

**FIRE DANCER**

by

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BLACK SCREEN:

SUPER: "There's no love in War or Poker!"

FADE IN:

INT. OPEN CONVERTIBLE AUTOMOBILE - DAY - (MOVING)

The driver, a 20-year-old Native American SHAWNA CHENOA, looks like she's on a mission.

EXT. MOAPA VALLEY BOULEVARD - DAY

Her convertible, with blazing flames painted on the hood and sides, speeds past the "WELCOME TO OVERTON" town sign then past the 25 MPH speed limit sign.

She brings the car to a screeching stop in front of the Arts and Crafts store.

Shawna, in hot red shorts, exits her convertible and dashes toward the Arts & Crafts store entrance.

INT. ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE - DAY

Shawna enters and scans the room of assorted woodcarvings, framed pictures, American Indian art, and books.

She turns her attention to the wall-mounted flat-screen TV that shows two poker players at the final table of the 'World Series of Poker' main event. At one end of the poker table are many bundles of cash. According to the TV Banner - 'Ten million dollars'.

Near the TV, the cash register sits on one end of the glass display cabinet. JACK TUCKER, 23-year-old African American, hands Army Recruiter Staff Sergeant (SSG) HASTING her change from the cash register.

JACK

Four dollars and twenty-eight cents is  
your change. Thanks for shopping.

Again, Shawna scans the place as if she's looking for someone.

SSG Hasting pockets her change then grabs the bag with her purchase. She puts a U.S. Army "Be All You Can Be" Recruiting Pamphlet on the glass countertop.

HASTING

Jack, I want to leave this with you.  
Drop by my office for a career.

Shawna looks down at the items in the right end of the glass display cabinet. She sees, squatting on the other side, ALEX MAHKAH, a muscular 25-year-old American Indian male.

Alex places carved wooden figurines into the glass cabinet.

SHAWNA (O.S.)

Hello!

Through the glass cabinet, Alex sees a beautiful pair of legs.

Shawna leans forward on the glass cabinet.

Alex looks up the legs to the red hot pants, up past the belly button, to the shirt bottom tied across the lower ribs, then holds a moment on the lovely covered breasts and then finally looks up at Shawna's face smiling down at him.

Alex stands with some difficulty.

SHAWNA

Welcome back home, Alex.

ALEX

Thank you, Shawna!

SHAWNA

I recall when dad restricted me to the reservation to keep me away from you.

In the background, Jack observes.

ALEX

Does the tribe still call you the Fire Dancer?

SHAWNA

Yep, but you can call me either.

ALEX

Your dad gave me a ride to the airport just to make sure I got on the plane when I left for ROTC and college.

SHAWNA

Speaking of, I am looking for something cool for my dad's birthday. What do you recommend, Alex?

Alex pulls a tray full of American Indian arrowheads from the display cabinet.

ALEX

How about these for the great Chief?

Shawna touches a couple of the arrowheads as her eyes gaze at Alex's muscular arms and then to his handsome face.

SHAWNA

These are cool... It's been years since I've seen you.

(looks back at his muscles)

Wow! Can you believe it?

Shawna momentarily waits for a response then she continues.

SHAWNA

Alex, will you show me around?

Jack observes nearby, Alex puts the tray of arrowheads back into the display cabinet. Shawna stands close as she takes another look at his muscles.

SHAWNA

So, you bought this place. It's cool.

ALEX

I saved a lot of money while I was laid up in the Army hospital.

Alex walks with a slight limp away from Shawna to the wall full of spectacular western theme pictures. Shawna catches up to Alex.

SHAWNA

These pictures are beautiful.

She takes a half step closer to Alex. He points to the photo of a waterfall.

ALEX

This is one of my favorites.

Shawna looks at the waterfall photo then glances at the dream catcher hung next to it.

Alex walks from Shawna and points to a framed picture on the wall of a mesa. Shawna tries to keep close then she steps in front of him.

SHAWNA

My dad likes reading about American Indian history.

Alex moves toward the other side of the room.

ALEX

Come this way.

Again, Shawna tries to keep close. In the background, Jack looks on amused at the two.

Alex and Shawna arrive at the little section of books. Shawna selects a thick book on how to play poker and thumbs through it. She puts it back then chooses a book titled "Leadership Traits."

SHAWNA

My dad could use this.

Alex selects a book and hands it to Shawna.

ALEX

This book is the American Indian version of the Little Bighorn Battle.

Shawna looks at the book.

SHAWNA

Perfect! I am sure my dad will love these two books. - I hope! - Right now he is so very pissed off at me.

ALEX

Why?

SHAWNA

I told dad that Army ROTC has paid for my college.

Alex steps away from her as he disapprovingly shakes his head. Shawna follows him to the cash register.

She sees on the TV, a poker player getting his photo taken as he hugs the bundles of \$10,000,000 in cash. Shawna looks from the TV to Alex.

SHAWNA

Wow! Just look at all of that money! I wish I knew how to play poker.

ALEX

That would have been a safer choice.

Shawna hands a twenty-dollar bill to Alex. He puts the twenty into the cash register and hands Shawna the change. Alex then puts the two books in a bag and hands it to Shawna.

SHAWNA

Later, big guy.

ALEX

Thanks for shopping, Fire Dancer.

Shawna sashays out the door. Jack, in disbelief, steps to Alex and he gets in his face.

JACK

You better go and get your eyes checked.

(sarcastically)

"Thanks for shopping, Fire Dancer" is all you can say! Her eyes were all over you. "Thanks for shopping, Fire Dancer." Man oh man, what's wrong with you? She's got the hots for you!

ALEX

Ever since my leg got shot up and I crashed my Apache helicopter, my head hasn't been right. She won't go for me, now. I am damaged goods.

JACK

Confidence man! Confidence! Have faith in yourself! Take the initiative and go for her. Remember, before you went off to the war you were like that, a go-getter, - a no-holds-barred woman chasing hunk.

Jack holds up two clenched fists.

JACK

Look, when the opportunity comes your way, you have to grab on with both hands and hold on tight. Remember, you told me that once before. Remember?

Alex notices Shawna's change for her purchase on the display cabinet. He grabs the money and swiftly limps out the door.

Jack heaves a sigh, as his clenched fists become moving fingers as if he were massaging a pair of breasts.

He sighs again as he watches through the window of Alex catching up to Shawna and gives her the change.

They appear to be having a pleasing and agreeable conversation (MOS) with each other.

Jack looks from the window to the U.S. Army Recruiting pamphlet left on the glass display cabinet. He picks it up and opens it.

JACK  
(to himself)  
Don't do it, look what it did to Alex!  
Bullet holes and PTSD.

EXT. NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, NEVADA - FLIGHT-LINE - DAY

A C-130 transport aircraft is parked beyond several U.S. Air Force Red, White, and Blue F-16 Fighter Falcon Thunderbirds.

SUPER: "Five years later."

On the tarmac side of the flight-dispatch building, are about three dozen soldiers, some are women soldiers, in their Combat Uniforms and wearing huge army backpacks.

They stand amongst their family, friends, or just alone.

An American Indian CHIEF wearing a suit, tie, and his Warbonnet feather headdress stands alone as he looks at an F-16 Thunderbird.

DR. LANCE TUCKER, a well-built 55-year-old African American man, converses with Sergeant (SGT) Jack Tucker.

JACK  
I will be home in a year, dad.

LANCE  
Be sure you do, Jack.

Specialist (SPC) SOFÍA MEDINA, a 19-year-old Hispanic female, approaches Jack.

MEDINA  
Sergeant, have you seen our little Miss trooper?

Jack points at Private First Class (PFC) CAROL WALSH, an 18-year-old, blonde with cold blue eyes, running with her backpack on from around the building.

She quickly stops in front of Jack. She is so short that she either met the army's minimum height requirement or lied about it when she joined.

WALSH

Made it!

Around the other corner of the building, Mr. Alex Mahkah in a suit and tie holds in his right hand a brown paper wrapped package while deeply kissing First Lieutenant (1LT) Shawna Chenoa.

His left-hand caresses the right side of her beautiful neck. Their lips finally part.

SHAWNA

Should have been a poker player, huh?

ALEX

Turn around.

(he puts the package  
into her backpack)

Poker is much safer than war.

She faces him.

ALEX

It's a book for you to read during those  
dull moments in the army.

She gives Alex a quick kiss.

SHAWNA

I have to say goodbye to dad.

PFC Walsh removes her backpack and sets it down.

MEDINA

(to Walsh)

Do you think this war could go nuclear?

WALSH

No! Oh no no no! We will not let that  
happen!

Shawna steps over to the Chief who is touching an F-16 Thunderbird. They face and take hold of each other's arms.

A tear runs down Shawna's cheek. The Chief uses a thumb to rub off the tear.

CHIEF

Shawna, your mother, would have been  
very proud of you. -- You come back  
safe.

Shawna cracks a smile and kisses her dad on the cheek.



SHAWNA

I know, dad. But hey, I am a big girl  
now and a warrior. I'll be all right.

The Chief and Shawna hug. In the background, PFC Walsh shows  
SPC Medina a card trick.

MEDINA

Now! How did you do that?

Alex walks by with a slight limp to Jack and hands him a  
small wooden Christian cross, a thin leather strap dangles  
from it.

ALEX

Jack, I made this for you.

JACK

Thank you, Alex, my friend.

Jack puts it around his neck and tucks the cross under his  
shirt. They then hold each other's right arms by the wrists.

ALEX

Jack, do me a favor. Keep my girlfriend  
out of trouble. I want her back safe and  
sound.

JACK

Your gal Lieutenant Chenoa is a great  
motivator. She is a kick-ass leader.

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Lynch, a 35-year-old Caucasian  
female, steps to a vacant area on the tarmac. She stops then  
turns to face the soldiers. At the position of attention,  
she shouts.

LYNCH

Fall-in!

The soldiers rush to in front of SFC Lynch, forming a four  
squad platoon. SGT Jack Tucker takes his position in the  
First Squad Leader position, SPC Sofía Medina is on his left  
and PFC Walsh is next to her.

SFC Lynch does an about-face. 1LT Shawna Chenoa steps in  
front of SFC Lynch who then presents Shawna a salute.

LYNCH

Lieutenant Chenoa, all present, ma'am.

Shawna returns the salute.

SHAWNA

Thank you, Sergeant Lynch. I want to speak to the platoon.

SFC Lynch steps aside. Shawna takes a couple of steps forward.

SHAWNA

Platoon, stand at ease.

The platoon now stands in place with their hands clasped behind their lower backs.

SHAWNA

(commanding voice)

Our Chemical, Biological, and Radiation unit has been tasked. We will go into battle areas where our Army, Air Force, and Marines have recently fought the enemy...

The Chief, Lance Tucker, Alex Mahkah, and other family members and friends look on as 1LT Shawna Chenoa speaks.

SHAWNA (O.S.)

...There, we will sample the air, water, and ground. We are looking for any evidence of WMD. If by chance we do encounter the...

The soldiers hold their eyes on Shawna.

SHAWNA (O.S.)

...enemy then our mission changes to that of Infantry and our rule of engagement is to kick ass.

Shawna exhibits a bearing of confidence.

SHAWNA

My job is to lead you and bring you all back home. --- Platoon Attention!

SOLDIERS

(snap to attention and shout)

Hooah!

Shawna does an about-face. SFC Lynch steps to in front of her and presents a salute. Shawna returns the salute.

SHAWNA

Take over, Sergeant Lynch.

LYNCH

Yes, ma'am!

Shawna steps away, SFC Lynch shouts out commands.

LYNCH

Platoon Attention! -- Right face! --  
Forward March!

SFC Lynch marches the platoon past the F-16 Thunderbirds toward the parked C-130. Shawna marches beside the platoon.

The relatives and friends watch the soldiers march into the back of the C-130 transport aircraft.

Lance and Alex wave as well as the others.

The Chief appears concerned. A tear runs down his cheek.

The C-130 aircraft moves away.

INT. C-130 AIRCRAFT -- DAY

The soldiers sit the fuselage, facing inward. The sound of the spinning propellers hums through the aircraft.

Shawna removes the package from her backpack. She rips off the brown paper wrapper. She sees that it is a thick book on how to play poker written by a famous poker player. Shawna begins to read as the plane starts to roar down the runway.

EXT. RUNWAY -- DAY

The C-130 lifts off and flies toward the great blue yonder.

EXT. BOMBED OUT DESERT FORTIFICATION - DAY

U.S. Army soldiers fill the forward area with intense rapid weapons fire. All in the enemy patrol meets their demise.

SUPER:

"Enemy proxy fighters have stolen  
**weapons-grade uranium** from Russia. We  
and the Russians want to find the WMD  
before the enemy uses it on either of  
us."

1LT Shawna Chenoa shouts.

SHAWNA  
Cease Fire and fix bayonets!

SFC Lynch turns to Shawna.

LYNCH  
Lieutenant Chenoa, fix bayonets?!

SHAWNA  
Sergeant Lynch, just in case the enemy  
sneaks closer. We'll be ready.

LYNCH  
Sergeant Tucker, inform your squad to  
fix bayonets.

SGT Jack Tucker turns from SFC Lynch and moves toward a few  
soldiers.

JACK  
(to himself)  
Must do as Fire Dancer says.

SGT Jack Tucker approach the few soldiers.

JACK  
Fix bayonets. Pass it on. -- Specialist  
Medina, take the watch near that wall.

MEDINA  
Yes, sergeant.

SPC Sofia Medina moves to her assigned post as the other  
soldiers attach bayonets to their M4 rifles on the now quiet  
battlefield.

SGT Kimble, a 24-year-old African-American female, and PFC  
Walsh approach SFC Lynch.

LYNCH  
Kimble, take Walsh. Give First-Aid to  
any of the enemy you might find alive.

KIMBLE  
On our way!

At the nearby wall, SPC Medina swiftly aims her rifle.

MEDINA  
(shouts)  
Halt! Who goes there?

SOLDIER (O.S.)  
Romeo and Juliet.

MEDINA  
Advance and be recognized.

SPC Medina lowers her weapon as delight fills her face.

MEDINA  
(shouts over her  
shoulder)  
Sergeant Lynch!

SFC Lynch turns and looks pleasantly surprised. She reaches back and yanks on Shawna's arm.

LYNCH  
Lieutenant, I think our mission has  
changed again!

Shawna quickly turns and so does Jack. Their lips widen ear to ear.

From around the low concrete wall, soldiers assist and escort a dozen American POWs of both genders and many races. They are in pajamas that have a large "X" on their shirts.

JACK  
Hell Yeah!

Cheers and hoorahs from our soldiers fill the air.

Two soldiers escort another POW, a 25-year-old Russian army LIEUTENANT BORIS in his field uniform. His hands are duct tape together in front of him.

SHAWNA  
(to the escorting  
soldiers)  
When the helicopters arrive, get our  
POWs on them first. We'll catch our ride  
when the choppers return.

Shawna slaps Lynch on the back then notices a diamond on her ring finger.

SHAWNA  
You got engaged! - Who is he?

Lynch whispers into Shawna's ear and her eyes widen.

SHAWNA  
No way! - Good catch girl!  
Congratulations!

Shawna whispers into Lynch's ear. Lynch smiles wide and nods.

LYNCH  
Oh yeah, that is an affirmative, ma'am!  
Very!

Shawna raises her left hand to near her face and looks at her bare ring finger.

SHAWNA  
I hope that someday there will be a  
diamond on my finger.

SGT Kimble and PFC Walsh rush back held by the handles a metal container with radiation labels.

A soldier moves a handheld Geiger Counter over that container. Many clicks are heard but the needle moves just a little.

SOLDIER  
Safe radioactivity levels Lieutenant.

The soldier moves the Geiger Counter over and around SGT Kimble and PFC Walsh. Quieter clicks are heard and the needle barely moves.

SOLDIER  
They are good to go, Lieutenant Chenoa.

Lieutenant Shawna Chenoa shouts into the satellite phone.

SHAWNA  
My soldiers found the WMD!

Two soldiers escort the Russian near Shawna. She holds her left hand against the Russian's chest. Stopping him.

SHAWNA  
This isn't mentioned in my poker book!

Shawna steps closer to the Russian and stares at his nervous face.

She then cuts the duct tape that holds his hands together.

Jack hands the Russian a water canteen.

BORIS  
Spah-see-boh.

SUPER: "Thank You."

Shawna points her rifle bayonet at his nametag, "Борис."

SHAWNA  
Boris! - Вы говорите по-английский?

SUPER: "Do you speak English?"

Boris responds with his deep Russian accent.

BORIS  
Yes, I do, and you speak Russian very good.  
(standing tall)  
I am Lieutenant Boris, serial number 9345-2720, I demand safe-conduct and representation of the International Red Cross in accordance with the Geneva Convention and released to a Russian unit immediately.

Shawna tries not to laugh.

SHAWNA  
(snickering)  
You do sound like an officer.

Jack tosses a rifle with a bayonet attached to Shawna. She catches it, in the air, with her free hand then hands it to Boris.

SHAWNA  
For now, join our soldiers.

BORIS  
Under the Geneva Convention, you cannot force me to fight with you.

Profile view of Shawna taking a step forward and looks at Boris, eye to eye.

SHAWNA  
Get this, Boris! Here is the real deal. You are not our enemy. You are not our POW.

