FADE IN:

EXT. MURKY WATERS - NIGHT

Absent of its normal grace, a DOVE moves across the waters, uselessly dodging the pelting rain.

It flutters in and out of dense fog until finally...

An oak branch reaches out through the fog to provide rest for the weary.

After a brief moment, a gust of wind lifts the fog almost simultaneously with the dove. As the dove flutters up, the single oak branch is joined by countless others.

The dove flies out of view and the top of a mighty oak tree is accented by a church steeple.

The oak tree. The white steeple. Beautiful stained glassed windows. Quaint weathered white church with green trim.

Wait - floodwaters beat on the outside of the church, covering more than half of its height.

Reverse "Nestea Plunge" down underwater clear enough to make out a glass-encased sign: "The First Congregational Church of Libertytown. Got Salvation?"

Then, a parking sign: "Reserved for Reverend Longworthy."

Clearing a white-picket fence and brushing across the top of an ornate tombstone, there follows a row of tombstones of different sizes and ages.

Here and there the water is clear enough to read names and inscriptions: "Gerald White. Beloved Father and Husband. Rest In Christ's Arms." "Abigail Crabtree. Always the Apple of God's Eye. 1850 - 1917." And so forth, until...

"The Dead in Christ Will Rise First" appears etched on a very plain tombstone.

Water and bubbles rush over the words.

WHOOSH! The tail end of a COFFIN rockets to the surface.

Upbeat guitar licks lead in an upbeat retro-hip version of the classic hymn "Ain't No Grave Gonna Hold My Body Down" as COFFIN after COFFIN breaks free from the soil, shooting to the surface of the water as if to accent key moments of the hymn. Many different coffin styles (and ages of decomposition) move along in the slow current as the music continues:

"Meet me, meet me Jesus, meet me in the middle of the air... ain't no grave, gonna hold my body down..."

A SCUBA TANK.

Then another... and another... pacing alongside the newly risen funerary boxes.

The current leads the coffins and the THREE DIVERS down the main street of a traditional town, buildings circa 1890 mixed with their modern counterparts.

The floodwaters cover almost two-thirds of the way up most of the buildings.

The divers clear the first block and then gather at a corner building. Hand signals are exchanged before they dip below the water line.

FLIPPERS clear the view of the words, "FIRST BANK - Established 1888" etched in the side of the building.

EXT. FIRST BANK - MOMENTS LATER

Underwater, the three divers methodically cut out a hole in the glass of the front door.

As the glass drops, the MEMBER FDIC sticker is visible just before the glass falls out of view.

The divers hold off to the side as a rush of water evens out the already flooded bank.

INT. FIRST BANK - MOMENTS LATER

The divers swim past bank teller windows and down stairs.

INT. SAFE DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

An underwater explosion on the safe door.

INT. INSIDE SAFE - MOMENTS LATER

The divers load MONEY into LARGE BAGS.

Tabs are pulled, injecting air to make the bags float as the divers swim out of the safe.

EXT. FIRST BANK - MOMENTS LATER

The divers bolt back out the door and swim head further down the main street.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

The divers glide underwater close to the surface through the quaint old town. Past "Flip's Barbershop" and "Thornhill's Hardware."

They round a corner into an alleyway before coming to the surface.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The divers under the water as a rescue HELICOPTER and searchlight pass overhead.

The copter out of sight, they swim on down the alleyway, around a corner and ...

Suddenly the hull of a beat up DUCK BOAT.

Arms reach out and lug the newly-filled bags over the side of the boat.

The divers quickly disappear under the water and are gone.

A quick pull and the outboard motor chugs to life. The duck boat cruises around a sharp corner, then heads out of the alley.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

TWO PERSONS on board the duck boat - one helming the motor and the other looking out over the bow, both decked out in heavy rain gear - manage to navigate the boat out of town and into the night, past the SIGN "Thanks for Visiting Libertytown."

EXT. OUTSIDE OF TOWN

The three divers climb into a SPEEDBOAT. RAIN starts to pour as they take off their head gear.

One at a time we get our first glimpse of CHAD FELDMAN... then KYLIE ARNOUX... then STEVE VANBECK.

Steve pours BLACK COFFEE from his beat-up STANLEY THERMOS into THREE TIN CUPS as Chad fires up the engine.

Steve hands Kylie and Chad each a cup of the steaming coffee.

STEVE

Cheers!

KYLIE

(tongue-in-cheek)

Here's looking at you kid.

Chad gives his best Clint Eastwood squint before adding his own cliche.

CHAD

Ahh... Doesn't get much better than this.

The speedboat races through the floodwaters, weaving through the now dispersed caskets before disappearing into the darkness.

EXT. LIBERTYTOWN - DAY

After the flood.

Activity is everywhere.

Townspeople work hard to clean up the debris and rebuild what remains after the devastating flood.

Familiar buildings, now entirely seen in the clean light of the bright sunshine.

