

believe him. Steven will make people like Calvin Lowick pay for what they are doing to the land and the people.

## Chapter 26

Paul and Kili talk with those from the activist group and finally Steven's coconspirator confesses that they broke into the storage facility and took the seals into the wilderness. Kili remembers how her step-father loves going to a specific part of the wilderness. He often would disappear for days to what he called his sanctuary. As strange as it sounds, she believes that maybe Calvin had driven his truck into that area with Steven. On their snowmobiles, the two teens take off into the wilderness in search of the cabin.

Paul and Kili discover the cabin with Calvin's truck parked near it and the radiator with a bullet hole in it. They carefully approach the building and hear Steven ranting away at Calvin. They determine that they cannot go back to the village for help so they had to handle the crisis themselves. They enter the shed and Paul must talk Steven out of harming his father. He does so, to Calvin's surprise, by praising Calvin and his job as an oilman. Paul recites things about the Lowick family's involvement in the business that Calvin did not know that his son knew or remembered. Paul defends his father as a man of honor who would never lie, never cheat and never risk lives and the land for profits. He is a Texas oilman. Steven does not want to believe him. With Kili's help, they convince Steven to back down. Kili uses logic as the final argument. How does Steven differ from the Ram Oil Company if he allows an environmental disaster to happen? Worse, what will that do to his son's memory?

## Chapter 27

The four return to the Lowick home and a relieved Enola. They have the seals with them. The sheriff also arrives to enquire about Calvin as he received a call from the Ram Oil Company's local office. The employees

were accustomed to Calvin showing up early and leaving left and they were concerned that their boss had met with an accident on the way to the drill site. This is Calvin's chance to have Steven arrested and, in the least, given psychological tests but he does not. The sheriff is placated with a story about Calvin's truck breaking down and Steven helping him fix it. In the process, they had lost track of time and Calvin had forgotten to call the office. The sheriff gladly accepts the explanation and leaves. The five have dinner; it has been a long day.

Paul escorts Kili back to her house and she tries to tell him that she does not want him to leave after graduation but he is not hearing her. Instead, he hears her say that she is fond of him.

At the drilling site, the race is on to replace the seals before the weather coming in from the north hits the drilling rig. Calvin decides to mask the operation with word that the original seals were recalled for possible flaws. The seals are changed but the old seals he sneaks away to Steven's cabin along with the paperwork that backs up what he knows. The drilling project saved, Calvin decided to take on those who were behind the conspiracy. He threatens Gregory as the weak link. Gregory breaks under pressure and gives names including Max. Faced with the threat of jail time, Max gives up the big boss at the corporate offices who was behind everything.

Steven is present as Calvin plays his hand on a conference call, the executives responsible for the corner-cutting will resign or he will reveal all. It may mean that he will never work in the oil business again but he will not have the environment wrecked on his watch. The power play works and executives are fired or quietly resign. The Ram Oil CEO warns Calvin that word of what he has done will eventually leak out. There will also be a price to pay as profits will dip after paying the price to replace the seals. But Calvin knows that he is safe in the short run. He will face the future when it comes.

## Chapter 28

Calvin hires Steven on as an environmental advisory, which effectively nullifies the activist group and the two of them look out over the ocean together. Paul is on the oil rig for the first time with Kili but, since this was not his first oil rig he had been around, he explains what everything is to Kili and surprises Calvin with his knowledge. Calvin never thought that his son paid attention to the business. Paul was thinking of majoring in engineering in college and, after his pro career, he just might become an oilman.

## Chapter 30

Calvin, Enola, Kili and Steven sit together to watch Paul play basketball and win the championship. To his surprise, a college scout is at the game and offers Paul a chance to play for a major college team.

Paul accepts a scholarship to Notre Dame and Kili follows him as a player for the women's program. They graduate but Paul decides not to pursue a career in the pros. Instead, he returns to Alaska, he and Kili marry. The story ends with Paul standing on a drilling platform facing the North Sea winds, a new generation of Alaskan oilmen.