Boris's view of Shawna giving him advice.

SHAWNA

You are free to leave and go back into the desert and give the enemy the finger for me. Or, you can stay and fight with us. Because you are an officer, I will give you extra time to think about it.

Shawna walks away.

Jack steps up to Boris, looks him in the eye, nods, and then catches up to Shawna.

JACK

Ma'am, how many languages do you speak?

SHAWNA

Many.

JACK

Wow! Anyway ma'am, don't trust a Russian! Don't give a Russian too much info, on anything at all!

SHAWNA

Trust me, sergeant!

Boris holds high an index finger.

BORIS

Wait! American lieutenant. I have made a decision. -- I will fight with you.

SHAWNA

Smart man.

BORIS

American lieutenant, again wait!

SHAWNA

Now what?

Shawna again steps close to Boris, eye to eye.

SHAWNA

My name is Lieutenant Chenoa. Lieutenant Shawna Chenoa. Got it?

Shawna backs away just a little.

BORIS

Have you heard from my Russian comrades, Lieutenant Shawna Chenoa?



SHAWNA  
 (shakes her head)  
 Sorry!  
 (looks to Lynch)  
 Send a message to HQ about Boris.

BORIS  
 Spah-see-boh.

Shawna gazes from left to right at the encampment.

SERIES OF SHOTS: Shawna's view of her soldiers performing various tasks.

- Caring for the wounded.
- Drinking water.
- Reloading ammo magazines.
- Digging entrenchments.
- Eating MRE rations.
- Dragging a dead enemy fighter to a trench.
- SFC Lynch speaks (MOS) into the satellite phone.
- Soldiers guard the perimeter.
- One soldier stands facing away with his M4 slung over a shoulder while taking a piss.

Shawna and Jack walk away from Boris. Boris catches up and keeps up with them.

BORIS  
 American Lieutenant Shawna Chenoa, have you ever been to Russia? I know you will like Russia. Maybe you can come to Russia after the war, yes?

Shawna's face shows her non-interest. She looks to Jack.

SHAWNA  
 Wish we were back home.

BORIS  
 Back home, I use to catch fish in the Bering Strait. There, I can see Alaska from my house.

Boris sees a soldier pull a dead enemy fighter into a ditch. Boris gestures back and forth to Shawna and to himself.

BORIS

When will the enemy ever understand that  
the earth is our turf?

Jack nods in a somewhat agreement.

Shawna rolls her eyes back and then gives Jack a numb look as they walk by some soldiers digging a trench.

BORIS

You're an American Indian, aren't you?  
Tell me, do you ride horses?

SHAWNA

My dad and his tribe ride horses. I play  
the flute, I enjoy eating rattlesnakes,  
and go ATVing outside the reservation.

BORIS

You should come to Russia. I mean, what  
are you going to do after the war?

SHAWNA

(annoyed)

Just chop firewood, dance around the  
fire, play poker, and skinny-dip under  
the sun in Lake Mead.

Jack looks thrilled and eager for more information.

JACK

(to Shawna)

Where at around Lake Mead? Which cove?

SHAWNA

Well, if you want a thrill. - You might  
catch me dipping at Stewarts Point!

Jack throws his right fist high in excitement.

JACK

Yes!

SHAWNA

Or Echo Bay! Or in Rogers Spring.

Jack's excitement begins to fade.

SHAWNA

Or the lake area near the St. Thomas.  
Or in the river near Bunkerville. That  
is whenever I am not playing poker.

Shawna cracks a smile at sadden Jack.

BORIS

I have never played poker, but a comrade  
of mine likes poker. He plays almost  
every night in Moscow. He tells me poker  
stories - very long stories about every  
card dealt.

(holds out a hand)

I tell him to give me a ruble if I have  
to listen to any more. He never shuts up  
about poker. He, all the time talks  
about anything and everything poker.

JACK

You sure do talk a lot!

Boris looks over the area and see soldiers drag away two  
more dead enemy bodies.

BORIS

I got a bad feeling that I might die  
here.

Shawna steps to Boris and looks at him, eye to eye.

SHAWNA

Boris, stick this in your Russian brain!  
I am an American soldier. Put a grin on  
your chin when you look at me.

Boris grins as Shawna points around the area.

SHAWNA

Look around you, Lieutenant Boris! See,  
they all are American soldiers too. So,  
keep a very big grin on your chin 'cause  
I doubt that you're gonna die today.

BORIS

You will not die today neither,  
Lieutenant Shawna Chenoa.

Shawna gives Boris a quick grin then steps away.

Three army utility helicopters land.

Soldiers rush to and take positions around the helicopters. They hold their rifles at the ready.

A squad of soldiers guards and assist the liberated American POWs onto the utility helicopters. Two soldiers place the metal container with radiation labels into a helicopter.

1LT Shawna Chenoa has the radio microphone in one hand.

RADIO (V.O)  
We'll be back to get you to dinner in  
one tic tock - Good job Lieutenant.

Shawna shouts into the radio microphone under the noise of the helicopter whirling blades.

SHAWNA  
Copy. Thank you, Captain, sir!

She watches the helicopters lift off and fly away. Shawna looks exhausted as she turns toward her soldiers.

SHAWNA  
(shouts)  
Great job, soldiers.

SOLDIERS  
Hoorah!

SHAWNA  
(to Lynch)  
Allow the soldiers to break on their own  
but carry on and remain alert.

LYNCH  
Yes, ma'am. . . Why don't you take a  
break as well? I'll take over for a  
while.

SHAWNA  
Thank you, Sergeant Lynch.

SFC Lynch turns to Lieutenant Boris.

LYNCH  
Sir, a Russian helicopter will pick you  
up here at 16:00 hours.

BORIS  
Spah-see-boh, Sergeant Lynch.

Shawna takes a seat on a concrete block, removes her helmet and pours some water over her head then takes a drink.

She puts her helmet back on and retrieves the thick poker book from her backpack. She opens the poker book and reads.

A soldier points her cell phone camera at SGT Jack Tucker smiling with his hands on the shoulders of SPC Sofía Medina, and PFC Walsh. Grinning SFC Lynch stands by them. In the background, Shawna reads her poker book.

CLICK, the photo is taken.

LYNCH

Break as you can until the helicopters return, but continue your tasks and stay on the alert!

SERIES OF SHOTS - of our soldiers soldiering.

-- Attaches an ammo magazine to his M4 rifle.

-- Wipes the sweat from her face.

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-- Puts a soil sample into a small container.
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-- Looks through his binoculars.

-- A male and a female soldier sit on concrete blocks conversing (MOS) with each other.

-- Cleans the bayonet to her M4 rifle.

-- Drinks from his canteen.

-- Swings her Geiger-counter over an area of ground.

-- Receives three ammo magazines from SFC Lynch.

-- Adjusts her Kevlar vest.

Behind some rubble, PFC Walsh is in a prone position. Her M4 rifle is held at the ready. Lying near her is SGT Jack Tucker. He looks through the binoculars.

JACK

You just know we'll find a country we haven't bombed yet. But why this one?  
(wipes sweat from his face)  
Why can't we have a war in a cooler country?

SFC Lynch hands SGT Jack Tucker three ammo magazines.

JACK  
 One-hundred and fifteen degrees in the  
 shade they said.  
                   (louder)  
 Anybody, see any shade?

PFC Walsh looks at Jack as she wipes the sweat from her face.

JACK  
 My dad advised me against this.  
                   (looks at her)  
 Now, look what I got myself into, I  
 should have listened to my dad and  
 became a geologist.

WALSH  
 What does your dad do?

JACK  
 Dad is a psychologist with an office in  
 his home making the big bucks...

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE — DAY

Dr. Lance Tucker sits in his comfortable leather chair. He holds a notepad and pencil.

LANCE  
 Tell me, Omar, do you honestly believe  
 that you are no longer a danger to  
 others or yourself?

The 25-year-old creepy looking skinny Caucasian outpatient, OMAR, lies on the comfortable leather couch facing away from Dr. Tucker. His face looks like someone shoved it into a fishing tackle box.

OMAR  
 Actually, I do and I don't pee in the  
 bed no more neither.

JACK (V.O.)  
 ...and dad blows it all on poker.

INT. MEGA RESORT CASINO — HIGH LIMIT POKER ROOM — DAY

Lance Tucker wearing dark sunglasses holds one hand over his mouth as he pushes all of his poker chips forward.

LANCE

All-In!

His smiling high limit poker opponent shoves his chips forward also, then shows A♠ A♥ to Lance.

EXT. BOMBED OUT DESERT FORTIFICATION - DAY - (PRESENT)

Jack and PFC Walsh look from each other and stare back at the desert.

WALSH

My parents wanted me to finish college at UNLV.

Jack looks back to PFC Walsh.

JACK

PFC Walsh, what do your parents do in Nevada?

WALSH

Mom owns a bar and dad is a casino table games floorman.

In the background about a hundred feet behind SGT Tucker and PFC Walsh, Shawna reads her thick poker book.

Shawna has just a few pages left to read. She takes a drink from her canteen then she turns a page.

PFC Walsh sees heat waves blurring the desert.

WALSH

I hope that's a mirage.

About six enemy fighters run through the blur. One raises a rifle and fires.

SERIES OF SHOTS - of a bullet in slow motion.

-- The bullet exits the rifle and zips through the air.

-- The bullet ricochets off a concrete block.

-- The damaged bullet tumbles as it zips through the air.

-- The bullet ricochets off another concrete block.

-- The more bent damaged bullet spins and tumbles as it zips toward Shawna reading her poker book.

-- BANG! The bullet strikes the thick poker book.

SMACK the book slams against Shawna's face knocking her to the ground.

Shawna's hands hold her face as she screams in pain.

JACK  
(shouts)  
They're coming!

SFC Lynch pulls Shawna to behind some rubble. Shawna drops her hands showing her badly bruised left cheek and bloody upper lip. SOUND of bullets zipping by here, there, and everywhere.

Shawna draws her pistol.

The American soldiers fill the forward area with massive rapid weapons fire.

Six more enemy fighters jump over the low concrete block wall. Gunfire fills the air. The bloodied enemy falls dead.

A bullet ricochets off a concrete block near Shawna's head.

Two enemy fighters climb over the left flank wall. Jack shoots one, and then CLICK! Reloads! At the last moment, he shoots the other. He then looks through his binoculars.

JACK  
(shouts)  
Is that all you got? Send me more! Come  
to your nightmare.

Jack lowers his binoculars then gives the distant enemy the middle finger.

JACK  
I salute you!

Shawna shouts into the satellite phone as the SOUND of bullets is zipping past.

SHAWNA  
We need fire support now one-hundred  
meters north from my GPS.

SOUND of bullets zip by. A deafening mortar explodes near PFC Walsh; black smoke fills her area. The scene is now MOS except for a RINGING in the ear sound.



Smoke clears. PFC Carol Walsh stands and stares upward at the sky while holding her severed left arm. Tears flow from her eyes.

END OF MOS: Battlefield sounds return.

WALSH

Oh, daddy...

Jack pulls PFC Walsh to the ground. He ties a belt on her upper left arm stub above where the elbow used to be.

WALSH

What are you doing? I was waiting for my dad.

JACK

Calm down Carol, you're in shock. The helicopters will be here soon.  
(to himself)

I hope.

Shawna sees a rushing enemy fighter aim at her. SPC Sofía Medina, standing near Shawna, fires her M4 rifle at that enemy fighter. Bringing him death during his run.

Shawna fires her pistol at another enemy fighter. He falls at her feet causing her to leap as she shoots another. He falls wounded but able to fire his weapon and miss her. She forces his rifle barrel to one side then stomps a foot on his throat.

As bullets zip by, Shawna fires her pistol at another, then CLICK!

She drops her empty pistol, leans down, and grabs a rifle from deceased SPC Sofía Medina with a hole in her chest.

Shawna fires the rifle at an enemy fighter rushing at her, blowing half of his head away.

Her soldiers shoot at the rush of three more enemy fighters. The shooting ceases upon the fall of the last enemy.

Sweat runs down Shawna's soiled face as she scans the desert with her binoculars. The quietness refreshes her.

Some soldiers gather around Shawna. Boris stands guard close by.

1LT Shawna Chenoa, SFC Lynch, SGT Jack Tucker, and three other soldiers remove their Kevlar helmets in their gathering.

An enemy fighter runs towards the gathering with a grenade in hand.

Boris shoots him in his run towards the gathering.

The enemy fighter falls and the grenade explodes in his hand; blowing himself up to smithereens.

In the gathering, sweat flows down their soiled faces. They look scared but determined.

Shawna pours some water on her head then takes a drink and puts back on her Kevlar helmet. Others refresh themselves similarly. Shawna looks to Lynch.

SHAWNA

We lost Specialist Medina.

LYNCH

She wasn't old enough to buy a beer.

JACK

PFC Walsh lost an arm. She is in shock!  
You know she is not old enough to play  
in a damn casino back home.

Shawna speaks firmly into the satellite phone.

SHAWNA

What's the ETA on the helicopters? We  
are in a bad neighborhood!

The soldiers in the encampment can overhear the enemy interrupt on the radio.

RADIO (V.O.)

(enemy irritating  
laughter)

Girly soldier will die. I will kill you.  
I will kill all you Americans.

(enemy irritating  
laughter)

I will kill you slowly girly soldier.  
What does girly say about that?

Shawna's soldiers appear somewhat troubled and edgy.

SHAWNA

(to herself)

There's no love in war or poker!

Shawna looks from her soldiers. She shouts into the satellite phone. All in the encampment can overhear.

SHAWNA

My answer to you is --- Foxtrot Uniform  
Charlie Kilo -- Yankee Oscar Uniform!

Shawna's soldiers shout a gung-ho roar as they high-five each other. One soldier yodels and imitates an American Indian war dance.

JACK

(to Shawna)

I hear that! Fire Dancer! Hell Yeah, you  
 told 'em! You are the Fire Dancer!

(sees Shawna's stare)

I meant Lieutenant Chenoa, ma'am. Oops!

Shawna gives him a somewhat agreeable nod as a guarding soldier shouts.

SOLDIER

More enemy coming!

Soldiers take cover and aim their weapons. Shawna, Jack, and Boris dash for cover. Bullets zip past and one ricochets off a nearby concrete block.

A dozen enemy fighters jump over the wall and get slaughtered by the overwhelming weapon firepower from Shawna's soldiers.

More enemy fighters come from the left flank and our soldiers become overwhelmed.

Our soldiers fight close combat using bayonets, rifle butts, and hand-to-hand combat.

SFC Lynch fights the enemy like a Ms. Rambo by stabbing, kicking, and throat punching without pause.

An enemy fighter rushes at Boris. Shawna runs a bayonet into his side. Boris nods at her in appreciation.

An enemy fighter is about to run his dagger into Jack, SFC Lynch shoots him.

An enemy fighter pushes Shawna on the chest tripping her down onto the ground.

On her back, she sees this enemy fighter about to bayonet her. Jack fires a bullet through this enemy's head.

JACK

How does that feel, dumb ass?!

Shawna gets back on her feet.

A fighter rushes at her, Shawna runs her rifle bayonet into him. With her foot, she pushes against his chest and tries to pull out the bayonet, but it is stuck in his ribs. She fires the rifle blowing him off the bayonet.

Another enemy fighter rushes at Shawna and knocks the rifle from her hands.

She is in rapid hand-to-hand combat with him. Blocking his punches and reshaping his bloody face. Finally, she chops him in the throat. He falls gasping for air. Shawna stomps on his throat, bringing him death to where he lies.

Another enemy combatant charges towards Shawna. Boris shoots him just in time. He falls dead at Shawna's feet that stand on blood-soaked ground. She gives Boris a nod.

Boris, Shawna, Jack, Lynch, and the soldiers fight close combat using rifle bayonets, rifle butts, and fist.

Shawna and Boris are fighting the last two of the enemy as her soldiers fire at a new rush of enemy, adding more blood to the soaked ground.

An enemy fighter holds Shawna by the neck against the wall.

ENEMY FIGHTER  
(irritating laugh)  
I'm going to kill you girly.  
(irritating laugh)  
You are going to die girly.

He rips Shawna's uniform shirt open and reaches in.

She kicks him in the nuts and pushes him off from her. While groaning in pain, he moves at her again. Shawna throws fast punches and chops at his bloody face then a chop at the throat sends him to hell.

SHAWNA  
(out of breath)  
You're not laughing now!

A SCREAMING female enemy fighter, holding a bayonet, rushes toward Shawna. Shawna gets into a fighting stance. The enemy female fighter drops her bayonet, raises her arms high, and drops to her knees.

ENEMY FEMALE  
(cries out)  
No! No more war!

Shawna breathes heavily while she looks around at the carnage. Two soldiers take the enemy female away. Boris steps up to Shawna. She turns to him.

SHAWNA  
(still out of breath)  
Thanks for covering me, Lieutenant  
Boris.

BORIS  
Спасибо для покрытия меня, Lieutenant  
Shawna Chenoa.

(NOTE: *No Subtitle intended.*)

Their eyes exchange their gratitude for each other.

The enemy lies dead all around. Some of Shawna's soldiers lie around wounded or dead. In the distant background, a lone enemy fighter fires his rifle.

SLOW MOTION EFFECT — of the bullet.