EXT. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - DAY

A Ford Taurus Wagon is parked in the slightly familiar parking space of Reverend Longworthy.

Past the white picket fence and in the graveyard, the REVEREND tries to comfort distraught church members.

EXT. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GRAVE YARD - CONTINUOUS

Assessing the empty grave of Uncle Alfred, MRS. KRAUTKRAMER is in the middle of a tirade.

MRS. KRAUTKRAMER

When we purchased this plot, I assumed it would be reinforced for such an incident.

REV. LONGWORTHY

I assure you, we are doing our very best to locate your loved one.

MRS. KRAUTKRAMER

I see the Millers plots are a bit more secure. Did they pay extra for that perk?

She points to a coffin that clearly tried to break free, but was kept it in the ground by the roots of a large tree.

LARRY KRAUTKRAMER timidly works to calm his wife.

LARRY KRAUTKRAMER

Dear, please let's be reasonable.

MRS. KRAUTKRAMER

Reasonable? I am trying to reason why there wasn't a little more foresight in the planning of this site.

Reverend Longworthy is perplexed in how to respond.

REV. LONGWORTHY

I, uhh...

MRS. KRAUTKRAMER

What do you propose to do to make this right?!

REV. LONGWORTHY

Ma'am?

MRS. KRAUTKRAMER

What do you propose to do?!!

A SEBRING CONVERTABLE passes by.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

The Sebring Convertible that moves towards Libertytown's Main Street.

INT. SEBRING CONVERTIBLE - CONTINUOUS

LEE TAYLOR, a cool-mannered, yet plain man with graceful whit and charm drives the car, as BILL CLEMENTS, a quick-tongued, incessant-talking, man rides shotgun.

Bill's finger is punching the seek button on the radio.

He lands on a generic, sappy, current country song.

BILL

It's not that I DON'T like country. I just like GOOD music. Period. I grew up wedging match books in many a Jim Reeves 8-track to stop the double-track playback.

LEE

I always liked his hit "Yonder Comes A Sucker."

BILL

Exactly. Whatever happened to the likes of Lynn Anderson's "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden"? Or Charley Pride's "The Snakes Crawl at Night"?

Lee's expression tolerates Bill's ramblings - as usual.

Bill hits the seek button again.

LEE

Billy Crash Craddock's "Rub It In."

BILL

See that's what I'm saying. Now that was an 8-track!

The radio stops on generic cheesy 90's country song.

BILL

In today's neo-pop crossover, "I'm trying so hard to prove I'm a good 'ole boy-bad boy I even eat Spam" realm of country music this would be considered a classic.

The convertible comes to a stop outside of the bank next to the Libertytown sheriff's SUV.

LEE

I always pictured you as a big hair and tight-pants band guy ... not a country connoisseur.

BILL

Music connoisseur. Good music. Don't try to box me in.

EXT. FIRST BANK - DAY

Bill and Lee step out of the convertible and approach SHERIFF TOM CASTLEWAITE, a man who enjoys telling stories almost as much as he likes listening to each new twist and turn he comes up with - his imagination thriving with every added embellishment. He's so far out there to the right, he's touching the left and in a scary way, he almost makes sense.

The sheriff sips his gas-station coffee in mid-conversation with his female deputy, SHELLY SELANDER, an athletically frumpy girl who feels she's pushing old maid at the ripe old age of 28.

SHERIFF

... the government basically created the huge runs on the banks back during the depression so that they could "insure" people's funds. They needed a little more control into people's money. If you're going to insure the funds then you have a right to know who's got what. No wonder everyone started looking to Swiss banks.

The Sheriff takes a breath long enough for Lee and Bill to be noticed. Shelly likes what she sees.

SHELLY

Well if it ain't Butch and Sundance! Please confess that you're here to turn yourselves in.

BILL

(lamely flirting)
I'll confess... that you're a breath of fresh air.

Bill flashes his FBI badge, doing his best Steve McQueen.

LEE

(ignoring Bill)
Sheriff! Lee Taylor.

SHERIFF

Pleasure.

BILL

(to Shelly)
Just call me Bill.

LEE

Looks quite a bit worse around here than how you described over the phone.

SHELLY

Sheriff Tom always errs on the side of positive.

SHERIFF

I believe you can see the good and the bad and the good in the bad and the bad in the good. It's all how you look at things.

SHELLY

That's about how much sense he usually makes. Do you want me to show you boys around?

BILL

Personal tour?

LEE

Why don't we take a look on our own with fresh eyes and then we'll confer with your notes.

SHERIFF

Concur I do with that. Share our theories over a good plate of American fries over there at Mitzy's? I'll go ahead and tell her to get a fresh pot going. See ya shortly.

The Sheriff doesn't wait for an answer before he's off across the street heading for MITZY'S CAFE.

SHELLY

Looks like the tour will have to wait.

Shelly shrugs her shoulders and follows suit.

