1.- John returns to the Catskills and finds a fresh car crash. The driver, Jenny Thompson, is dead; there’s no cell signal. He keeps vigil, haunted by his late wife’s death, and answers Jenny’s phone when her husband calls, offering comfort. After a long night, a ranger arrives. John goes home shaken, reflecting on mortality, the limits of help, and the mountains’ silent indifference.

2.- Mortality’s randomness; grief and the ethics of witness; human compassion amid nature’s indifference. The vigil becomes a ritual of mourning/atonement, helping John process loss. Memory and place frame a confrontation with time and meaning.

3.- 4

4.- An allegory of grief: Jenny mirrors John’s unresolved mourning; his vigil re-enacts bedside care for Alice. The mountains embody cosmic neutrality, while human connection (the call, the jacket) signifies “beyond nature”—ethics and love. It critiques techno-reliance and isolation, suggesting that witnessing, naming, and keeping company with the dead are sacred acts that restore agency and communal meaning.