-- Exiting the rifle, zips past, and heads to Shawna.

-- Slices the skin on the right side of Shawna's neck.

Shawna screams and slaps a hand on her bleeding neck yet stays alert as she looks around for the shooter.

Her soldiers return fire fills that enemy sniper with many bloody holes.

Boris hands Shawna a bandage. She holds it against her neck.

Soldiers are caring for soldiers. SFC Lynch gives First Aid to a wounded soldier.

Shawna quickly looks all around.

SHAWNA  
(shouts)  
Sergeant Tucker!

Shawna sees Jack on the ground. She rushes to him, sits, and rests Jack's head on her lap. His breathing is labored.

She takes a bandage from the first aid kit. She applies pressure to Jack's chest wound and turns him towards his wounded side. Blood now streams from his mouth and breathing improves somewhat.

SHAWNA  
(shouts)  
Sergeant Tucker!

Jack tries to look up at Shawna. Blood drips from her neck. Jack's bloody hand grabs the broken wooden cross on his chest. Shawna's free bloody hand grabs his and the broken cross.

JACK  
Tell my dad I love him!

SHAWNA  
Hold on, sergeant! --- Jack, I'll get you home. You can tell him yourself.

Boris assists and holds a bandage on Jack's chest wound.

Shawna holds a bandage against her bleeding neck. She sees our helicopters arrive.

A body bag is zipped closed over deceased SPC Sofía Medina.

Soldiers quickly carry our dead and wounded on stretchers to the US Army helicopters. PFC Carol Walsh and SGT Jack Tucker are seen carried on the stretchers.

Shawna and Boris face each other.

SHAWNA  
Спасибо, Борис. Я желаю вам хорошей жизни и процветания.

SUPER: "Thank you, Boris. I wish you a good life and prosperity."

BORIS  
всегда буду помнить тебя. Я надеюсь, что мы снова встретимся в лучшее место.

SUPER: "I will always remember you. I hope we will meet again in a better place."

Their faces move closer and closer. SFC Lynch runs by them.

LYNCH  
We gotta go, Lieutenant.

Shawna and Lynch dash to and hop on the helicopter side gunner seat. Shawna reaches forward.

Shawna and Boris's bloody right hands grab each other's arms above the wrist for a handshake.

Their eyes send each other their appreciations.

Grinning Boris backs away and waves at Shawna and Lynch sitting in the side gunner seat as the helicopter lifts off with the other helicopters.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY - (IN FLIGHT)

Shawna sees Boris's bloody handprint on her right arm and sees Boris standing below on the ground saluting her.

The size of Boris on the ground decreases as the helicopter flies away.

EXT. BOMBED OUT DESERT FORTIFICATION - DAY

The grin on Boris' chin fades. Sadly, he walks then slightly stumbles.

He looks down and sees the thick poker book with the bullet hole in it.

His bloody hand picks up the book. He thumbs through the pages and finds inside the bent bullet. He pockets that bent bullet then he sees a Russian helicopter arrive.

Boris runs and gets in the Russian helicopter.

INT. RUSSIAN HELICOPTER - DAY - (IN FLIGHT)

A Russian soldier hands Lieutenant Boris a damp towel. Boris wipes his face with it then cleans his left arm. He stops at the sight of Shawna's bloody handprint on his right arm. He lays the towel down.

Boris opens the thick poker book and begins to read. For now, Shawna's bloody handprint will stay on his arm.

EXT. WALTER REED NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

A couple of soldiers walk by the hospital placard.

The foot traffic of military and civilian personnel enter and exit the building.

COL CARTER (V.O.)  
Lieutenant, you have experienced a very  
severe traumatic event.

INT. WALTER REED NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER — DAY

Doctors, nurses, and patients walk past a door that reads:  
COLONEL JAMES CARTER — CHIEF OF PSYCHOLOGY

COL CARTER (V.O.)(CONT'D.)  
Your psyche may have suffered an extreme  
shock. I want to be sure that you're not  
showing signs of having Post Traumatic  
Stress Disorder.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE — DAY

1LT Shawna Chenoa is in her Army Class "A" Dress uniform.  
She has a large Band-Aid on her neck. She sits in a very  
comfortable leather chair facing COLONEL CARTER.

SHAWNA  
I'm a mentally strong woman, stronger  
than any possible PTSD. Besides, I feel  
fine. But I do feel bad that I didn't  
bring all my soldiers home, alive.

Col Carter glances down to his notes.

COL CARTER  
Your soldiers, under your leadership,  
rescued many POWs and saved lives. No  
other Officer could have done any  
better. I see that you were awarded the  
Bronze Star for your courage and heroic  
achievements.

Shawna touches her bandaged neck.

SHAWNA  
Also, the Purple Heart award for this!

COL CARTER  
I'm concerned about any scars I cannot  
see.

SHAWNA  
As I said, I am a very tough woman. I  
have my dad to thank for teaching me to  
be so mentally strong and self-reliant.



COL CARTER

I believe you. Just be aware that PTSD can creep in and destroy the joy in your life. So stay strong Lieutenant and always be you — be Shawna.

SHAWNA

I will be fine. I really will, sir.

Col Carter signs Shawna's medical release. He stands as does Shawna. He hands her the release.

COL CARTER

I saw your Officer Efficiency Report. It lauded your leadership skills and the many languages you know have been a great asset to the United States Army. --- By the way, what are you going to do for a living, now?

SHAWNA

I'm going to be a professional poker player. It's safer than combat.

Colonel Carter seemed to be oddly struck by her answer but he promptly recomposes his bearing. He reaches out his right hand and shakes her's.

COL CARTER

Good luck to you Lieutenant.

JACK (V.O.)

Get this! The doctor told me that...

INT. HOSPITAL PATIENT ROOM — DAY

Jack with his chest bandaged sits on the hospital bed.

JACK (CONT'D)

...the wooden cross slowed the bullet enough for me to survive. In effect, Alex saved my life as you did too.

SHAWNA

I think you survived for a later reason. Maybe for a good woman!

Shawna shows Jack her papers.

JACK

Congratulations ma'am, so you're now in the Army Reserve.

Smiling Shawna nods her head.

SHAWNA

I got a Red-Eye tonight to Vegas and  
guess who will be picking me up?

JACK

The Chief?

SHAWNA

Alex silly, I am going to live with him  
in Overton, off the reservation.

JACK

Alex! What a lucky guy. You tell him  
that I'll be back to work for him once I  
get out of here. By the way, I've been  
accepted to UNLV. Taking Geology.

SHAWNA

Listen, if you ever see my dad, do not  
tell him that I am living with Alex.

Jack gives Shawna a questionable look.

SHAWNA

Dad is just too old fashion. If he ever  
finds out, well I would rather be back  
in combat.

They share a laugh then she hugs Jack, he groans in pain and  
holds a hand against his bandaged chest.

JACK

Can we finish that hug back home?

SHAWNA

Sorry! I forgot about your wound.  
(she kisses him on the  
cheek)

That better?

The grin on Jack's chin gives the answer.

SHAWNA

Got much to do before my flight to  
Vegas.

Shawna turns and walks towards the room door.

JACK

Thanks for the visit, Lieutenant Chenoa.

Shawna suddenly stops and turns towards Jack.

SHAWNA  
Jack, you can now call me Fire Dancer.

INT. LAS VEGAS MCCARRAN AIRPORT - NIGHT

Shawna, in her Army "Class A" Dress uniform, stands by her luggage at an empty baggage carousel. The clock on the wall behind her shows 3:10 am. She anxiously looks around.

Down the long aisle of many baggage carousels, Alex limps towards her way.

His face expresses the pain of each limp taken.

Relief fills Shawna's face. Shawna appears more excited with each limp that Alex takes.

Alex walks the best he can. The eagerness on his face prevails over the physical pain of each limp.

At last, their lips meet.

Looking around, around, and around them during their spit swapping. Then their lips finally part.

ALEX  
Well, did you learn any new languages?

Shawna gladly nods.

SHAWNA  
Yep! Sure did! - Poker.

Her view of Alex's joyous face.

ALEX  
Close your eyes.

FADE TO BLACK:

ALEX (V.O.)  
Open your eyes!

FADE IN:

A diamond ring is now on her finger.

ALEX  
Didn't kneel because I am not giving you  
a chance to saying no.

She looks at him with very wet eyes as she places two fingers against his lips.

SHAWNA

Hush!

She plants a hot wet kiss on his lips.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

At the table with empty breakfast plates, Alex and Shawna sip coffee. She admires the diamond on her finger.

ALEX

Have you told the Chief yet?

SHAWNA

I was going to on the phone but decided that we tell him at the Pow Wow of his on Sunday.

ALEX

We?

Shawna seems to get coy.

SHAWNA

We!

EXT. SNOWBIRD MESA BASE - DAY

Vehicular traffic travels the road at the bottom of the mesa. Some vehicles have parked on the road shoulder.

A young couple dash from their parked car to join the other tourist on the roadside.

Everyone looks up ogling and eagerly take pictures with various kinds of cameras from DSLRs to cell phones.

The tourists view up the mesa seeing three American Indians on horseback near the cliff. They wear the 1750's era native buckskin attire.

EXT. SNOWBIRD MESA TOP - DAY

The Chief, Shawna, and Alex sit on their horses and speak in their Navajo language.

The Chief wearing his warbonnet points.

*(Note: No subtitles. Only voice tone, facial expressions, and gestures give clues to what they may be discussing.)*

CHIEF  
(commanding voice)  
Nísingo e t l bu ð ákwii.

They look at the tourist below taking pictures.

Alex responds agreeably to the Chief like an outstanding ass-kissing brown-noser would. His healed left leg shows evidence of bullet and surgical wounds.

ALEX  
Tsoh a d , binanit'a'i'. Aoo ! Nih-  
tsa-goh-al-neh yal.

Shawna's ugly neck scar is seen. Her headband has a feather on one side, and an army insignia of First Lieutenant attached on the left front. The Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards hang from the left breast area of her buckskin shirt.

She disagrees with her dad.

SHAWNA  
Díí 'ak'is t áá jíík e kéyah!

The Chief looks at her with piercing eyes as he angrily responds.

CHIEF  
Kut; k'ad; k ad nihí éí na-eli-ya.

Shawna turns her angry face from the Chief then looks down to the engagement ring on her finger.

Anguish now fills her face. She turns the ring so that the diamond is not visible to the Chief.

She looks relieved as she now looks and smiles at Alex. She blows him a kiss.

SHAWNA  
Ayóó áníínish ní!

ALEX  
I love you, too!

The American Indians steer their horses away from the mesa cliff edge. The horses kick up dirt as they gallop away.

EXT. VALLEY OF FIRE AREA - DAY

Many American Indians in their various traditional native attire of many eras dance in the pow-wow to a song played from drum beating, flute playing, with loud yodeling and hollering.

Some war-painted half-naked American Indians play music on modern electrical musical instruments. (*Keyboards, guitars, drums, etc.*)

The Chief, Shawna, and Alex dismount from their horses by a picnic tent. An American Indian teenager takes the reins and walks the horses away.

The Chief takes a seat on a foldout chair outside the picnic tent.

Several American Indians have one, two, or more feathers in their headbands. Some are US Veterans who wear caps that denote service in Afghanistan, Iraq, Grenada, Panama, Vietnam, Korea, or WW2.

Many and various military awards and combat medals are visible on the veterans' shirts. Some Indians have missing limbs. A couple of veterans are in wheelchairs.

Others march and hold staffs with attached American Indian streamers and the USA flag.

Shawna plays her flute and joins in with the dancing tribe.

The Chief watches the festivities as he takes a beer from the cooler. He opens the beer can and takes a long swallow. Shawna playing her flute dances past the Chief.

The Chief sees the diamond ring on Shawna's finger.

The astounded Chief chokes on the beer. He sets the beer down and stands with an arm raised as he shouts in Navajo.

CHIEF

Ni níłtłáád

SUPER: "Stop!"

The dancing, drum beating, flute playing, hollering, and yodeling abruptly stops. Everyone looks toward the Chief.

Alex looks confused. He looks to a fellow Indian.

ALEX

What's going on? Why did everyone stop?

Alex does not get an answer. Three beautiful American Indian women look very troubled as they quickly surround Shawna.

WOMAN 1

The Chief wants to see you, now!

As the women escort Shawna towards the Chief. Alex walks with a limp over to them. Woman-2 holds a hand out against Alex's chest as they continue to walk.

WOMAN 2

This is all your fault.

Alex hollers over to Shawna as he points to his ring finger.

ALEX

Did you tell your dad?

SHAWNA

No! That's your job!

Alex gives Shawna a '*what do you mean*' kind of a look.

ALEX

Good time to tell me that now!

Shawna looks away from Alex and looks forward.

SHAWNA

My dad does not look pleased.

The Chief stands there with his arms folded. He looks very stern towards his daughter.

Shawna, Alex, and the three women halt before the chief's penetrating stare.

The three women look nervous. The American Indians in the background watch on, quietly.

Alex stands tall before the Chief's penetrating stare then turns his eyes towards Shawna.

Shawna looks down with respect to the Chief as he grabs Shawna's left hand. Then he touches the diamond ring.

She's very nervous. The Chief moves his stare to Alex.

CHIEF

When was I to be told?

Nervous Alex begins to speak.

ALEX

Today. I was . . .

The Chief holds out his right hand.

CHIEF

Today! - Not tomorrow? - Not yesterday?

Nervous Shawna whispers to Alex.

SHAWNA

Shut up! Say nothing!

Again, the Chief takes hold of Shawna's left hand. He grabs Alex's left hand and places it on Shawna's left hand. Then he uses both of his hands to hold their hands together.

CHIEF

Oh, Great Spirit! May the star ones  
shine their light onto you two.

Shawna becomes very delighted. Alex looks confused. The Chief reaches to the sky.

CHIEF

Greatest Spirit of all spirits! May you  
love and protect.  
(to Alex)  
May your heart be full of her song.

Shawna looks up in a thankful prayer.

CHIEF

(to Shawna)  
May your heart know the calming of his  
strength.

Smiling delighted Shawna and numb Alex looks at the Chief.

CHIEF

The Great Spirit of all spirits blesses  
you both.

The three escorting women begin to YODEL and HOLLER. The tribe's drum pounding and the celebration starts again.

Shawna looks to Alex with her puckered lips waiting for the kiss. Alex is still numb as he stares at the Chief.

ALEX

Thank you. We haven't set a wedding date  
yet.



Shawna is showing the widest eyes and disgust ever.

The Chief looks hard at Alex.

CHIEF

You have been hanging around the black  
and white people for far too long. You  
are now married to my daughter.

Smiling Alex turns to Shawna and gives her a quick kiss.

ALEX

Well then let's go!

The Chief raises an arm.

CHIEF

Hold on there!

Smiling Alex looks to the Chief.

The Chief looks at Alex with his penetrating eyes.

CHIEF

You have lost knowledge of our ways. A  
warrior must have knowledge, integrity,  
courage, and endurance.

Shawna looks impatient and frustrated.

CHIEF

Your integrity and your courage I do not  
question.

ALEX

Thank you.

Alex pulls on Shawna's hand. Again, the Chief raises an arm.

CHIEF

You and my daughter must consummate the  
marriage for it to be complete.

Alex agreeably nods and again pulls on Shawna's hand to go.  
The Chief again raises an arm.

CHIEF

You must prove to me your endurance.

Frustrated Shawna shows an 'Oh No' kind of a look.

ALEX

How can I prove that?

The Chief pulls a folding chair toward his.

CHIEF

Have a seat.

Alex releases Shawna's hand and sits next to the Chief.

Shawna joins the other American Indians that are singing, dancing, drum-beating, flute playing, and hollering.

CHIEF

My daughter is a brave warrior. I taught her endurance and many other leadership traits.

ALEX

Tact, Integrity, Justice, Knowledge, Enthusiasm, Bearing, Courage, Loyalty, Decisiveness, Initiative, Selflessness and... and... and...

CHIEF

Endurance! You left out endurance. Endurance is very important. I will teach you endurance.

The afternoon wind blows the USA flag that is across the parade area.

CHIEF

We picked up that flag from the Little Bighorn battlefield back in 1876. We honor what that flag stands for and we served it in war and peace.

ALEX

Many of our brave warriors were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. They endured.

CHIEF

I am very proud of my daughter. She is a United States Army Officer, a warrior and the leader of her platoon. However, she carries inside her PTSD pains from the war. A good cry will free her from the evil spirits that prevent her from having a life full of joy.

ALEX

I will be a good husband to her.

The Chief pats Alex on his wounded leg. Alex shows pain.

CHIEF

I know you will. I just know . . .

NIGHT -

The Milky Way stretches across the sky above the picnic tent where Alex and the Chief sit. All the other American Indians have already gone home.

Alex stands and the Chief grabs him by the shirt, sitting him back down onto the foldout chair.

ALEX

I got to go pee!

The Chief reaches by the cooler and hands Alex an empty mason jar. Alex moves to the side of the tent. The Chief speaks up.

CHIEF

Initiative is also a vital warrior leadership trait. I will teach you initiative next time. Decisiveness and tact are also very important too. So is enthusiasm.

Alex rolls his eyes back as he pees. He returns not looking enthused.

CHIEF

(now looks tired)

If the Washington people had some of those traits this land would not be having so many problems.