Lee and Bill walk up to the bank door examining the glass cuts before entering.

INT. FIRST BANK - DAY

Lee and Bill head through the lobby as various BANK EMPLOYEES are at work cleaning up papers and other messes from the flood.

LEE

I'll confess that you're a breath
of fresh air?!

BILL

Hey, it always pays to have the local-yocals on your side.

LEE

So laying it all out there right away to show exactly how desperate you are is your method of building cross-agency relations?

Bill hasn't heard a word. He's been quickly distracted by a knockout teller, TRUDY DAVIS, who is inappropriately dressed in high heels, blouse and a skirt for bank cleanup day.

Bill quickly moves to help her pick up from the floor some water-logged files she has just dropped.

BILL

Let me help you with that.

Lee is used to this type of thing by now and we see him move towards the back of the bank to examine the SAFE DOOR.

TRUDY

Oh, that's all right. I can get it.

Bill helps her pick up the files.

BILL

I was wondering why I was here at this very moment and now I know ... ma'am.

TRUDY

Ma'am is for my mother. I'm Trudy. You are Officer ...?

BILL

Agent Bill Clements. Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned to this heinous robbery.

TRUDY

(overly impressed)

F.B.I.?

BILL

You must feel terribly violated ... since this is your bank and all.

Lee in the far background finally looks up, stops and stares at Bill with an ultra-annoyed look.

TRUDY

Oh, it's not too bad. Actually it's kind of an exciting change to our normal boredom.

Trudy takes the chance to whisper and get closer to the FBI agent.

TRUDY

Besides. I keep my money at Liberty Savings up on the hill.

BILL

(being funny)

Who would have known keeping your money up high would make a difference?

Bill finally catches Lee's gaze and the overt hint. Trudy forces a giggle and touches Bill on the arm.

TRUDY

You're funny.

BILL

I guess duty calls. Trudy, you be careful lifting that heavy stuff now.

Trudy tries to hold his eyes with hers. Bill realizes he may have overdone it as we see his sudden discomfort before he quickly moves back to Lee by the safe.

LEE

(singing)

"Desperado ..."

BILL

You think I'm desperate? What-a-we got here?

LEE

Looks like the work of an ex-Ranger. Slick, clean, no waste. Just enough to get the job done.

Lee points out the impact points of the explosives.

BILL

Oh, since it's a clean, professional...slash...expert job, you automatically say ex-Ranger? I think it's definitely the work of an EX-SEAL. I mean it makes more sense. Underwater and all.

They walk into the safe.

INT. FIRST BANK SAFE - CONTINUOUS

 $\mathbf{L}\mathbf{E}\mathbf{E}$

You'll never get it through your brainwashed skull that the SEALs aren't the only branch of the military who can conduct underwater operations.

BILL

The SEALs represent the "whole man" of the military. A force to be reckoned with on land and sea.

LEE

It's all exactly how I would have done it ... every move. It's not just what was done. It's the thought process. Ranger.

BILL

So, anything that's "smoothly done" is automatically a Ranger's doing? Dazed and confused. You are dazed and confused.

They have seen what they need to see in the safe.

INT. FIRST BANK - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Bill head back through the bank lobby on their way out the door.

TRUDY

Solve the crime, Agent Bill Clements?

BILL

Gathering clues. Just gathering clues.

Lee is enjoying the hole Bill has gotten himself in.

LEE

Bill's quite "the detective," you know.

TRUDY

I'll bet he is.

Bill and Lee are out the door. Trudy has the expression of having a trophy fish fall off her line.

INT. MITZY'S CAFE - DAY

Mitzy's Cafe is smoke-filled and bustling even more than usual. The remnants of the flood are barely distinguishable through the energy of the rich personalities filling the room.

Conversations fill the air with talk of the coffins popping out of the grave along with discussion of the robbery of First Bank.

Two elderly men, HAROLD MURPHY and CARL ZEHNER sit smoking at the counter as MITZY MURPHY pours them each a "warm-up" to their coffees.

HAROLD

Reverend Longworthy says that the only thing that held Ethel in the ground was the fact that she was buried so close to the old elm tree.

CARL

The roots held her down?

HAROLD

Yes, sir. Ethel always loved that old elm tree and that's why I chose that plot. Never would have known that it would be her savior.

CART

Women somehow have a way of knowing those things Harold.

HAROLD

Don't you know it. Had to take all kinds of flack from the family, though. At the time, her sister Hazel, God rest her soul, wanted her in the family generational plot. I guess Hazel knows better now ... wherever she is.

CART

They still haven't found Hazel's casket?

HAROLD

Nope. Her husband Fred was always cheap. Those pine boxes are so much lighter, Hazel could have floated to the ocean by now, for all we know. Thank the Lord for Ethel's elm!

Carl takes a drag on his cigarette.

CARL

Amen.

Mitzy has brought their breakfast.

