BGJ -   
**story themes** – existential/psychological horror, depression, isolation

**Main character** – brother of a missing person on the trail.

**Narrative** –

When player hits “Start Game”, black screen with the following

***{“Hey sweetie, 5.20.2005  
I know this is hard, but I’m calling it off. It’s been too long.***

***I need to find a way to move forward…***

***I love you like nothing else, call me when you get this, so we can figure this out.***

***You can also just come home, I know how hard winter can be…***

***Bring Buddy with you, I’ll buy him some treats.  
  
Love,  
Mom”}***

Pet doggo, walk down field, entrance to the forest.

**Trail sign –**

**{“TRAIL IS CLOSED- TREEFALL AND FLOODINGS AHEAD”}**

**1st Hut- Visitor’s Book –**

**{“Dan Kepler – 3.10.1993**

**John Mallory – 5.20.2000**

***“First day was a success, mostly.***

***It is interesting, how isolated one feels among others, yet here in the wild, it feels… cramped. Something about this place… it makes me feel different, I can’t put my finger on it, but I think the trail is wishing me luck.***

***It also feels familiar, as if I’ve been here before. In a sense, I have, this is the reason I came here.***

***If I want to break free, I must see this through”}***

***2nd hut – Visitor’s Book –***

***{“Dan Kepler – 3.11.1993***

***John Hyde – 5.22.2000***

***“This place isn’t normal, nothing about this trail is wishing me luck.***

***Then again, neither am I. I don’t want luck, I don’t need luck, I need to reach this peak.***

***I need to finish this trail.***

***I want to stay in this hut, in this bed, to never leave. It is always dark outside anyway.***

***But there’s no choice, I can’t wallow in my self-pity. Not again”}***

***3rd Hut –***

***{“Arthur Monte – 3.1.1992***

***John Earhart – 5.24.2000***

***“I don’t want to do this anymore. I don’t want to fall on these rocks, I don’t want to walk in this mud, I don’t want to reach this peak.***

***I don’t want to go home, to be a stranger, damaged. I just want to be alone.***

***This place never leaves you alone.***

***I don’t think I can go back”}***

***4th hut***

***{“Rachel Cook – 3.3.1989***

***John Bishop – 5.25.2000***

***“I can’t go on. I can’t deal with this anymore… Why did this have to happen to me? Out of all the fucking things that could happen. So what if dad is gone? So what if I fail at all I do? If I disappoint everyone who has ever loved me?***

***This fucking place, it’s taunting me, I can feel the disappointment, contempt… It’s pitying me... it thinks that its better for me to just disappear.***

***I don’t think I’ll make it out of here.”}***

***5th level, brother’s remains.***

***{“I don’t know who’s going to find this, but if you have… well, I probably didn’t hand it to you.***

***Its been years since I’ve felt a semblance of hope, years since I’ve tried dealing with… well… everything.***

***Please, if you find this, give it to my brother.***

***Ironically, I know now that I just needed to talk to you, I know you’ve tried. I’m sorry I kept you outside the loop, it was a horrible loop to be in. I didn’t want you to see me like this.***

***I know you’ll be O.K, I know it because you’re better than me. You talked to me when you struggled with dad. I thought I didn’t need to talk, that I’d just go into the woods and come out a man.***

***You’re not alone. You have mom, you have your friends. You have Buddy.”}***

***5th Hut –***

***{“Rachel Cook – 3.5.1989***

***Oops, missed checking in yesterday, but I came back from the summit for one more night, just to take one last breath from this place.***

***Whoever comes after, don’t miss the summit, no matter how hard this trail is, the sun is waiting for you up there.”}***