The Milky Way stretches across the sky above the picnic tent where Alex sits next to the Chief.

Alex looks to the Chief. The Chief is snoring.

Alex quietly moves from the chair and walks with a slight limp to Shawna's fiery red four-seater ATV.

The Chief opens his eyes and sees Alex slowly open the squeaky driver's side door.

The Chief cracks a smile and again closes his eyes.

Alex quietly gets in the ATV. Shawna is asleep over a seat.

The ATV slowly moves away into the night.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE — NIGHT

The fiery red ATV is parked next to the fiery red convertible.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE — NIGHT

Alex is completely dressed and passed out on the bed. Shawna stands by the bed. She looks at her snoring husband as she is wide awake and frustrated.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - SUNRISE

The view moves through a jungle of slot machines.

SUPER: "A Month Later."

Arriving at the poker room, one table is half-full of players. Little AMY, 22 and 5'2" African-American in her casino issue uniform, gestures with her right hand towards Shawna.

AMY  
Your action, Shawna.

Amy rests her hands on the table near the pot, a mixed pile of about 200 blue one-dollar and red five-dollar chips, that occupy the center of the poker table.

Amy moves her eyes from the pot to Shawna.

In seat two, KENNY, a bearded old man, looks from the pot then peeks at his two hole cards.

Between the pot and Amy, is a mixed sort of five face-up uncoordinated community cards.

Shawna's visible neck wound is healed but badly scarred. She pushes forward two stacks of red and six blue chips.

SHAWNA  
All in!

KENNY  
Count it please, Amy.

Amy rises then reaches over and cuts one of the two stacks of red chips into four stacks of five chips each. She then spreads the blue chips into a set of five and one to the side configuration. Amy sits back down and looks to Kenny.

AMY

Two hundred and six dollars to call,  
Kenny.

Kenny looks down at the old Morgan Silver Dollar that is on top of his cards. He takes a peek at his hole cards then lifts his eyes and holds a stare at Shawna.

Shawna's poker face holds a stare back at Kenny.

Kenny slides the silver dollar off his two cards. He again looks at Shawna.

She presses her lips tightly together.

At last, he tosses in his cards. Amy slides those two cards into the mucked cards as Kenny shakes his head in disgust.

Amy moves the five board cards to the side then she stands and pushes the pot of chips to Shawna. Amy now stretches her arm forward and slides the DEALER button to seat four.

Shawna tosses a chip to Amy. She taps it twice on the table then drops it into her shirt pocket.

KENNY

(to Shawna)

Did you have it, dear?

Shawna locates and turns her cards over showing 8♦ 3♦ .

KENNY

I should had of known by the way you  
held your eyes.

In seat three, a one-arm Vietnam VETERAN in an old army fatigue shirt with those sewn on yellow sergeant stripes turns to GINA, a female player in her 60s.

VETERAN

She bluffed him.

(to Kenny)

She bluffed you.

At the horseshoe-square-shape podium, stands CANDY a chubby woman of 35. Her name tag states "MANAGER" in bold letters above her name. She is counting some cash and eating candy.

At the poker table, the players chat as they play their cards. MIKE, 35 and bald, folds his cards and looks to Kenny.

MIKE

You know yesterday, I asked Candy...  
 (draws quotation marks  
 in the air)  
 ...you know the poker manager.

SHAWNA

(jumps in)  
 She's no manager. She's a paycheck  
 jockey. Her whole purpose in here is her  
 paycheck, and that's all.

Many at the table agreeably nod.

MIKE

Yea, that's right Shawna. Anyway, I  
 asked her. Why don't you bar those two  
 trouble-making creeps from the room and  
 Candy said, "Can't have a game if I  
 start 86ing players."

KENNY

There would be another table or two of  
 players if those two creeps were 86ed.

GINA

Absolutely, no other poker room would  
 allow their bad behavior and cursing.

VETERAN

A couple good dealers have quit in the  
 past because Candy didn't stop the bad  
 behavior.

Amy nods.

SHAWNA

Thankfully she's not responsible for  
 lives.

The Veteran clears his throat.

VETERAN

One of those creeps just arrived.

At the podium, Candy looks up from a crossword puzzle and  
 sees Omar looking back at her. He lays \$200 on the podium.

OMAR

Give me a rack and a stack.

Omar watches Candy open the top-drawer and place the \$200 into the money tray that is next to several bundles of cash, a large bag of candy, and a large bag of Beef Jerky.

From the drawer below that, Candy grabs a rack of blue chips and a stack of twenty red chips. She places them on the podium counter.

CANDY  
There you are, Omar.  
(points a finger)  
No trouble from you today.

Without answering, Omar grabs the rack and the stack then walks from the podium.

Candy closes the cash drawer without locking.

At the poker table, Omar takes seat nine. Amy looks away from Omar and momentarily rolls her eyes back as she rapidly and efficiently pitches the cards to the players.

Omar stacks his chips sloppily. No one at the table acknowledges Omar's presence as he talks to himself -- being an ass.

OMAR  
Welcome to the game Omar. Thank you,  
dealer. Hello everybody, how's your day?  
Oh, is that so? -- Losers!

Omar peeks at his two cards then he places a closed pocketknife on top of them.

CASINO BAR -

JILL, a fine-looking 25-year-old cocktail server, demonstrates to the bartender her yellow cell phone. A digital countdown clock is on the face of the cell phone.

JILL  
I can use this in the kitchen when I  
cook cookies. It gives a voice countdown  
beginning at ten seconds.

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
"Ten...Nine...Eight...Seven..."

She stops the countdown as the bartender places drinks on her serving tray.

BARTENDER  
Are you cooking or launching cookies?

JILL  
Pretty cool, huh?

POKER TABLE -

TODD, a raspy voice chubby young man with an orange Mohawk haircut, puts his single rack of blue chips at seat eight.

TODD  
Hey, Omar, mom asked about you and her money.

OMAR  
Todd, tell mom that I will pay her back the money when I pay her back the money.

Shawna slides her chips from seat seven to seat five, next to Gina, putting distance between her and the creeps.

Jill arrives. From her serving tray, she places a shot of whiskey in front of Kenny. He tips her a blue chip.

KENNY  
Thanks, Jill.

JILL  
Thank you, Kenny.

The Veteran receives his coffee and he tips a chip.

JILL  
Thank you.  
(looks to Shawna)  
Drinks?

SHAWNA  
Bottle of water. Thanks, Jill.

OMAR  
Bring me a double shot of Vodka.

JILL  
Omar, you are cut off! You were cut off yesterday and still cut off today. Also, cut off tomorrow and cut off forever.

OMAR  
Why?



JILL

Because I said so! Consider yourself lucky that Candy lets you play poker in here. If I was in charged you'd been 86ed a long time ago.

KENNY

When the Mob ran these casinos, 86 meant...

(points behind himself)

...eight miles out...

(points to the floor)

...and six feet under.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE — BEDROOM — NIGHT

Shawna is at her desk. With an ink pen, she writes on the desktop calendar.

Previous days, except Sundays and Mondays, have various dollar amounts. About a quarter of them in red ink with minus dollar notations. Shawna writes +\$258 in black for Tuesday's profit.

ALEX

See, poker is safer than war.

SHAWNA

Wrong! Poker is war!

Alex grabs and pushes her onto the bed. Playfully, they wrestle and kiss on the bed.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO — POKER ROOM — DAY

At the poker table, Omar places the pocketknife on his cards then pushes six stacks of red chips forward.

OMAR

All in!

SERIES OF SHOTS — Shawna in decision.

-- Shawna lifts the left corner of her cards and sees J♥ J♦.

-- She looks up from the cards.

-- Omar stares at her.

-- Amy has her hands flat on the table near the pot.

AMY  
Your action, Shawna.

- Shawna's eyes scan the tabletop.
- About \$500 in red and blue chips are in the pot.
- The 'All In' bet of six red stacks stands near the pot.
- Shawna stares at Omar as he scratches his cheek.
- Todd is impatient.

TODD  
Come on, already!

AMY  
Hush Todd!

- The five board cards **Q♥ 8♦ 9♣ 3♦ 6♥** are of no help for Shawna.
- Omar's pocketknife is on his cards.
- Kenny, the Veteran, and the other players look to Shawna.
- Amy patiently keeps her eyes on the pot and then to Shawna.

SHAWNA  
How much to call?

- Amy cuts a red stack into four stacks of five chips each.

AMY  
Six-hundred to call.

- Shawna looks at her neatly stacked chips. She has about eight-hundred, more than enough to cover.
- Lifting the edge of the cards Shawna looks at her **J♥ J♦**, again.
- The other players look on patiently waiting.
- Shawna stares towards Omar.
- Omar presses his lips tightly together.
- Jill stands by the table holding a tray of various drinks.

Finally, Shawna tosses her cards into the muck. Amy pushes the pot of chips to Omar as he slams his cards face-up upon the table exposing 7♣ 4♥.

OMAR  
 (irritating laugh)  
 Girly Injun, you're easy to bluff.  
 (irritating laugh)  
 This is not a girly game.

Omar continues his irritating laughter as Jill trips and spills the tray of drinks on Omar. All others except Todd are having a good laugh. Omar gives Jill a vengeful look.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE — NIGHT

In her sleepwear, Shawna writes +\$609 on the calendar day Wednesday. She moves to the bed with Alex.

ALEX  
 Six hundred profit! That's a great day.

SHAWNA  
 Not at all! If I had read that scumbag correctly, I would have had eleven hundred more.

ALEX  
 Wow!

SHAWNA  
 (angrily looks to Alex)  
 That would have been a seventeen hundred dollar profit today!

They pull the bed covers over their shoulders.

Shawna and Alex face each other on the bed. With a forefinger, he tenderly touches her lips.

ALEX  
 The very first thing I ever noticed about you were your pretty lips.

Shawna quickly sits up on the bed.

SHAWNA  
 What did you say?

ALEX  
 I said your lips were...

SHAWNA  
(shouts)  
That's it!

Alex looks baffled as she gets out of bed then paces the floor.

ALEX  
What's going on?

She leans forward and gives him a quick kiss.

SHAWNA  
Thank you!  
(kiss)  
Thank you!  
(kiss)  
Thank you, Alex.

Alex gets out of bed and looks bewildered at her.

ALEX  
You got me more confused than an  
overbooked airline with an intoxicated  
pilot.

Shawna grabs what she can of his muscular arms.

SHAWNA  
I was unconsciously obsessing about our  
lips being all for us that I blocked out  
everyone else's lips. Now that I realize  
this, I can give attention to their lips  
now. I need to be aware of my lips too  
and how others see them.

Alex gets more baffled by the moment.

SHAWNA  
How could I've been so blind about his  
lips and women's lips too?

ALEX  
You want to be kissin' them too?

SHAWNA  
I'm talking about poker tells, my dear.  
At the poker table, I read people's  
faces. I read their eyes, cheeks,  
fingers, their posture during a hand,  
voice, but I've spaced out their lips.

Alex looks so relieved as if life return to his body.

SHAWNA

Look, most people when they press their lips it means that they are unsure, insecure, or bluffing. I would have won that pot if I noticed that creep's lips.

ALEX

Read my lips!

His lips stretch wide. Shawna pushes him onto the bed. They lock lips. She pulls his hand away from her scarred neck.

EXT. MORMON MESA — DAY

Todd pulls on Shawna's shirt, tearing it some.

TODD

Show me those tits!

Todd moves towards her again with a reaching arm. Shawna's palm punches and bloodies his mouth. In the background, Omar fires his pistol. Shawna takes the bullet in the gut forcing her to fall backward off the cliff.

She falls tumbling in the air.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE — BEDROOM — NIGHT

Shawna is sitting up in bed screaming. Alex comforts her.

ALEX

It's only a nightmare. I am here honey.

Alex lays Shawna onto the pillow. He pulls the cover over her shoulder then lies near her back with an arm over her.

Shawna's scarred neck is visible.

EXT. BOMBED OUT DESERT FORTIFICATION — DAY

An enemy fighter holds Shawna by the neck against the wall.

ENEMY FIGHTER

(irritating laugh)

I'm going to kill you girly.

(irritating laugh)

You are going to die girly.

He pushes his bayonet into Shawna's chest. Blood expels from her mouth.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shawna is sitting up on the bed screaming! Waking Alex!

INT. ARTS, CRAFTS, AND BOOKS STORE - NIGHT

Alex removes the dream catcher from the wall.

EXT. ARTS, CRAFTS, AND BOOKS STORE - NIGHT

Alex gets in the fiery red four-seat ATV and drives away.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shawna is fast asleep.

Alex hangs the Dream Catcher on the wall above the bed headboard.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

Amy lifts a deck of cards from the shuffling machine.

AMY

Blinds, please.

Kenny and the Veteran post their 'SMALL' and 'BIG' blinds, respectively as Amy swiftly pitches the cards to the players.

Omar slams his two cards onto the table.

OMAR

Tiny, when are you going to learn how to deal? - Don't give me no more shitty bad cards you worthless no good dealer.

SHAWNA

(looks to Omar)

Why should she? You are clueless on how to play the good cards, anyway.

TODD

Don't talk to my bro like that. Do you like pain, Injun?

SHAWNA

Todd, you don't know what pain is.

In the background, Candy is chopping on candy.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE — NIGHT

Shawna is at her desk. She picks up a pen.

SERIES OF DISSOLVING SHOTS - Profit recording.

-- Shawna writes +\$102 for Wednesday on the calendar.

-- Shawna's face as she writes.

-- +\$12 on Thursday.

-- Shawna's face.

-- INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM — DAY

-- Shawna racks her many chips.

-- INT. HILLTOP HOUSE - BEDROOM — NIGHT

-- Shawna hand writes +\$829 on the calendar day of Friday.

-- Writes \$-200 in red on the calendar day of Saturday.

-- Shawna's disappointed face.

-- Writes +\$276 on Tuesday.

-- Shawna's happier face.

-- INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM — DAY

-- Candy, chopping on candy, counts out two-thousand-forty-nine dollars onto the podium counter next to four racks and two stacks of red chips plus nine blue chips.

CANDY

Two-thousand-two-hundred and forty-nine dollars.

-- Shawna gathers the cash and leaves as she stuffs the cash into a front pocket.

-- INT. HILLTOP HOUSE -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

-- Shawna writes +\$1,849 profit for Wednesday on the calendar.

-- Writes +\$92 on Thursday.

-- Minus -\$24 in red on Friday

-- +\$424 on Saturday.

-- +\$220 on Tuesday.

-- Shawna's cheerful face as she writes.

-- Shawna writes +\$78 in red on a calendar day of Saturday.

EXT. BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Alex assists Shawna put on her red boxing gloves.

ALEX

I saw what you wrote on the calendar.  
You have many winning days recorded.

SHAWNA

Slowly building my bankroll.  
(she punches the bag)  
Gotta keep kicking ass! Gotta get that  
bankroll up so I can play in the Vegas  
big games.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE -- BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Shawna, in her robe, stands on the bed. She removes the Indian Dream Catcher from the wall above the headboard. She then hangs a framed picture of a waterfall.

Alex enters the room.

ALEX

Why did you remove the Dream Catcher?

SHAWNA

This looks better. Do you think?

Disbelief fills Alex's face.

ALEX

The Dream-catcher is an important gift  
from the spirits.

(MORE)



ALEX

It catches your dreams. Pleasant dreams are sent down the feathers to the sleeper. Nightmares stay in the net and vanish at sunrise.

She looks at Alex.

SHAWNA

Yeah sure. Listen I don't believe in old fashion spiritual hocus-pocus stuff.

ALEX

You must trust me. It will stop your bad dreams.

She turns away.

SHAWNA

Yeah, sure!

ALEX

This land is full of spirits.

SHAWNA

Yeah right!

Shawna, in disbelief, walks towards the bathroom.

SHAWNA

Nothing can stop bad dreams, Alex.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Shawna closes the bathroom door.

Her hand turns on the shower faucets.

She hangs the robe on a hook.

Her nude legs and feet steps into the shower, the shower door closes.

Inside the shower, water sprays onto her face.

She soaps up the sponge and washes around her neck and shoulder.

Her nude profile is seen through the frosted glass door.

A hand tightly holds an open pocketknife.

Shawna's profile through the frosted glass comes closer!

From the showerhead, water sprays onto her face.

Suddenly, the shower door opens.

Wide eye Shawna quickly turns her head.

Shawna sees Omar.

Omar stabs her in the chest above the breast.

Blood expels from her mouth.

BEDROOM -

Shawna, in her pajamas, sits upon the bed screaming. Alex wakes up. Shawna rushes from the bed to the bathroom.

BATHROOM -

Shawna looks around. She opens the shower door and sees that it is dry and clean.

BEDROOM -

She grabs the dream catcher from the table.

She stands on the bed then takes the framed picture down. She hangs the dream catcher on the wall. Alex looks up at her from the bed.

ALEX

See, I told you so!

EXT. MESQUITE CASINO - DAY

Todd walks to the Casino.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

Omar stares at Shawna as he cleans his fingernails with the pocketknife.

POKER PODIUM -

Todd puts five wadded up twenty-dollar bills on the counter.

Candy is reading a newspaper. Todd waits, he looks irritated, and drums his fingers on the counter. Now he slaps the counter. Candy puts the newspaper down.