MITZY

Dad, you still talking about mom and her elm tree?

Bill and Lee walk through the door and spot the Sheriff and Shelly sitting in a booth in the back.

Shelly has conveniently held a spot next to her.

SHELLY

You don't mind if it's a little cozy, do you? Mitzy's is a little crazier than normal.

Mitzy has suddenly shown up (she has a way of doing that) with menus and fresh coffee in hand as Lee and Bill take their seats.

MITZY

Everyone's trying to top each other's flood stories. As if our community wasn't festering in each other's affairs enough already.

Mitzy swoops away to another table.

SHERIFF

Yep. Member FDIC. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. We'll feel this one square in the can with some new "hidden tax" on organic shots of wheat grass, not to mention more hidden bank fees. Federals will never take the hit themselves.

BILL

So you think this is an "inside" job?

SHELLY

The Sheriff thinks Bonnie and Clyde were commissioned by the FDIC to promote the importance of insuring your deposits.

Mitzy is back.

MITZY

I thought I'd rescue you from the scary depths of Sheriff's member FDIC conspiracy theories. What can I get for the FBI this morning?

LEE

I'll have "The Weary Traveler" over easy.

BILL

For me the "Lonesome Hog" with "crisp" bacon.

SHELLY

You gotta have the biscuits and gravy.

SHERIFF

Gotta.

MITZY

I'll throw them in on the house as a special welcome to Libertytown.

Mitzy is off.

LEE

Conspiracy or not, this was slick work. The fact that they knew the vulnerabilities of the bank ...

BILL

... and the fact of its location in the flood plain ...

LEE

Along with the other banks that were hit in the same manner, there was a pretty hefty take.

BILL

They studied their game and patiently waited for the flood waters to pounce. Bam.

SHERTFF

Hmmm ... did I mention an inside job?

SHELLY

Drop it, Tom.

Mitzy is back slinging down their food.

MITZY

Quick and fresh. Enjoy.

Mitzy is off. There is a rare silence as the food overwhelms all other senses and they dig in while each AD-LIBS.

EXT. FIRST BANK - DAY

Lee and Bill, fully satisfied with their meal, walk with just a touch of a waddle back to their car.

INT. SEBRING CONVERTIBLE - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Bill plop into their seats. Lee fires up the engine and heads back out of town. Bill immediately starts playing with the radio.

BILL

What scares me is that the Sheriff was actually starting to reel me in with all his conspiracy theories.

LEE

I knew it was time to rescue you. Besides the motive of money, this seems like a hard way to get it.

An 80s station tag line comes on and Bill lets the radio dial rest.

BILL

(ribbing)

I see how you would think that since you've got it in your head that it's "Special Forces" work. Definitely a challenge from their perspective. The SEALs however ...

LEE

The SEALs are totally stealth ... as long as you have some water to emerge from. The thing with the Special Forces is we can emerge from the water but it's not the basis of our identity.

BILL

At least we're not placing our whole identity on the fact that we're "Special" Forces. "Hi guys, watch out ... here comes the

(lisp)

"Special" Forces.

Bill is distracted by Herbie Hancock's "Rockit" that has come on the radio. Bill cranks it up.

BILL

Here we have it. One of the ultimate car jamming songs of all time ... I mean, who hasn't turned their dashboard into a synthesizer with this song?

Bill is a tour-de-force on the dashboard. Lee just looks at him with pity in his eyes.

BILL

Come on. You can't hold back. Come on, you have to play it.

(gives up)

OK. Name me a better car jamming song ... I mean one you just have to turn WAY up ...

LEE

There are way too many ...

BILL

OK. Since we're in the 80s ... lets keep it "in the theme" if you will.

LEE

Alright. Easy. Yes. "Owner of a Lonely Heart."

BTTT

90125. No arguments there. Made to be cranked.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Steve sits on his classic, love-worn Harley at the last stop light out of town before heading up the mountain.

There is no traffic coming or going either way, he is patiently waiting for the seemingly endless light. Just as the light turns ...

A BEAVER slowly crosses the road in front of him.

He is amused at this and relaxes in the saddle.

Just as the beaver clears the road, the light turns red again.

EXTREME CLOSE UP on a '77 Jeep CJ as it slowly rolls to a stop by Steve. The intro to "Owner of a Lonely Heart" kicks in.

Steve looks over at the Jeep as a breeze just happens to wisp the driver's long hair just as she turns towards Steve. It's Kylie. The Jeep is packed full of brown grocery bags and on the passenger seat are two CARIBOU brand coffee carriers, packed with various sizes of CARIBOU COFFEE CUPS with symbols jotted on the lids to signify all are different.

Kylie slowly looks back at the road, and revs the engine.

Steve answers with a "rev" of his own just as ...

GREENLIGHT!

Kylie burns rubber as she takes off up the road. Dirty move, but Steve is not too concerned.

The thrill is on and Steve is loving it as he easily zips up to catch Kylie.

Kylie isn't going to let the fun end so quickly and cuts Steve off. They take a hairpin turn and both almost lose it off the side of a steep drop-off.

Their smiles are bigger than ever.

Amazingly, Kylie has kept the coffees from spilling.

They both recover quickly from the turn and are back off up the winding mountain pass.

The lead is passed back and forth on this rocking thrill ride until ...

The pavement ends.

Kylie now has clear advantage as she kicks up rocks and dust.

Kylie looks in her rearview mirror and can't see Steve for the cloud. She smiles in victory just as...

Steve flies out of the pines from a natural hewn jump that propels him well in front of Kylie, but his lug of a Harley can't recover speed fast enough and Kylie is back on his tail.

They both struggle with an awkward turn into an almost hidden, very narrow, gravel driveway.

Kylie has still kept the coffees intact.

Steve and Kylie tear neck and neck up towards a gorgeous MOUNTAIN LOG HOME until they finally come to a sudden stop.

It is a dead tie.

EXTREME CLOSE UP on the coffees. A spout shoots out of only one of them and splashes down the side.

Kylie looks at it in wonder. Shrugs her shoulders, grabs them and hops out of the Jeep.

Steve takes a couple of the bags of groceries from the Jeep and banters with Kylie as they walk up to the house.

KYLIE

Disqualification ensues for a dirty short-cut ... and I now bask in a wonderful victory.

STEVE

Disqualification ensues for a dirty false-start ... and now I bask in a glorious victory.

KYLIE

That was your obvious handicap for having the quicker vehicle. Actually that makes the taste of triumph, oh so sweeter.

Always the gentleman, Steve holds the back door for Kylie.

STEVE

I'll let you live in your disillusioned dreamworld ... I'll walk in the truth.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Chad is just finishing putting the last COFFEE MUG into the dishwasher as Steve and Kylie place the first load of groceries on the counter.

Steve heads back out the door to get the rest.

CHAD

(yelling)

All I'm saying is, how hard is it to simply place the mug in the dishwasher instead of in the sink?

The sarcastic voices of a man and woman seem to fall down from the vaulted ceiling of the "great room" just beyond the kitchen.

MAN

WOMAN

Pretty hard.

SO sorry, Chad.

Kylie walks over to Chad to hand him his coffee.

CHAD

(to Kylie)

So there's one more step ... the actual opening of the dishwasher.

KYLIE

I would say two, with the pulling out of the rack.

Voices again.

WOMAN (V.O.)

That's four extra steps ...

MAN (V.O.)

... by the time you push the rack back in and close the door.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Too much effort.

MAN (V.O.)

Way.

Chad shakes his head at this ongoing battle before noticing his coffee cup has LATTE FOAM all over it.

This clearly disturbs him, but he tries not to let Kylie see this.

CHAD

Thanks, Kylie. Rough ride?

KYLIE

Not more than usual.

Chad notices the other coffee cups are spotless, but says nothing.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS GREAT ROOM - DAY

Kylie heads through carrying the rest of the coffees.

KYLIE

Sorry, I took longer than planned.

Two heads pop over from the LOFT above at virtually the same time. We meet face to face REX and BARB ANDREWS, a frumpy middle-aged English couple.

BARB

No problem ...

REX

... turbo girl.

Kylie heads up the loft stairs.

KYLIE

At least it's before afternoon tea.

REX

Aha! Of course a tea joke ...

BARB

... because we're English.

Barb and Rex feign laughter.

REX

You're so pithy with your quips.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Kylie rounds the corner into an unexpected sight. The loft is surprisingly spacious and is decked to the hilt with almost every high-tech communications gadget imaginable.

At the center of all the gadgetry is an ultra-dynamic huge plasma screen showing a map of the United States.

There are various color-coded markings in scattered areas, along with what appears to be the current weather situation for each area of the country.

In front of the screen is a table in the shape of a semicircle. There are also a few other workstations peppered about.

There has been an attempt to fuse technology with the classic organic lumber lodge look of the cabin, making for a very innovative working environment. In a way, the layout resembles the practicality of a war room command post.

Kylie passes them their coffees before taking the last one for herself.

BARB

It's so typical of you Americans, trying your best to be original by stealing the thunder of the English.

REX

The original fad of coffee and the coffee house date back to Shakespeare's time.

KYLIE

Ooh. It seems I've hit a defensive English nerve.

BARB

If communicating reality is what you call defensive, then so be it.

Steve enters from a doorway on the far side of the loft, which leads to the rest of the upstairs.

STEVE

Not to interrupt your English elitist propaganda ... again ... but Kylie and I have to be in Aspen for a 7 o'clock call time ... that is if Kylie is still up for being my "escort" for the evening.

KYLIE

(ignoring Barb's comment)
I can think of a lot of better
things to do than waste time at
some opera, but since it's for a
good cause ...

STEVE

You mean, spending a wonderful evening with me isn't motivation enough?