TODD

You know, you should get one of those  
desk bells so I can go ding ding ding  
ding ding to get your attention.

(pushes the wadded  
cash forward)

Give me a rack of blue.

Todd watches Candy open the unlocked cash drawer and puts  
the money into the cash-tray next to the several bundles of  
cash and the large bag of candy and a large bag of Beef  
Jerky.

Todd is wide-eyed, and his lips pronounce a silent WOW.

Candy grabs a rack of blue and places it on the counter.

POKER TABLE -

Todd takes a seat next to Omar and looks at him as he  
removes the blue poker chips from the rack. Amy pitches  
everyone two cards.

TODD

Oh man, Omar, mother is so upset at you.

Omar tips his knife in Todd's direction.

OMAR

I don't want to hear no more about  
paying her back the money! Got it?

TODD

Okay, bro.

Omar moves the knife back to cleaning his fingernails again  
and sees Shawna glaring at him.

OMAR

What ya looking at Injun.

SHAWNA

Nobody. I'm looking at a nobody.

OMAR

(tilts the knife  
towards Shawna)

Injun, you need to get a life.

Shawna stands, calmly walks over to Omar, pushes his poker  
chip stacks over, snatches the pocket knife from his hand,  
and stabs it into his two cards on the table. She holds a  
pinky finger near his eyes.

SHAWNA

I got more life in my little pinky than  
you'll ever have, you lowlife scum.

SERIES OF REACTION SHOTS -

- The deck of un-dealt cards slides from Amy's hand.
- Kenny chokes on his shot of whiskey.
- The Veteran slaps the table and laughs out loud.
- Mike knocks over his drink.
- Gina looks on, startled.
- Todd just looks numb and dumb.
- Jill, holds a tray of drinks in one hand, raises a fist.

JILL

(shouts)

Yeah! Way to go, girl!

- Amy scoops up the cards she dropped on the table and innocently looks as if nothing has happened at all.
- In the background, Candy unwraps another piece of candy while reading the newspaper.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Alex and Shawna sip on coffee.

SHAWNA

Awake or asleep PTSD brings hell. Did it  
sneak in on you also?

ALEX

Got to always stay mentally strong.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

A large number of chips are in the pot. The five board cards  
are 5♠ 3♥ 8♦ 3♦ 9♥.

Omar peeks at his cards, A♠ A♥.

Omar pushes two stacks of red chips forward. He has ten red  
stacks and some blue chips left.

AMY  
Two hundred to call.

Shawna stares at Omar. He does not show any tells.

Shawna's lips are just slightly open.

After a few moments, she pushes her twelve stacks of red chips forward.

SHAWNA  
All-In!

Omar stands delighted, his irritating laughter fills the air, as he pushes his remaining chips forward. He turns over his **A♠ A♥** and he holds his fingers on his cards.

OMAR  
(arrogantly)  
Two pair! Aces and Treys. Told you this ain't no girly game, Read 'em and reap dumb ass.

Shawna repeatedly shuffles her two hole cards over and over each other.

TODD  
(to Shawna)  
You're wasting time, loser.  
(to Amy)  
Omar obviously won. Push him the pot!

Shawna peeks at her cards. Her face displays a heartbroken expression.

Delighted Omar stares at Shawna.

OMAR  
You're a loser, girly Injun. Just muck your cards and say bye-bye.

Shawna shuffles her two cards some more. Now she twirls them in her fingers over and over that exposes the **8♠**. She then lays that card face up near the board cards **5♠ -3♥-8♦-3♦-9♥**.

OMAR  
(irritating laughter)  
Eights and Treys don't beat Aces and Treys, dumb ass.

A grin appears on her chin as she slides the **8♠** slightly to the right, exposing the **3♠** on the bottom.

AMY  
(raised voice)  
Full House, Treys full of Eights.

SHAWNA  
(commanding voice)  
Ship it! But first, push one of his red  
stacks to me.

Amy does so, and Shawna grabs about half of that red stack  
and places it in front of Amy.

SHAWNA  
I just want to tip you with his money.  
(stares at Omar)  
Bye-bye, loser!

Amy taps those chips on the table then drops them into her  
shirt pocket. Amy pushes the pot to Shawna. In the  
background, Jill joyfully imitates an Indian war dance.

JILL  
(loudly)  
YES! Way to go girl!

Omar grieves in his seat.

OMAR  
I'm busted.  
(looks to Shawna)  
Thanks to you, dumb ass, I can't pay my  
mom back da money.

AMY  
(very loudly)  
Seat open!

Omar sits there looking mean towards Shawna.

KENNY  
(to Omar)  
You heard her. Seat open! Now get?

VETERAN  
Your poker bankroll is gone. Now get  
before I bitch slap you out the door.

In the background, Candy is reading a newspaper and chewing  
candy.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE — NIGHT

Alex sits on a porch step carving a chain from a block of wood. Coyotes howl in the distance. Shawna looks toward the several moonlit trees down the hill.

SHAWNA

Scary! I've never feared them before.

ALEX

(as he carves)

Coyotes are shy of humans. They eat small animals and the dead stuff.

Alex hands Shawna the wooden block and chain. She brushes a lacquer finish on it.

Alex picks up a wooden flute. He hands the flute to Shawna.

ALEX

Made this for you today. Try it.

Shawna brings the flute to her lips and plays a few short tunes. She then examines the flute.

SHAWNA

Thank you so much, Alex.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - MORNING

The players chitchat at the closed table. Shawna twirls the diamond on her finger.

Amy points at her bare ring finger held towards Shawna.

AMY

One day I hope to have a good man, too.

SHAWNA

I'm sure you will, Amy.

KENNY

Shawna, you play great poker. Please tell me, how do you do it?

SHAWNA

Well Kenny, poker is like a language. Each hand tells a story. The cards held, the players' position, action, mannerisms, and their teeny-tiny idiosyncrasy.

(MORE)

SHAWNA

Of course, the eyes and ears has to stay  
tuned and alert to all the etceteras.

Candy carries from the podium five racks of red chips and a rack of blue chips and places them on the table.

Amy, Shawna, and the players continue to chitchat. Candy unlocks the tray lid. Amy lifts the lid and places it under the table while in the background two hooded men open the podium cash drawer.

Amy counts the tray by pointing to each 20-chip stack. She picks one of the card decks in the tray. She spreads that deck on the table and quickly examines them.

Candy exchanges chips for cash for each player.

In the background at the podium, the two hooded men quietly fill a plastic trash bag with the bundles of cash.

Gina puts \$200 onto the poker table. Candy places \$180 in red chips and \$20 in blue chips in front of Gina and takes the \$200 cash.

KENNY

I only need one-hundred.

Candy removes a stack of red from a rack. She removes four red chips from that stack and replaces them with 20 blue chips.

CANDY

Here you go, Kenny.

Candy takes the \$100 then moves to the next player as Amy scrambles the deck on the table. She then squares the cards and places them into the shuffle machine.

In the background, the two hooded men dash to the exit then one of the crooks dash back to the podium. He grabs the large bags of candy and Beef Jerky and hurries back to the exit.

The chip racks are now empty, and Candy counts the cash total as Amy spreads the other deck.

EXT. MESQUITE CASINO PARKING AREA - DAY

The two hooded men enter a clunker. The clunker departs.



INT. CLUNKER - DAY

The hooded men pull back their hoods revealing Omar and Todd. Omar drives as Todd looks in the plastic trash bag.

TODD

Yea man!

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

At the poker table, Candy finishes the count.

CANDY

Two-thousand-four-hundred.

Two-thousand-five-hundred.

Two-thousand-six-hundred.

It's all there. - Good luck folks.

Amy places the Dealer Button at seat number two. She then grabs a deck of cards from the shuffle machine. The Veteran and Gina post their SMALL and BIG blinds, respectively.

Candy carries the empty chip racks and the wad of cash towards the podium while Amy swiftly pitches the cards to the players.

At the poker table, Gina peeks her cards while in the background Candy places the empty racks onto the podium.

SHAWNA

Raise it to fifteen dollars.

Players fold their cards in order around to Kenny while in the background Candy opens the cash drawer.

KENNY

Raise to fifty dollars.

VETERAN

All In!

In the background, Candy screams!

EXT. INTERSTATE 15 - DAY

The clunker exits onto a rural road.

## EXT. GHOST VILLAGE - DAY

In the wooded area, the clunker parks near an old abandoned tree-shaded village surrounded by stone partitions. The place looks like a vacation resort for ghosts.

## INT. CABIN #1 - DAY

Omar and Todd enter. From the plastic trash bag, Omar dumps the cash onto an old dusty tabletop. Omar shows the empty plastic trash bag to Todd.

OMAR

Need something better to stash the cash.

Todd scans the room. He looks here, there, and over there.

Omar finds some rope and puts it on the table.

In a corner, Todd digs through a pile of textiles. He finds a Government Issue U.S. Army OD-green canvas duffle bag.

TODD

Dig it, I found something.

Todd lifts the duffle bag to show Omar. A rattlesnake falls from the bag to the floor.

TODD

Holy shit!

Panicky, Todd swiftly leaps back from the heart-stopping sound of the rattlesnake that is poised to strike.

Omar grabs a long stick and uses it to lift the rattlesnake and hurl it out the door.

OMAR

Let's get outta here.

Wide-eyed, Todd nods his head in tremendous agreement. They quickly toss the cash bundles, the rope, bag of candy, and the bag of beef jerky into the duffle bag.

TODD

Last time I saw a rattlesnake was in a movie theater. The movie was stopped and the lights were turn on.

INT. MOVIE THEATER — DAY

A man holding a very long pole with a hook tries to snag the rattlesnake from beneath three screaming teenage females jumping on their seats.

TODD (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The rattler was under some screaming  
chicks jumping on their seats.

Three brave and tough-looking teenage males are watching from a very safe distance.

EXT. CABIN #1 — DAY

Omar and Todd carry the duffle bag towards the clunker.

FADE TO BLACK:

During the BLACK SCREEN, is a loud rattlesnake sound.

FADE IN:

EXT. MORMON MESA — DAY

Dr. Lance Tucker and Shawna ride horses up a dirt road to the mesa top and stop.

From his horse, Lance points to the hilltop house in the distance.

LANCE  
We can see your house from here.

They steer the horses away from the cliff. The horses kick up dirt as they gallop away.

EXT. OVERTON NEVADA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA — DAY

Lance and Shawna ride two horses on a tree-lined dirt road between two lakes. Lance sing and hum a few lines of "*Don't Fence Me In.*"

They ride the horses by a short dam with water flowing over the top.

They dismount and walk the horses to the water. Farther down the road, a man fires his rifle at a target. Shawna falls to the ground and shouts.

SHAWNA  
Take cover! Fix bayonets!

Lance reaches Shawna helping her up from the ground. Shawna sweats profusely. They remount the horses.

LANCE  
PTSD can twist your reality and make basic coping with life difficult.

SHAWNA  
Like a tree in a storm; a soldier must soldier through this.

LANCE  
The meds I prescribed you yesterday will help you through your storm.

EXT. RANCH — DAY

They ride through the open gate towards the house and barn.

LANCE  
Alex spoke much of you while you were away. He was proud. Your return and marriage to him made him very happy.

They dismount and lead the horses into the barn.

INT. BARN — DAY

Lance and Shawna brush the horses.

LANCE  
How are you sleeping at night?

SHAWNA  
I've been sleeping much better since Alex put a dream catcher in the bedroom. That stopped the nightmares.

LANCE  
Thought aberration is creeping into your logic. Do you really believe that a dreamcatcher can stop nightmares?

SHAWNA  
Sure do! It catches the nightmares in the net. The rising sun burns them up. The good and happy dreams flow from the net down the feathers onto the dreamer.

Lance appears flabbergasted but quickly regains his professional composure and steps over to her.

LANCE  
I know you are hurting.

SHAWNA  
Yes, I do hurt. I wish I could cry.

Lance places a hand on her shoulder.

LANCE  
I'll work with you through this.

SHAWNA  
You did help Alex with his PTSD.

LANCE  
Face your problems. Soldier through it like you said. Most of all, be you. You are Shawna the Fire Dancer.

Shawna's red cell phone rings with Indian Drum Beating followed by an electronic message.

SHAWNA'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
"Call from Amy."

EXT. STEWARTS POINT AREA AT LAKE MEAD — DAY

Amy is on the water bank with one hand holding her blue cell phone to an ear as she is about to remove her blue shirt with the other hand.

AMY  
Where are you, Shawna? We're here skinny-dipping at Stewarts Point.

In the background, Jill and three beautiful Native American women are already in the lake, neck-deep.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE — DAY

As Shawna talks on her cell phone she and Lance steps into the house.

SHAWNA  
I'm sorry Amy. I forgot to tell you I have an appointment today with Doctor Tucker.

(MORE)

SHAWNA  
 (listens)  
 Sounds good Amy. Next Monday we'll get together. Let me know where. Bye.

Shawna points at an 8X10-frame photo on the desk of SGT Jack Tucker. He's smiling with his hands on the shoulders of SPC Sofía Medina and PFC Carol Walsh. Grinning SFC Lynch stands by them. In the background, Shawna reads her poker book.

SHAWNA  
 I remember that day well. How's Jack?

LANCE  
 He's doing great. I'm surprised that PTSD hasn't snuck into his life from what he has been through. By the way, he's been doing his geology college assignment at Stewarts Point a lot.

SHAWNA  
 I got to make an emergency phone call.

EXT. STEWARTS POINT AREA AT LAKE MEAD — DAY

In the background are five women splashing around in the water.

On the water bank, are five piles of clothing with shoes and towels. In pile #1 are blue shorts, a blue shirt, a blue bra, and blue panties. Pile #2 has yellow attire. The other piles are a mixture of colors. A sharp eye will notice no bra in one pile and no panties in another.

Amy's blue cell phone on the blue pile sounds a loud continuous ring-ring pause ring-ring. It stops ringing then Jill's yellow cell phone plays a musical tune followed by a voice announcement.

JILL'S CELL PHONE  
 "Call from Fire Dancer"

In the blurred background, the skinny dippers climb upon a large boulder then dive back into the water.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE — DAY

Shawna presses 'END' on her cell phone then stuffs it into her pocket.

SHAWNA  
 Well, I tried!

Shawna lies on the leather couch facing away from Lance who sits in his leather chair. Lance listens and occasionally writes on a yellow legal pad.

SHAWNA

We engaged the enemy that held our POWs.  
We fought the enemy hard and blew them  
away. We got the POWs onto the  
helicopters. We waited for the Hueys to  
return but more enemy came first. I lost  
six soldiers plus ten wounded.

(commanding voice)

It is my duty to accomplish the mission  
and bring my soldiers home, ...alive!

Lance holds his attention on her. Shawna touches her scarred neck and looks back at Lance.

SHAWNA

I feel I have lost the gusto I once had.  
I must face my fears and force my mind  
through it. But, I don't have that  
strength in dreamland. When I wake up,  
it takes me some time to separate the  
real from the unreal.

EXT. STEWARTS POINT AREA AT LAKE MEAD — DAY

The sun reflects off the water along the jagged shore.

IN THE COVE -

While neck-deep in the water Jill looks all around.

JILL

Where's Amy?

After some time, Amy slowly emerges from the water to her shoulders, looks to her right, and then laughs.

JILL

(splashes water on  
Amy)

Don't scare me no more, girl!

Amy splashes back.

JILL

Okay, we're even. --- By the way, Amy,  
how did your audition go? Are you going  
to be dealing in Vegas?

AMY

I don't think so. There were eighteen other dealers at the audition. They were very good dealers.

JILL

Stay confident, Amy.

AMY

The poker manager there said, "Don't call us - we'll call you!" Translation, you're too short for us!

ON THE NEARBY SPUR -

Jack hammers a rock on the north side of a spur between two coves. He examines the rock with a loupe. Suddenly, he reacts to the sound of water splashing and women giggling coming from the other side of the high spur. Jack looks over the spur ridge.

On this beautiful day by a beautiful lake surrounded by the beautiful scenery of mountains and mesas, Jack sees five beautiful women neck-deep in the water.

Jack grabs the binoculars. His fingers adjust the zoom and focus knobs.

Through the binoculars, Amy comes into focus. She catches a bar of soap on a rope.

The binoculars move to and focus on Jill splashing water on Amy. Then the binoculars move to and focus on each of the three American Indian women one by one.

Amy almost exposes her breast as she bobs over to Jill and steals the soap.

From the cove no one notices Jack looking from the high spur.

Amy, facing away and towards the high spur, climbs upon the boulder and dives back into the water.

Jack has a grin on his chin as he looks through the binoculars.

JACK

(whispers to himself)

Wow, she's a beauty!

Then gravity forces him to slide down some on the spur. He promptly crawls back to the top.



Many bare legs hurry from the water. Many hands grab towels.

Gravity forces Jack back down the ridge during this main event. He quickly crawls back to the top but as he gets there, gravity pulls him back down further.

Jack struggles back to the top in time to see the five beautiful women in their attire walk away over a hill and out of view.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE — DAY

Shawna lies on the couch. Lance takes notes.

LANCE

You're doing well in poker. Tell me, how are Jacks supposed to be played.

SHAWNA

Oh, that's easy! There are three ways to play Jacks and they're all wrong.