REX

Don't flatter yourself, Steve.

BARB

I think we all have more "quality time" with you than we can handle.

Chad's voice is heard from below.

CHAD (V.O.)

Alright ... I see how it is ...

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS Chad is looking up.

CHAD

You expect me to put away all of these groceries.

Steve looks over the side.

STEVE

Don't worry. We won't start without you. We'll hold our meeting off for 10.

CHAD

Since when did I become everyone's "patsy"?

Kylie looks over, turning on her girlish wiles.

KYLIE

Chaddie, if you wouldn't mind at least putting away the perishables, I'll be sure to make it up to you.

CHAD

(obviously smitten) Oh, OK.

Chad walks back towards kitchen.

CHAD

(to himself)

Can I choose how you "make it up to me"?

Steve looks over at Kylie.

STEVE

Chaddie?

Kylie smiles and shrugs her shoulders in victory.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS LOFT - LATER

Chad, Kylie, Steve, Barb and Rex are gathered around the table in front of the plasma screen.

STEVE

So, our recent "transactions" are washed and ready to go then?

REX

Certified, Swiss bank processed.

BARB

Wholly organic.

STEVE

And the total less expenses?

REX

15.8 Mil. Not as high as we forecasted ...

BARE

... but far from being a wash.

STEVE

Still, it may be more powerfully effective if we disperse it down just one channel this time.

CHAD

I agree. Let's keep it from getting watered down.

KYLIE

Let's do it.

REX BARB

Here-here.

Here-here.

STEVE

Alas, but whose cause shall we choose?

CHAD

Not that I don't think each of yours are of equal importance ...

KYLIE

But yours is more?

CHAD

(flustered)

No. It's just that ... well, I know the nature of each one is time sensitive.

KYLIE

But yours is the most?

CHAD

(even more flustered)
No. I ... well, in a way ...

STEVE

You don't have to sell us Chad. Just don't start flashing the starving children pictures.

REX

I agree with the crucial state of the Sudanese children ...

BARB

But our distribution channels aren't secure enough yet. Their area's too volatile.

REX

We don't need precious food and medical supplies to just be consumed by the corrupt thugs who are causing the problems in the first place.

KYLIE

We agreed before we went into this that we'd make sure the "redistribution" actually made it to the people in need.

CHAD

(point taken)

Agreed.

STEVE

I think we all feel almost as strongly as you do about this Chad.

REX

What about that stateside pet project of yours?

BARB

"The Compassion Center," wasn't it?

STEVE

Too much to flood at once stateside, but I'll feel it out tonight.

CHAD

Tonight?

STEVE

Kylie has been kind enough to agree to join me at a benefit for "The Compassion Center."

CHAD

You and Kylie?

BARB

A night at the opera.

REX

In Aspen.

CHAD

Where was I when all this information was shared?

KYLIE

Hmmmm.

REX

Must have been when you were busy tidying things up.

STEVE

Well, as my granddad used to say, let's not let the money burn holes in our pockets. At the right timing we'll know who needs it.

KYLIE

Well, then. I have an opera to primp for.

CHAD

Since when have you needed to primp?

KYLIE

Why, Chadwick. I do believe you should be the one escorting me.

STEVE

Too bad, so sad. Maybe next time. But you don't mind getting the 'copter prepped, do you?

CHAD

Oh, not at all. Your humble servant will be glad to prepare your carriage for the ball.

Kylie is up and heading through the door to the second level bedrooms of the house.

As she does she walks by a huge wood plaque high above the plasma screen with these words carved and burned into it: "SHERWOOD OP CENTER."

EXT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS - LATER

Steve can be seen in a tux inside the helicopter firing up the prop.

Kylie runs across the launching pad in high heels, totally decked out. Chad is conveniently waiting to help her into the passenger seat.

The helicopter takes off as Chad watches, clearly dazed by Kylie.

EXT. ASPEN'S WHEELER OPERA HOUSE - EVENING

Steve and Kylie appear to be running late. As they enter, the doorman looks at his watch. It is one minute before 7.

INT. ASPEN'S WHEELER OPERA HOUSE - EVENING

Steve and Kylie enter into their seats. We see the backs of the heads of a MAN and a WOMAN seated next to two open seats.

The curtain comes up just as Steve and Kylie get seated. Steve whispers across Kylie. The camera is close on Steve, slowly pulling back.

STEVE

Nare a minute to spare.

The camera has just taken in Kylie.

KYLIE

Had trouble finding a parking spot.
Hi, I'm Kylie.

The camera just takes in the man to reveal Lee Taylor.

LEE

I'm Lee and this is ...

The camera has now taken the woman who is commonly beautiful in the simplest way. MARY ARDEN leans across Lee.

MARY

Mary. Hi, Steve. Always have to push the limits, don't you?

The opening orchestration is over and the lead soprano belts out the opening aria.