From a pocket, Shawna removes a bottle of pills and takes one.

LANCE

I'm glad to see that you are taking your meds. However, I recommend no meds twelve hours before driving or playing poker.

SHAWNA

Slowly building my poker bankroll, dollars by dollars.

Lance's face is full of eagerness.

LANCE

What's your secret? How can I improve my game?

Shawna brings a fist up to her previous wounded left cheek. She seems to be getting a bit dazed.

SHAWNA

Everything I know about poker has been smashed into my head, — except for the last few pages. Poker is like a language. If the cards complete the sentence, then continue.

Sitting behind Shawna. Lance eagerly take notes.

LANCE

You speak many languages. You are a prodigy — a quick learner. Tell me more about the poker language.

SHAWNA

Well, it has fifty-two characters in its alphabet and it is a cross between Navajo, Vietnamese, Russian, Klingon, and sprinkled with Vulcan logic.

LANCE

(laughter)

Well, beam me up, Scotty! -- Sorry, just joking.

Lance recomposes himself and returns to writing notes as Shawna speaks.

SHAWNA

Poker language is said with the eyes, facial expressions, mannerisms, fingers, flop texture, the cards you hold, and all the little etceteras.

Lance eager expression fades on the "little etceteras" answer.

LANCE

Does sunglasses help?

As she lies on the couch, Shawna uses an index finger and stabs the air above her.

SHAWNA

Sunglasses help those that are shy or easily intimidated. They should hide their fingers or wear arctic mittens to conceal that tell, also.

Lance holds a hand to his mouth.

Shawna now holds a palm out to make a matter-of-fact statement.

SHAWNA

One of the best tells is when a player holds a hand over his mouth when he moves chips. They are the ones that should wear arctic mittens.

Lance quickly drops the hand from his mouth.

LANCE

I guess I better play craps instead.

Shawna quickly stands from the couch.

SHAWNA

Craps! Now let me tell you how to play those cubes.

She faces Lance from about six feet away, with legs spread she lies her hands on an imaginary Craps table rail.

SHAWNA

You stand like this - see, and put your hands on the rail to get a feel of the table. You see. The Stickman will push to you five dice. Now you suppose to pick two, but what the hey, grab all five cubes and shake them.

(she shakes her  
buttocks)

Then throw them all and yell - YAHTZEE!  
The Boxman and the dealers will give you mean looks, but just pick the two of the five cubes you like the most, and Whammo - You're rich!

From her pocket, Shawna retrieves her medication bottle and takes another pill.

Lance grabs the bottle from her and points to it.

LANCE

Only one pill a day!

Now ditsy, Shawna grabs the bottle back and points to it.

SHAWNA

Or as needed!

Lance snatches the bottle back.

LANCE

I didn't write your prescription that way. Where did you get this filled? How many have you taken?

SHAWNA

Not too many.

Indian drum beats, then an announcement on Shawna's red cell phone.

SHAWNA'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)

"Call from Amy."

Shawna brings the cell phone to an ear and drops her car keys on the floor. Lance grabs the keys.

SHAWNA

(into the phone)

Oh, Amy, Doctor Tucker took away my pills and stole my car keys. Will you help me to turn his car up-side-down and body paint the tires?

Lance grabs the phone.

LANCE

She is gonna need a ride home.

EXT. GROCERY STORE — DAY

Jack exits the store with a loaf of bread in a plastic sack. Amy in her blue attire walks toward the store with Shawna in her red threads.

Shawna sees Jack with a grin on his chin.

SHAWNA

(still ditsy)

Hiya, Jack?

JACK

(looks at Amy)

It's so nice to have seen you today — I mean see you now. I mean. Hi, I'm Jack.

AMY

So nice to meet you, Jack.

Shawna sees the admiration in Amy's eyes looking at Jack. He holds the bag of bread in front of his pants.

INT. ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE — DAY — FLASHBACK

Jack holds up two-clenched fist.

JACK

Look, when the opportunity comes your way, you have to grab on with both hands and hold on tight. Remember, you told me that once before. Remember?

Jack heaves a sigh as his clenched fist become moving fingers as if he is massaging a pair of breast.

EXT. GROCERY STORE — DAY — BACK TO SCENE

Jack holds his free hand over where his chest wound is located.

JACK (V.O)

She won't go for me, I'm damaged goods.

Shawna sees the delight in Jack's eyes at the sight of Amy. Jack and Amy share stares. Shawna puts a stop to the hesitation by grabbing Amy's hand and placing it in Jack's hand.

SHAWNA

(ditsy)

You two should do the thing.

Shawna raises her arms in the air and shakes her booty.

Jack raises the bag of bread a little higher.

JACK

(stutters)

Blue is my favorite color.

Amy's eyes seem to smile as wide as her lips.

EXT. GOODSPRINGS, NEVADA — PIONEER BAR — DAY

The place is over a century old. Omar's clunker is parked in front near some Harley Davidsons.

INT. PIONEER BAR — DAY

Omar and Todd sit at the bar with two other untidy young dudes, JOE and VERN. Motorcycle dudes fill the remaining bar and table seats.

OMAR

Easy money!

CRYSTAL, a hot female bartender, puts four draft beers on the bar. Vern takes a twenty from Joe's fingers.

VERN

Thanks Joe.

Vern slides the twenty to Crystal. Todd's eyes are locked on Crystal's chest.

VERN

I got this round. -- Thanks, Crystal,  
keep a buck for yourself.

Crystal rolls her eyes back as she walks to the cash register. Todd looks to Omar.

TODD

Thanks, Vern. Bro, there is a lot of  
dough on the Las Vegas Strip.

OMAR

The Strip! Hit the Las Vegas Strip!  
You're stupid!

Joe sets his beer on the bar and looks to Omar with interest.

TODD

Nothing to it, bro. Listen, more than  
half the Strip's poker rooms are just  
begging to be hit.

Vern cuts short his sip of beer and turns to Todd.

OMAR

I admit the job today was easy, but...

Joe and Vern pay close attention.

TODD

...Bro listen, most of the Vegas poker  
rooms keep the dough in the podium too.  
Now get this, many are near a door. One  
poker room right in the middle of the  
Strip is right next to a door...

VERN

(interrupts)

...we disappear into the crowd on the  
Strip.

TODD

Geez man, it will be easier than the job  
today. Listen, those poker podiums in  
the Strip casinos are loaded with dough.

OMAR

We can hit many poker rooms.

TODD  
 (counting on his  
 fingers)  
 The easy ones! -- Seven! Seven poker  
 rooms in and out. Man, those casinos are  
 dummies. If I were in charge, I would  
 put those poker podiums in steel cages.

OMAR  
 We dash into the crowd like Vern  
 said. -- Listen, this is my plan.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

Kenny looks to the veteran.

KENNY  
 Poker is like the game of life.

Kenny points to the flat-screen TV on the wall.

KENNY  
 Look there! On the TV!

On the television, the anchor reports the Breaking News.

ANCHOR  
 This just in! Three poker rooms were  
 just robbed on the Las Vegas Strip.

The anchor holds a hand to her ear for an update.

ANCHOR  
 Correction! Five! Make that five poker  
 rooms robbed in broad daylight.

INT. OVERTON BAR - DAY

Over Todd's shoulder, the anchor is on the wall-mounted TV.

ANCHOR  
 Correction again! Seven! Make that seven  
 poker rooms robbed today.

The anchor turns.

ANCHOR  
 Are there any more?  
 (turns back to the  
 camera)  
 Here is a casino surveillance photo.

On the TV is a surveillance photo of Joe and Vern.

ANCHOR

If you know the identity of these two,  
please call Las Vegas Police. Do not  
approach them. They are very  
dangerous. -- Stay tuned for more  
updates.

The bartender hands Todd a six-pack of beer.

EXT. OVERTON BAR - DAY

Todd exits the restaurant carrying the beer.

INT. CLUNKER - DAY

Todd gets into the back seat.

TODD

We are on the news. They got Joe's and  
Vern's pictures on TV. We better go!

Omar shakes his head while he drives the clunker.

OMAR

Told you people to be careful.

Todd opens a beer. He opens another beer and hands it to  
Omar.

OMAR

I am pissed.

Todd opens the duffle bag full of cash and grabs a piece of  
candy. He closes the bag.

TODD

We have to stash this cash somewhere.

JOE

I know a place.

EXT. BOX WASH AREA - DAY

Vern shovels loose rock and dirt over the army duffle bag in  
the shallow hole.

Vern pats the dirt with the shovel. Finished, he carries the  
shovel as the four walks through a slot canyon.



VERN  
I figure we got a little better than two  
million bucks in that bag. A four-way  
split will be about...

CLICK is the sound of the gun hammer being cocked.

OMAR  
Three-way split.

BANG, Omar shoots Vern between the eyes.

JOE  
(shouts)  
What the . . . !

BANG, Joe grabs his bleeding throat as he falls to the  
ground.

OMAR  
Two-way split.

Omar fires another bullet into Joe's head.

OMAR  
Just to be sure.

Omar points the gun at Todd. Stunned, Todd raises his hands.

OMAR  
You got anything to say.

Startled Todd rapidly shakes his head.

Omar sticks the gun in his belt and walks away. Todd is  
still a bit stunned as he slowly brings down his hands.

OMAR  
Are you coming? — Leave those two for  
the coyotes.

Todd quickly catches up to Omar.

INT. CLUNKER - DAY

Omar and Todd get in and close the doors.

OMAR  
I'm starving. Give me a piece of jerky.

Todd looks edgy and apologetic at Omar. Todd swallows.

TODD  
They are in the duffle bag.  
(lifts the bag of  
candy)  
But, I got candy.

Omar gives Todd an evil look.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: "A week later."

Shawna looks over her poker progress calendar. She removes that page exposing the next month. Written in blue ink on the first Monday area, "Meeting with Lance at 10 am" and "swimming w/Jill & Amy @ noon." -- "Where???"

EXT. GHOST VILLAGE / VIRGIN RIVER VALLEY - DAY

Jill parks her car at the ghost village. She exits her car carrying a six-pack of beer.

She walks toward the clear flowing water of the shallow Virgin River. A musical tune plays and then an electronic voice plays from Jill's yellow cell phone stuffed in her pocket.

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
"Call from Amy."

Jill brings her cell phone to an ear.

JILL  
Hey, Amy, I beat you to the river this  
time. Ha-ha!  
(listens)  
Okay, see you in a few.

Jill presses 'END CALL' on her cell phone then she turns and is shocked at the sight of Omar's face inches from her.

OMAR  
How about a drink!

Omar tightly holds an open pocketknife by his leg.

Jill screams. Her fingers stretch out and her cell phone falls.

EXT. BRIDGE - BLUE CAR (MOVING) - DAY

On the front of the car is a Nevada license plate with printed letters 'PKR-DLR'. Seen through the windshield is Amy driving.

EXT. GHOST VILLAGE / VIRGIN RIVER VALLEY - DAY

Amy's blue car moves from the bridge then turns off the road and parks next to Jill's car. Amy exits and looks towards the river.

Amy sees Jill's body on the riverbank. She runs towards her.

Jill is face down in the shallow river with her legs on the riverbank. Amy, with haste and effort, turns her friend over. Jill's eyes and mouth are wide open under the clear flowing water.

Amy stands and then screams into Omar's face inches from hers.

OMAR  
I'm saving you for later.

GHOST VILLAGE -

Omar drags Amy by one arm as she screams and complains. With her free hand, she retrieves from a pocket her blue cell phone. Her thumb presses a speed dial number.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Shawna's red cell phone rings with a tune of Indian drums beating followed by an electronic voice message.

SHAWNA'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
"Call from Amy."

Shawna quickly brings the cell phone up to an ear.

SHAWNA  
Amy, I have to call you back.

She presses 'END'.

LANCE  
It's okay, you could've taken the call.

SHAWNA  
She'll call back if it's really  
important.

EXT. GHOST VILLAGE - DAY

Omar drags screaming Amy over the grass and dirt toward the cabins.

EXT./INT. CABIN #2 - DAY

OUTSIDE -

Omar stands Amy up. She loses her grip on her blue cell phone. Omar pushes her through the cabin doorway.

INSIDE -

Her head strikes a wall shelf and she falls unconscious.

Sunlight beams through the slits in the ceiling and boarded up windows onto Amy on the floor.

OUTSIDE -

Omar slams the old cabin door and secures it by shoving a two-by-four into the ground and against the door.

Omar is unaware of Amy's phone by his feet. He departs.

As he drives his clunker away, Amy's cell phone in the foreground begins a continuous loud ring-ring pause ring-ring.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Shawna presses "END" on her cell phone then press another speed dial number.

EXT. VIRGIN RIVER BANK - DAY

A coyote approaches Jill's dead body. Nearby, a musical tune plays on her yellow cell phone then an electronic voice announcement.

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
"Call from Fire Dancer."

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE — DAY

Shawna stands by the desk. She brings the cell phone down from an ear.

She presses 'END' then presses the number 7.

EXT/INT. GHOST VILLAGE - CABIN #2 — DAY

OUTSIDE -

On the ground, Amy's blue cell phone sounds a loud continuous ring-ring pause ring-ring. A rattlesnake crawls over it.

INSIDE -

Amy awakens to the ringing. She rises and moves through the sunlight beams then suddenly stops and screams at the sight of a big ugly spider that stares at her from its web in the corner.

Unaware to Amy, a scorpion moves by her feet.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE — DAY

Shawna brings the phone from her ear and taps a finger on the cell phone ending the call. She looks at Lance.

SHAWNA

She said, call her to find out where we will get together. Now she doesn't answer. Neither of them. --- How do you ever understand us women?

He looks to her.

LANCE

How would I know? I'm just a psychologist.

He cracks a smile.

SHAWNA

I'll try again.

She presses a speed dial number.

EXT. VIRGIN RIVER BANK — DAY

Jill's cell phone plays a musical tone and then an electronic announcement.

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
 "Call from Fire Dancer."

The coyote turns from Jill's body and growls showing its bloody teeth at the cell phone.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE — DAY

Shawna ends the call.

SHAWNA  
 Maybe Amy will answer now.

INT/EXT. GHOST VILLAGE - CABIN #2 — DAY

INSIDE -

Amy hears her cell phone ringing on the other side of the door. She sees a fist-size hole at the bottom of the door. She lies on the floor and looks through the opening.

OUTSIDE -

View of Amy's left eye looking from the hole in the door.

The ringing cell phone is maybe at a reachable distance from the door. Near but out of Amy's view is a coiled-up rattlesnake darting its slit tongue. It looks at the ringing phone.

INSIDE -

Amy moves her head from the door and repositions herself on the floor. The scorpion backs away just in time from being squashed. Amy now reaches her left arm through the hole.

OUTSIDE -

Amy's arm reaches from the hole in the door.

The coiled-up rattlesnake, with tongue darting, watches Amy's arm reaching for the ringing phone.

The rattlesnake's head hovers above Amy's arm.

INSIDE -

Amy squeezes her eyes shut and tries her best to reach farther.

OUTSIDE -

The rattlesnake watches Amy's fingers come maybe a quarter inch from the ringing phone. It stops ringing, and the rattlesnake watches Amy's arm move back into the cabin.

INSIDE -

Amy gets up from the floor. She moves through the sunlight beams as she looks around the room.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Shawna puts her phone on the desk.

SHAWNA  
This is so unlike Amy. She must be in  
some kind of trouble.

She picks up her cell phone.

SHAWNA  
I should try calling Amy again.

INT/EXT. GHOST VILLAGE - CABIN #2 - DAY

INSIDE -

Amy finds a flimsy twig on the floor. Then ring ring pause ring ring. She quickly lies on the floor. The poor scorpion dashes out of the way just in time. She reaches her hand holding the twig out the small hole.

OUTSIDE -

The rattlesnake watches Amy's hand holding the twig try to snag the ringing cell phone.

INSIDE -

Her eyes squeeze shut, Amy tries to force her arm farther. Unaware to Amy, the scorpion moves closer to her face, poised to strike.

AMY  
Come on!

OUTSIDE -

The rattlesnake is now in a striking poise with fangs showing and the tail rattling the heart-stopping sound of its warning.

INSIDE -

Amy quickly pulls her arm back inside and sits up. She is scared and breathing fast. The scorpion moves around.

She looks at the small hole in the door.

As the cell phone continues ringing, she lies back on the floor. Slowly and cautiously, she moves her head closer to the hole.

OUTSIDE -

At the left side of the hole, the coiled rattlesnake looks at Amy's left eye peeking.

The snake's head moves closer and then its mouth opens showing the fangs very near Amy's eye. Rattling noise begins.

INSIDE -

Screaming Amy quickly jerks her head back from the hole then screams at the scorpion near her face. She quickly stands and screams at the big ugly spider near her face. She screams and jolts back from the spider web.

Her shaking, frightened, and sweating face moves through beams of sunlight as she nervously looks about the room.

INT. HOME PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Shawna listens to Amy's cell phone recording.

SHAWNA'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)

"Hi, this is Amy. I am unable to answer the phone. Please leave a message."

Shawna looks to Lance.

SHAWNA

This is so not like her. She better have a very good excuse.



INT/EXT. GHOST VILLAGE - CABIN #2 - DAY

OUTSIDE -

The snake crawls away, and there is no one around to hear the screams and bangs on the cabin door.