All four settle into their seats to take in the show.

EXT. THE HOTEL JEROME - NIGHT

There is more activity than usual on this mid-summer's night outside of the Hotel Jerome in Aspen, CO. A good part of the opera crowd has gathered to extend their evening as long as possible.

INT. CENTURY ROOM - NIGHT

The elegant and inviting restaurant inside the Hotel Jerome is filled with the kind of cheery talk found in a completely relaxed crowd.

Mary, Lee, Steve, and Kylie are already enjoying their meal.

KYLIE

So, let me get this straight, you actually all went to grade school together?

MARY

Starting in third grade when I moved to town.

STEVE

And I'll have you know, that it is firmly on record that I was actually the one who was smitten by Mary first.

LEE

Or so he would like to believe ... The one thing for sure is I was the one who got her to check off the "do you like me, 'yes' box" first.

STEVE

Only because you sabotaged my note during our game of kick ball.

MARY

Here we go again ...

KYLIE

Do tell ... this is all very intriguing.

LEE

Steve and I were the team captains. We were pitted against each other, pushing the recess clock and it was a seven-up score ...

STEVE

With the whistle ready to be blown, I kicked a virtual home run.

LEE

Or so it would seem. I was able to get a diving throw and pegged Steve right in the pocket just as he was hitting home plate.

STEVE

My wonderfully romantic note flew out and into a mud puddle. I was called safe and we won the game, but before I could get my note rewritten ... Lee moved in and won the girl.

LEE

I still say I won the game, too.

KYLIE

So you two have been together since then?

We see Mary a bit uneasy at this question.

MARY

Well, not entirely ...

LEE

You know how those romances go, on and off again through the years ...

STEVE

Never long enough to give me a chance though.

MARY

Oh, Steve. You had plenty of chances.

LEE

Then Steve and I went off together to seek our glory in the Special Forces.

KYLIE

You mean you two actually were in the service together as well?

STEVE

Very same unit.

LEE

Although we finally did have to go our separate ways as I chose the glamorous life of public service and Steve just went looking for ways to spend his family's inheritance.

STEVE

At least you're committed to serving the public since you seem to have problems committing elsewhere.

KYLIE

You mean you two aren't married?

This is now obviously a very tender issue. Steve has done the damage he's wanted to and moves the conversation on.

STEVE

(eyes Kylie)

Lee is married to the FBI.

Kylie almost chokes on her current bite.

KYLIE

FBI?!

EXT. THE HOTEL JEROME - LATER

Steve, Kylie, Mary, and Lee are gathered to say their goodbyes.

STEVE

So you promise you will join our little company "play day."

LEE

Wouldn't miss one of your "fantastic challenge" events. Gives me a chance to rise above once more.

MARY

I will, only if you promise to visit me at the "Compassion Center" the Monday after.

STEVE

I have to promise?

MARY

You mean giving your word isn't your promise?

KYLIE

Ouch. I like you Mary.

STEVE

Lee, bring along your cohort ... I'd love to meet him.

LEE

Oh, he'll definitely make the experience more ... interesting.

KYLIE

Interesting?

MARY

Once you meet him, you'll understand.

All four AD-LIB good-byes and walk in two opposite directions.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

Chad runs through the pines at a furious pace. By the looks of the toll taken on his body, he's been going at this for awhile.

He unleashes every last drop of energy in his final sprint to the house.

As he crosses an imaginary finish line, he hits the stop button on his wristwatch.

He paces for a moment to catch his breath before glancing at the watch. By his overly frustrated reaction, it is easy to see that he has fallen short of his mark.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS KITCHEN - MORNING

Chad walks to the sink and immediately pours himself a huge glass of water.

There are coffee cups left in the sink.

He gives a huge frustrated grunt as he walks into the great room; something is really irking him.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steve is sitting in his favorite chair, drinking a cup of coffee and reading the Wall Street Journal.

STEVE

Beat yourself again?

Chad just grunts and then heads down the back hallway.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS LOFT - LATER

Rex, Barb, Steve, and Kylie are sitting at the meeting table.

KYLIE

So, where's Chad?

Chad is just coming up the stairs and around the corner.

CHAD

I'm right here.

They all eye each other at the obviousness of Chad's bad mood.

REX

Someone need a bit more java this mornin'?

BARB

I think I detect a jealous bug?

KYLIE

Jealous of what?

CHAD

That is not it ... OK?

KYLIE

Am I missing something?

BARB

I'll say so, hon!

STEVE

Well, then ... maybe we should ... (changing subject) how are the hot spots looking?

Barb moves up by the plasma screen as she talks, almost as if she's giving the weather report for the local news.

BARB

We have a wildfire that's getting harder to contain, but not much of a treasure trove ... the conditions for the hurricane are ripening ... not quite the extreme weather yet.

REX

But it's definitely brewing for sure. We've pinpointed our ideal locations for a hit with the red marks.