INSIDE -

Amy bangs on the door and yells for help. She quiets down as she hears noises from outside the door. The door opens, and Omar steps in with a rope and cloth.

OMAR

You're noisy.

Amy screams.

OUTSIDE -

A view through the trees of Shawna's red convertible as it crosses the bridge and continues down the road.

INSIDE -

Amy is on the floor hogtied and gagged.

OMAR

We'll get kinky later.

OUTSIDE -

Omar exits and secures the door. He gets in his clunker and drives away.

INSIDE -

Amy, on the floor, watches the scorpion move close and stares her in the face.

Amy wiggles away from the scorpion.

Amy reacts to her phone ringing outside.

OUTSIDE -

On the ground, Amy's blue cell phone stops ringing.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

At the podium, worried, Shawna presses 'END' on her cell phone and waits as Candy does a crossword puzzle while chopping on candy.

POKER TABLE -

A new dealer, 22-year-old BARRY sloppily pitches the cards to the players.

VETERAN

Where is Amy? This dealer can't deal worth a crap.

KENNY

Where is Jill? I need my morning shot!

Shawna carries a rack of chips to the table and seems concerned.

EXT./INT. CABIN #2 - DAY

Outside, rain now pours upon the cabin, lightning flashes, and thunder booms.

INSIDE -

Rainwater falls through the roof cracks.

Amy lies on her back hogtied and catches the falling rainwater with her gagged mouth.

Amy fruitlessly reacts to the phone ringing again outside.

EXT. VIRGIN RIVER BANK - DAY

Torrential rain pours, lightning flashes, and thunder booms. On Jill's cell phone, the musical tunes play followed by an electronic announcement.

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)

"Call from Fire Dancer."

In the background, Jill's body slides into and then floats down the river.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

Shawna puts her phone by her poker chips. She looks on downhearted.

EXT. VIRGIN RIVER BANK - DAY

The rain stops, a hand picks up Jill's yellow cell phone. Omar stuffs the phone into a pocket. He looks around.

EXT. VIRGIN RIVER - GOLD BUTTE - DAY

Jill's body floats by and down the river.

INT. ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE - DAY

Shawna enters and sees Jack looking bummed-out near the cash register. Alex steps up to her for the nominal quick kiss.

SHAWNA

You okay, Jack?

JACK

(to Shawna)

She must've had dumped me.

SHAWNA

I was hoping you knew where she's at. Amy wasn't at work and I haven't seen her in three days.

JACK

I last saw her Monday morning. She came in and said that you and the gals were going to a picnic on the Virgin River.

SHAWNA

Must be the Bunkerville area. We've been there once before. --- Alex, I need to borrow Jack for a bit.

EXT. ARTS AND CRAFTS STORE - DAY

The red convertible burns rubber.

EXT. INTERSTATE 15 - DAY

Shawna exits and drives onto a rural road.

EXT. GHOST VILLAGE - DAY

Shawna parks the red convertible next to Amy's blue car.

Shawna presses a speed dial number. From a distance, they hear Amy's phone ringing. Shawna and Jack rush from the car and find the ringing blue cell phone near the cabin. Shawna kicks the two-by-four away from the door. They rush in.

EXT. STEWARTS POINT AREA AT LAKE MEAD - DAY

By the hillside cleft, two Police cars stop by the three American Indian women - one is pointing. Three officers run down the hill. Shawna, Amy, Jack, step out of one police car. One officer stays with them.

Jill's body floats in the water.

Amy holds her hands to her mouth in shock as she looks down the hill.

The officers run into the cove and pull Jill to the water bank.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

On the TV is a News Anchor on the screen. Then shown on TV is the casino surveillance photo of Omar and Todd at the poker table. Then a photo of Jill near the poker table holding a tray of drinks.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE - BACK PORCH - SUNSET

Lifting weights, an exercise bicycle, and a treadmill is in a section of the back porch. Shawna in her shorts, sweat-shirt, and red boxing gloves rapidly hits the punching bag that hangs from a crossbeam.

Lance arrives on horseback with a guitar. Shawna continues punching the bag while she looks towards Lance.

SHAWNA

This helps me build resolve and esteem.

(continues punching

pow pow pow)

I wish this was Omar the lowlife.

Pow! Pow! Pow! ... She moves to Alex. He helps her remove the red boxing gloves.

SHAWNA

About two percent of the poker players need to grow up. The other ninety-eight percent are great people.

LANCE

Shawna that is true everywhere. Some mature with age. Others just get older.

Lance dismounts the horse then hands a guitar to Alex.

LANCE

Alex, this needs a new home.

ALEX

Thank you, Lance.

Alex strums the strings.

LANCE

It has new strings and I tuned it up.

Lance ties the horse reins to the railing while Shawna towels her sweaty face.

SHAWNA

While you guys chat, I am going to take a quick shower.

Shawna enters the house as Lance takes a seat. Alex slides his chair close to Lance.

ALEX

Will she grow out of her PTSD?

LANCE

She has good mental strength but PTSD is so problematic as you know. I'll work her through her struggles.

ALEX

Thank you, Lance.

LANCE

Be a good husband to her.

ALEX

I sure will.

LANCE

I believe you.

Lance stands then grabs the horse reins and climbs on.

LANCE

I need to head home to meet a client. By the way, congratulations on your marriage to Shawna.

ALEX

Thank you, Lance.

Lance shakes the reins, and the horse gallops away.

Alex watches the horse kick up dust as the sun sets behind the distant mountains.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - TWILIGHT

Shawna exits the house wearing a robe.

SHAWNA

What a beautiful evening.

Alex pulls a chair to in front of his, and he gestures to Shawna to have a seat.

Alex then sings and plays on the guitar a rendition by the late *Buddy Red Bow* titled "*Indian love song*."

Shawna is delighted.

SERIES OF DISSOLVING SHOTS - during the song.

-- EXT. OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - DAY

-- Alex and Shawna walk on a tree-lined road by a lake.

-- Shawna and Alex skip rocks on the lake.

-- They walk by a ten-foot-high concrete dam that has water flowing over the top.

-- Shawna splashes water onto Alex.

-- They walk by a large pond. Birds fly away.

-- They feed the many quacking ducks.

-- A couple of eagles are perched on a tree.

-- EXT. OVERTON MESA - DAY

-- From near the cliff edge, they view the town below.

-- Alex flaps his arms as if he is going to fly away.

-- Alex and Shawna hold their arms out near the cliff edge as the wind blows through their hair.

-- EXT. ICE CREAM STORE — DAY

-- Alex and Shawna exit holding and licking ice cream cones.

-- EXT. BOX WASH AREA — DAY

-- Alex chases Shawna into the slot canyon.

-- Alex and Shawna are deeply kissing.

-- Alex lays her down by a low boulder near the back entrance to the slot canyon.

-- Two shirts and a bra are tossed and fall onto the flat boulder that hides the two lovers.

-- Two pants then fall onto the flat boulder.

-- Finally, the panties fall on the boulder.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE — FRONT PORCH — TWILIGHT

Alex finishes playing the song for Shawna.

He looks from Shawna to the neck of the guitar. He picks at the guitar strings.

Shawna is all smiles. She stands.

As Alex picks at the guitar strings Shawna's arm reaches out and drops her robe.

She now has his attention.

She sees his eyes looking up at her eyes.

He sees Shawna smile and her eyes that look down at him.

Shawna sees Alex's eyes drift down to there, then journeys some more to there, then she sees his eyes snap back up to her line of sight.

Shawna's eyes move up with Alex's eyes as he stands, and then they move indoors.

The door closes.

INT. ARTS, CRAFTS, AND BOOKS STORE - DAY

Alex, dusting the display cabinet, looks up.

ALEX  
Welcome, may I help you?

Omar and Todd stare at him.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - MORNING

Barry gestures to Shawna.

BARRY  
Shawna, you're the Big Blind.

Shawna places two blue chips on the felt as Barry sloppily pitches the cards.

Kenny picks up his two cards.

KENNY  
I call.

EXT. ARTS, CRAFTS, AND BOOKS STORE - DAY

Two police cars are parked outside the store with their overhead emergency lights rotating.

A small crowd has gathered near the ambulance. A gurney is wheeled from the store that carries a covered body with a bloodstain on the sheet over the head.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

At the poker table, slow and sloppy Barry moves the button from seat nine to seat one.

The usual gang of players chitchats at the poker table. In the background, Candy is in her now caged-in podium. The Chief, in casual attire, rushes from the building entrance to the poker podium.

Shawna looks from her poker seat and sees her dad talking to Candy with urgency.



Barry pitches cards to the players. In the background, Candy looks with sorrow as she and the Chief look toward Shawna.

Kenny looks up from his cards, and his poker face turns to concern. He departs leaving his two cards on the table.

Kenny is now at the caged-in podium as Barry gestures to Shawna.

BARRY  
Your action, Shawna.

At the caged-in podium, Candy appears to be trying to make a decision.

At the poker table, Barry pushes the pot to Shawna.

Shawna looks back over to the caged-in podium and sees Candy, Kenny, and the Chief looking very somber at her.

Shawna walks weak knee to the caged-in podium.

Barry pitches the cards. At the podium in the background, Shawna screams.

The players leave the table and rush to the podium.

At the podium, everyone consoles Shawna.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE — NIGHT

A police car is parked at the house.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE — NIGHT

Shawna sits on the couch staring at a photo of Alex in his army uniform with a Cavalry patch on his shoulder. Her dad, the Chief, and Lance stand near.

The policeman looks at the policewoman speaking into the radio microphone.

POLICEWOMAN  
I am staying close by tonight just in  
case the suspects visit.

She hooks the microphone to her shoulder harness.

LANCE  
Thank you.

POLICEWOMAN  
(to her partner)  
We have a lead.

The Chief, Lance, and Shawna looks to her.

POLICEWOMAN  
Two men were seen exiting the store and  
drove off in an old clunker. One was  
short chubby and had an orange Mohawk.  
The witness said that the other was  
creepy looking.

Lance and Shawna overhear and looks up to the policewoman.

LANCE  
I know them. Omar is the creepy one, and  
Todd is the chubby one. They are the  
great poker robbery suspects.

Shawna holds two tight fists up about shoulder high.

SHAWNA  
Those two lowlifes will soon experience  
massive pain.

The Chief lies a consoling hand on his daughter's shoulder.

Shawna stands then walks out the door.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE - NIGHT

Shawna looks up at the night sky full of stars.

CHIEF (V.O.)  
Ever since we picked up the American  
flag from the battlefield at Little  
Bighorn in 1876, we...

EXT. CALVARY COMMUNITY CHURCH - DAY

The road in front of the church is full of motorcycles.  
Biker gangs and militia wearing black armbands encircle the  
church. Police cars are parked at each end of the road, with  
the emergency lights rotating.

CHIEF (O.S.)  
...American Indians have served and  
fought for what that flag stands for.  
(MORE)

CHIEF (O.S.)  
My son-in-law Captain Alex Mahkah was a company commander, an Apache helicopter pilot and a full-blooded American Indian in a US Army Cavalry unit.

INT. CALVARY COMMUNITY CHURCH - DAY

The church has a standing-room crowd of American Indians, African-Americans, and Caucasians too.

CHIEF  
By the way, he was also a Washington Redskin fan. My daughter's husband was a brave American Indian that endured a great deal. I do know that very well!

On the first two pews sit the three American Indian women friends and the poker players.

CHIEF (O.S.)  
He endured the enemy fire as he flew his Apache helicopter.

Near the front pew is a display table with many flowers and a wood carving of Jesus.

The audience listens intently.

CHIEF (O.S.)  
He endured and managed to fire upon the enemy while wounded in the left leg as he flew his shot up Apache helicopter so the ground soldiers could regroup and secure an aggressive footing over the enemy.

Also on the display table is a framed 8X10 portrait photo of Captain Alex Mahkah in his army uniform. A large yellow Cavalry patch is seen on the upper left sleeve of his uniform.

CHIEF (O.S.)  
The Army people told me that when his Apache helicopter engine quit he was able to auto-rotate his Apache helicopter to a safe crash landing in a friendly area.

Nearby, the urn and a triangle folded US Flag is displayed.

CHIEF (O.S.)

A couple of our warriors quickly pull him from the burning wreckage.

Shawna dashes from the pew and grabs the urn from the table. She retakes her seat and holds the urn tightly against her chest.

CHIEF

The army doctors acted quickly and were able to save his leg. He was then medevacked to an Army Hospital where the army doctors immediately did more surgery so he could walk again. My son-in-law Captain Alex Mahkah was discharged with high honors and awards. The many army citations Captain Alex Mahkah received, credits him with many leadership traits that he employed to accomplish the many missions he was tasked with. The Washington people should learn and use those leadership traits that my son-in-law used, or give this land back.

Shawna embracing the urn looks up to the Chief. U.S. Army Soldiers and American Indian warriors stand behind the Chief. One American Indian holds the flagstaff with the U.S. flag.

CHIEF

You all knew Alex from his stunning wood carvings and his ability to fill our hearts with enchanting joy from his songs about nature and his songs about love that he played on his guitar. A precious valuable life was taken from us. However, I want it to be known right here and now that my faith in our greatest spirit our Lord, I just know that Alex is playing his music of enduring love now.

For a few moments, the Chief stares at the audience.

Some in the audience are tearful.

CHIEF

Please stand.

The chief does an about-face and then presents a salute to the U.S. flag.

The Chief lowers his arm then turns back around to face the audience. After a few moments.

CHIEF

Thank you.

The Chief steps off the stage then sit next to his daughter and place an arm around her shoulders.

INT. HILLTOP HOUSE — DAY

Shawna sits on the couch and stares at the 8X10 framed photo of Alex next to the urn on the fireplace banister.

She twirls the diamond on her ring finger then she stares at her cell phone on the coffee table.

She picks up the phone, thumbs through the list of names and numbers, and stops at Jill's.

Shawna looks in thought then presses the selection.

INT. BAR - DAY

Jill's cell phone is playing a MUSICAL TUNE on the beer spilled bar top.

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)

(electronic voice)

"Call from Fire Dancer."

In the background, Omar and Todd are playing pool.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Jack and Amy enter and sees the chief, sans his warbonnet, seated at the bar playing video poker.

JACK

Hi, Chief. This is my gal, Amy.

CHIEF

My eyes see that there are beautiful women outside the tribe.

Amy's smile shows her gratitude for his comment.

JACK

(to Amy)

This is Shawna's dad, the Chief.

Amy looks at his video poker game.

AMY  
Hold the Ten and the Jack.

The Chief takes her advice and the machine completes a Royal Flush.

CHIEF  
A Royal! Yes!  
(touches her)  
You are a lucky gal. Have a seat you two.

Amy sits between Jack and the Chief.

AMY  
How did Shawna get the name Fire Dancer?

CHIEF  
One evening when she was very young and just began to walk, I was cooking hotdogs outside over a fire. Her mother taught her how to dance around the fire. -- It was her mother that nicknamed her Fire Dancer.

JACK  
So she kept that name!

CHIEF  
She grew up fire dancing. It was the tribe calling her so during her growing years that branded it into her.

AMY  
So it became as much a name as Shawna.

CHIEF  
(nods)  
The tribe's Holy Man told her that during fire dancing, she can call upon the spirits for knowledge, wisdom, and strength whenever she feels the need.

EXT. KAOLIN DESERT WASH — DAY

Down the hill from her house, Shawna drags tree limbs into the sandy and rocky clearing.

SERIES OF SHOTS: — Piling wood and fire dancing.

-- Saws a tree limb.  
-- Drags more timber to the pile.  
-- Swings an ax onto a down tree trunk.  
-- Wiping the sweat from her face.  
-- Sawing.  
-- Cutting.  
-- Piling.  
-- Shawna lights the wood piling on fire.  
-- Shawna applies the final stripe of red coloring to her red, white, and blue Indian war-painted face.

SUNSET -

-- Performs the fire-dance ritual around the fire.  
-- Feet dancing around the fire.  
-- Her fingers unbutton a shirt button.  
-- Face expressions.  
-- Her fingers unbutton another.  
-- Body movements.  
-- Her fingers unbutton another.  
-- Arm motions.  
-- Her fingers unsnaps her pants buckle.  
-- Her facial expressions.  
-- Her fingers unzip her pants.  
-- Her hand tosses her bra and panties into the fire.  
-- Her nude legs dance around the fire.

EXT. MORMON MESA - DAY

Todd holds binoculars to his eyes.

TODD  
Oh, yea! She's naked!

Omar grabs the binoculars from Todd. He looks through them.

Through the binoculars, out of focus Shawna can be seen dancing nude around the fire.

OMAR  
It's all blurry!

Todd grabs the binoculars and points to the focus knob.

TODD  
This knob here focuses the lens.

Omar grabs and accidentally drops the binoculars onto the rocky ground, breaking both lenses.

EXT. KAOLIN DESERT WASH — DAY

Shawna's bare legs dance around the fire.

She stops with her fist held high - facing you.

Sweat beads on her war-painted face. On her headband are a feather and her army lieutenant insignia. She wears her American Indian two-piece buckskin outfit with her U.S. Army Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards dangling from her shirt.

EXT. MORMON MESA - SUNSET

Omar looks at the 'recent calls' list on Jill's cell phone.

EXT. KAOLIN DESERT WASH — SUNSET

Shawna's cell phone rings with Indian drum beating.

SHAWNA'S CELL PHONE  
(electronic voice)  
"Call from Jill".

Shawna pulls the phone from a pocket and brings it to an ear. She holds her silence and just listens. She then answers.

SHAWNA  
Who is this?



OMAR (V.O.)  
(irritating laughter)  
So, you're the Fire Dancer!

SHAWNA  
You shouldn't test my resolve.

Shawna looks very pissed.

OMAR (V.O.)  
(irritating laughter)  
Hold on girly Injun.

EXT. MORMON MESA — SUNSET

Omar holds the phone to Lance's ear. He is tied back to back with Jack near their horses. The horse reins are looped around their necks.

Tied to a horse saddle horn are about seven sticks of dynamite. A wire for a cell phone dangles from the dynamite.

Lance looks down toward the hilltop house.

LANCE  
Shawna, Jack is here with me.  
(loudly)  
I'm pointing...

Omar slaps Lance on the side of his head.

OMAR  
(into the phone)  
Hold on for a second.

Omar holds the cell phone to an ear as he plugs the dynamite wire into Jill's cell phone.

Then he presses the "#" key. The countdown timer begins at 60-minutes and 00-seconds.

OMAR  
Now get this you dumb ass Injun. They're sitting by seven sticks of dynamite. Their lives go boom in one hour!

EXT. KAOLIN DESERT WASH — SUNSET

Shawna holds the phone to an ear and looking pissed.

SHAWNA  
 You get this, scumbag. . . . For God and  
 country, I am going to kick your ass.

Shawna puts the phone into her pocket.

SHAWNA  
 (to herself)  
 I'm pointing! — I'm pointing! What is he  
 trying to tell me?

EXT. MORMON MESA — DAY — FLASHBACK

Lance and Shawna are on their horses. Lance points.

LANCE  
 We can see your house from here.

EXT. HILLTOP HOUSE — SUNSET — BACK TO PRESENT

Shawna quickly turns toward the mesa, east of her.

EXT. MORMON MESA — SUNSET

Jill's yellow cell phone shows 53min-17sec.

EXT. KAOLIN DESERT WASH — SUNSET

Shawna's finger presses 9-1-1.

SHAWNA  
 I need the police immediately. The two  
 shitheads wanted for multiple murders  
 are on Mormon Mesa.

Shawna seems impatient.

SHAWNA  
 (shouts to herself)  
 I want that scumbag.

EXT. MORMON MESA — TWILIGHT

Shawna drives her ATV up the dirt road to the mesa top and  
 parks near the horses.

INSERT — Jill's cell phone: 19min-11sec.

OMAR  
(to Todd)  
Look who it is. This is my day.

Shawna dials 9-1-1 on her cell phone, again.

SHAWNA  
I need the police at Mormon Mesa.

Omar grabs her cell phone. He throws it off the mesa.

OMAR  
(grinning)  
This is my day to see you begging for  
your life.

SHAWNA  
Take that grin off your chin. I'm about  
to give you massive pain.

Shawna throws a punch into Omar's gut then an uppercut to  
his chin. Then she throws rapid chops to his bloody face.

Todd grabs her then pushes her to Omar who grabs Shawna into  
a headlock.

Todd moves closer, reaching.

TODD  
Let's see those tits.

Shawna kicks him between the legs. Todd groans and falls to  
the ground holding his painful nuts.

Shawna bites Omar's arm, and she gets loose. Omar screams  
out and runs to his clunker while spitting blood.

Behind Shawna, Todd stands and grabs at her, partially  
tearing her shirt showing a side of a breast. She turns and  
rapidly gives Todd several punches to his face. Todd spits  
blood.

TODD  
Bitch!

In the background, Omar wraps a dirty T-shirt around his  
bleeding arm as he watches the action.

Shawna throws a hard punch to Todd's stomach then a punch to  
the left eye, then an uppercut to his jaw. Now, several  
chops to his bloody face. Todd staggers backward in pain  
then falls near a couple of rattlesnakes.

On the ground, Todd and a rattlesnake are face to face. The rattlesnake strikes at his face.

The rattlesnake moves away as Todd screams in agony holding his bloody face. The other rattlesnake strikes his arm.

Omar, holding a baseball bat, rushes towards Shawna's back.

Shawna backs away from groaning Todd then she turns and POW she is hit in the gut, knocking her down and out.

Omar now rushes to his groaning brother.

The rattlesnake is already at a distance crawling away.

Todd with a black and blue swollen bloody face looks up to his brother.

OMAR

Man, this just ain't your day. I guess  
the loot is all mine now.

Omar pulls the gun from his belt then fires a shot ending Todd's misery. Omar runs back to his clunker.

Lance breaks from the ties and rushes to motionless Shawna. He tries to wake her.

LANCE

Shawna! Shawna!

CLICK is the sound of a gun hammer being cocked. Blood spitting Omar holds the gun at the back of Lance's head.

OMAR

Get up!

INSERT - Jill's cell phone: 11min-23sec.

Lance stands with his hands tied behind him. Omar tightens the gag then brings his gun near Lance's face.

Omar looks toward the town below then looks Lance in the face.

OMAR

How would you diagnose me now? You still  
believe I am a danger to others and  
myself?

Omar pushes the gun into Lance's cheek.

OMAR  
 You think the Mafia should return and  
 clean up the crime. Maybe save you from  
 me?

Omar presses the gun into Lance's gagged mouth and forces  
 Lance to near the mesa edge.

OMAR  
 If I don't kill you maybe the fall will.

Omar continues to get in Lance's face.

OMAR  
 The scavenging coyotes will tear you to  
 pieces. Digesting all evidence - every  
 ounce of your existence.

Omar backs away then takes aim.

OMAR  
 Dance! You shrink! Dance!

He fires bullets near Lance's feet. Lance dances the best he  
 can.

Omar now aims at Lance.

OMAR  
 Bye!

CLICK, the gun is empty.

A police car arrives with the lights on the roof rotating.  
 The police car stops near the horses, and over a  
 rattlesnake.

INT. POLICE CAR - TWILIGHT

The OFFICER with a gun in hand grabs the microphone in the  
 other hand then clicks the toggle switch on the police radio  
 to PA speaker.

OFFICER  
 (on speaker)  
 Drop your weapon! Hands up!

Blood spitting Omar drops the gun then raises his hands.

Lance with wide eyes, looks toward the Police car, rapidly  
 shaking his head in the fail effort to warn the Officer.

The Officer, with his gun at the ready, steps from the car near the rattlesnake.

Fright fills the Officer's face as he hears the heart-stopping sound of the rattlesnake.

The rattlesnake bites just above the ankle. The Officer falls screaming in agony.

Shawna shows some motion.

Omar grabs a long stick from the ground then rushes over. With the stick, he lifts the snake and slings it towards the cliff. Omar then quickly grabs the Officer's weapon.

Omar steps backward towards Lance. He then holds the gun close to Lance's face.

OMAR

Where were we? Oh, Yes!

Shawna opens her eyes and sees a rattlesnake staring at her and poised to strike.

Shawna grabs the rattlesnake then stands. In the background, the bitten Police Officer looks on surprised and stunned.

Shawna throws the rattlesnake forward - towards you.

Omar aims the gun at Lance.

OMAR

You die now!

Shawna pitches a softball size rock hitting Omar on the left side of his head knocking him out cold. She rushes over, grabs the gun then runs to Jack.

Shawna puts the gun down near the cliff edge. Then she kneels to remove Jack's gag. She's about to untie Jack's hands when she hears him shout.

JACK

Watch out!

Bloody Omar, using his uninjured arm, puts Shawna into a chokehold again.

Shawna takes a huge bite in his arm.

Omar screams in pain as Shawna manages to escape and rushes to the Police Car.

Lance rushes to Omar and punches him. Omar falls to the ground.

INT. POLICE CAR - TWILIGHT

Shawna gets into the Police Car and grabs the microphone.

On the radio, the toggle switch is set to PA.

Shawna speaks into the microphone.

SHAWNA  
(over the PA speaker)  
Officer down!

Shawna toggles the switch on the radio.

SHAWNA  
Officer down! Officer down!

No response!

Shawna turns the radio channel dial.

SHAWNA  
Officer down! Officer down!

A voice from the radio.

DISPATCH OPERATOR (V.O.)  
What's your location?

SHAWNA  
Mormon Mesa.

DISPATCH OPERATOR (V.O.)  
What Officer is down?

SHAWNA  
I don't know! Just send help. He's been  
snake bitten, and a psycho took his gun.  
Do you copy?! For the sake of that  
psycho's health, send help! - Hurry!

INT. POLICE STATION - TWILIGHT

The Dispatch Operator keys the radio microphone.

DISPATCH OPERATOR  
Units are on the way. Do whatever to  
protect yourself and the Officer.

EXT. MORMON MESA - TWILIGHT

On the ground, Lance holds blood-spitting Omar's arm twisted tightly behind his back.

Shawna helps the Officer from the ground supporting his weight against the car fender. She then moves towards the dynamite. But...

Omar breaks free.

Shawna runs after him.

INSERT - Jill's cell phone: 00min-37sec.

Omar grabs the gun from the ground, near the mesa cliff, swings his arm to the right, and aims at Lance.

OFFICER  
(shouts)

No!

Shawna pushes on Omar's chest.

SHAWNA  
Die, you piece of shit!

Horror-struck Omar flaps his arms. BANG goes a wild shot from the gun as his feet tries to find footing.

Omar falls off the mesa and tumbles in the air.

INSERT - Jill's cell phone: 00min-13sec.

Lance and Shawna walk with relief then Shawna stops in a trance.

LANCE  
(turns)

Jack?

Jack is still tied up near the horses.

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
"10...9...8..."

Shawna runs toward the horses.

SHAWNA  
Oh shit!

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
"7...6...5...4..."



Shawna, with fumbling effort, finally unties the twine holding the dynamite to the saddle horn then she throws the dynamite forward – towards you!

JILL'S CELL PHONE (V.O.)  
 "3...2...1...!"

The dynamite explodes in the air on the way down the side of the mesa.

Jack looks so very much relieved.

Nevada Police Units along with an ambulance arrive with sirens blaring and overhead lights rotating.

The red, white, and blue police car emergency lights reflect from Shawna's, Jack's, and Lance's faces as they console the snake-bitten police officer as he is placed into the ambulance.

INT. MESQUITE CASINO - POKER ROOM - DAY

Kenny is reading a newspaper at the table. A NEW DEALER is dealing.

VETERAN  
 Why are you reading the paper at the table?

Annoyed Kenny responds.

KENNY  
 Because I got lots of time to read.

The dealer does not pitch the cards; instead, a more of an extended arm and sloooowwww wrist toss of each card.

Mike receives an Ace face up.

MIKE  
 You think they will ever find the money that those scumbags looted from here and Las Vegas?

A card flip flops flips to Kenny.

KENNY  
 They will never find it, probably buried out there somewhere in the desert. Heard it is way over two million bucks.

The one arm veteran receives a card, but he has to reach far to retrieve it.

GINA

Oh yes! How I would love to get my hands on that money!

VETERAN

I would sure love to get my hand on that money!

The veteran reaches for his second card.

Mike receives a second Ace face up.

Kenny looks up from the newspaper as a card flips flops by him.

EXT. BOX WASH - SUNSET

An eagle soars overhead.

Shawna Chenoa, wearing her American Indian female buckskin outfit, carries a satchel through the slot canyon area.

Attached to her headband is a feather and her army First Lieutenant insignia. On her brown shirt hangs the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart Medals.

Shawna stops at the back entrance to the slot canyon. She gets on her knees near the low flat-top boulder.

Using her hands, she digs out a hole in the soft rocky dirt and sand.

From the satchel, Shawna removes the urn.

She opens the urn then she pours Alex's ashes into the hole. She covers the hole with the rocky dirt and sand.

From the satchel, Shawna retrieves a frame 8X10 color portrait photo of US Army Captain Alex Mahkah in his US Army uniform.

SHAWNA

All my love for you Alex.

She kisses the photo then leans it against the boulder.

From the satchel, she removes the carved wooden cross. She sticks it into the ground next to the photo.

From the satchel, she retrieves her handmade flute.

Shawna looks at the 8X10-frame photo against the rock.

She brings the flute to her lips and plays a song for Alex. A rendition of *Matt Redman's* song titled "*10,000 Reasons - Bless the Lord.*"

About halfway through the song, tears flow from her eyes as she continues to play the flute.

After the final note, Shawna brings the flute down. With a face full of tears, she looks up and sees an eagle soar.

Shawna places the flute, the cross, and the photo back into the satchel then she looks to her left.

At a short distance, two coyotes are dragging a Government Issue U.S. Army OD green duffle bag. The coyotes stop then turn and stare at Shawna.

Shawna stands, and the coyotes dash away.

Shawna opens the duffle bag and finds a large bag of Beef Jerky.

She removes the large bag of Beef Jerky revealing the many bundles of cash.

Shawna looks inquisitively at the bundles of cash in the army duffle bag. Finally, she puts a grin on her chin.

The coyotes stare from around a distant boulder.

Shawna empties the bag of Beef Jerky onto the ground.

The coyotes lick their chops.

She puts her full satchel and the empty plastic Beef Jerky bag into the cash full army duffle bag.

Shawna lifts the army duffle bag onto a shoulder. She carries it towards the distant sunset.

The coyotes' HOWL.

An eagle soars overhead.

EXT. LAS VEGAS POLICE STATION — DAY

A couple of police officers walk by the police station placard.

INT. LAS VEGAS POLICE STATION — DAY

Poker-face Shawna wearing her native outfit stands between two police officers.

The doorknob turns.

Two more police officers enter followed by a couple of civilians. Then the police chief enters with the smiling Indian Chief with Las Vegas Showgirls on each arm.

A blinding light burst from a camera flash.

A TV camera operator and reporter are recording the event.

A CASINO OWNER presents Shawna a huge check for \$200,200.00.

CASINO OWNER

On behalf of the casinos, we want you to have this ten-percent reward for the recovery of our money.

The Police Chief presents his award.

POLICE CHIEF

On behalf of the city of Las Vegas, I present you with the city hero award for saving a Police Officer's life and bravely stopping the serial killers.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

A high view of the brightly lit casinos.

EXT. LAS VEGAS MEGA RESORT CASINO - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A VALET ATTENDANT holds a car door open for a customer.

INT. LAS VEGAS MEGA RESORT CASINO — POKER ROOM - NIGHT

Moving from the casino area through the main poker room entrance then by the POKER SHIFT MANAGER talking to the POKER ROOM MANAGER near a podium.

POKER SHIFT MANAGER

I hired that dealer this morning.

POKER ROOM MANAGER  
 (approvingly nods)  
 I observed her running a game. She is an  
 excellent dealer.

The view moves through the main poker area of many poker  
 tables in action, to the door opening to the enclosed High  
 Limit Poker Room.

INT. HIGH LIMIT POKER ROOM AREA - NIGHT

The view continues from the doorway to a nearly full poker  
 table in action.

The diamond on Amy's ring finger sparkles as she spreads the  
 un-dealt poker cards face down.

Many poker chips in denominations of \$1,000 and \$5,000 fill  
 the center of the table.

The board cards are J♠ A♠ A♠ 8♠ 3♠ .

Amy slides a player's folded hole cards into the muck.

Amy then looks to the player in seat one. The player tosses  
 in his cards. Amy slides those two cards into the muck. She  
 moves her view to the next player who folds, then to the  
 next player.

The player's view of Amy as she turns her eyes toward him.

His fingers lift the damaged bullet from the top of his two  
 hole cards.

Boris, in costly attire, sets the bullet to the side then  
 turns his hole cards over showing J♥ J♦.

AMY (V.O.)  
 Jacks full of Aces!

Two more players toss their cards in and Amy mucks them.

BORIS  
 (Russian accent)  
 I will always be thankful of that  
 American army Lieutenant for leaving her  
 poker book on the battlefield. . . She  
 said that she rides horses, eats  
 rattlesnakes, plays the flute, and of  
 course those other things.

Amy looks very curious as she pushes the large pot of poker chips to Boris. He tosses her a huge tip. She taps that chip on the table twice then drops it into her shirt pocket.

As Boris continues, Amy grabs a deck from the shuffle machine then she rapidly pitches the cards to the players.

BORIS

I always wonder where she is? . . . How she is doing? . . . She will always be my comrade. . . . We are both alive today because of each other. . . I overheard another American soldier called her the "Fire Dancer."

Amy snaps her head around and looks astounded at Boris.

EXT. LAS VEGAS MEGA RESORT CASINO - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The VALET PARKING ATTENDANT receives a hundred-dollar-bill from stylish dressed Shawna Chenoa as she steps from her convertible then she walks to the casino main entrance.

INT. LAS VEGAS MEGA RESORT CASINO - POKER ROOM - NIGHT

The Shift Manager returns to the podium. He sees Shawna approaching and he gladly greets her.

POKER SHIFT MANAGER

Good evening Shawna. Follow me, I do have one seat open for you.

The Shift Manager escorts Shawna past the many full tables in the main poker area. He opens the door to the enclosed High Limit Poker Room. They enter and the door closes.

THE END