STEVE

I've got a gut feeling about this wildfire. Think about it. If the winds change we could be right into diamond country.

BARB

True ... but there is also a front moving in here ...

Barb continues her meteorologist gig.

REX

... which could soak the area and end our wildfire dreams.

BARB

We have "ripe condition" alerts programmed to be sent to our phones so we don't miss our windows ...

REX

... of opportunity, if you will.

Rex and Barb are anxious to get back to the unanswered questions that were so blatantly skirted by Steve.

REX

OK ... now, do tell us about the opera?

BARB

Yes, was it terribly romantic?

Chad gives them a glare.

KYLTE

It was romantic. Yes. But that of course had nothing to do with the two of us.

STEVE

Can't a guy and a girl go to a show as friends and still have a great time?

Chad slowly decompresses at this news.

KYLIE

But get this! You won't believe who one of Steve's best friends is ... or should I say does ... for a living.

BARB

Oooo ... I sense some intriguing tidbits.

KYLIE

(spelling it out)

F ... B ... I ...

REX

BARB

Do tell!

I love it.

STEVE

Not only that ... his specialty is investigating higher-end robberies.

KYLTE

You never mentioned that.

STEVE

Although, I didn't have a chance to feel out what he knows about Libertytown ... we shall see.

KYLIE

This work just keeps getting more and more fun.

CHAD

I'm all for the thrill of this like the rest of you ... but calling a best friend FBI guy who can toast our little bums ...

(aside to Rex and Mary)
That was for you two ...
 (back to the group)
... fun, is just a tiny bit
disconcerting.

KYLIE

But wait ... it gets better. He's coming with his partner to our "company" play day at Steamboat Lake!

REX

Let the cat and mouse games begin.

BARB

Meow.

Chad shakes his head in bewilderment.

CHAD

You all are seriously driving me to some serious aromatherapy.

EXT. STEAMBOAT LAKE - DAY

A Gretchen Wilson cover of the Billy Crash Craddock's classic country song, "Rub It In," kicks off the scene. Kylie has lured Chad to lotion up her back, oblivious to the torture it is causing him.

It's the ultimate pristine Colorado summer day - right at the start of Bridge Island in the Dutch Hill camping area.

Rex and Barb are saddling two beautiful Arabian horses.

Steve and Mary are rigging two wind-surf boards.

Lee and Bill work together to place two canoes down by the water.

Kylie motions for Chad to take his time as she eyes Steve, hoping for noticeable jealousy.

She gets none.

Steve and Mary laugh together as they move the wind-surf boards down by the water.

Lee raises an questioning eyebrow at how well they are getting along.

Song slowly fades out.

EXT. STEAMBOAT LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

The whole "play day" gang is gathered in a circle by the edge of the water.

Bill is a little too chummy with Kylie for his own good.

Chad is concerned.

STEVE

So then it's the boards to the opposite side, where you have to get the flag on top of the hill across there yonder ... then hand off to the horses who race to the canoes, which have to go all the way around Bridge Island back to here to stake the flag. Losers filet, cook, and serve the trout dinner to the winners. Rex and Barb will be at the appropriate points to keep us honest.

All AD-LIB their readiness for the relay competition.

A CLASSIC ROCK SONG kicks in as everyone moves out.

Chad and Bill move to the wind-surf boards.

Mary and Kylie mount the horses and trot off.

Steve and Lee give each other a "may-the-best-man-win" handshake and move to the water's edge by the canoes to cheer on their teams.

Rex moves down by Chad and Bill.

Seeing they are equally ready, Rex gives them the "go" signal and the competition is on!

Chad and Bill paddle out and waste no time sailing across the lake. There is just enough breeze to keep them moving at a decent pace.

Bill is his usual carefree self having the time of his life. He is clueless to how serious Chad is taking the race. Bill's happy-go-lucky attitude, combined with his over-friendliness to Kylie is fully irking Chad.

On top of this, Bill is in the lead.

Kylie and Mary reach the other side on the horses.

Chad is tenser than ever.

Rex and Barb arrive in the Jeep CJ, thoroughly enjoying their referee roles.

Bill lands on the shore to Kylie's exuberant cheers.

Chad, over-eager to catch back up to Bill, loses his focus a few yards from the shore and takes a hard spill.

Kylie laughs hard at Chad's fall as Mary encourages him to press on.

Bill runs up the hill with all his might.

Chad swims to shore with his board as quickly as he can.

Rex and Mary each pick up a wind-surf board and move it to the Jeep.

Although he is in good shape, Bill is still no match for Chad's cross-country sprinting skills and the gap closes quickly.

Bill grabs the flag and heads back down the hill.

Bill passes Chad nearing the top.

Bill takes a goofy trip, but in an "I meant to do that" fashion, he rolls into a head-over-heel tumble and smoothly lands back on his feet.

Chad stops for a quick-beat look of "I can't believe this" as he grabs his flag.

Chad now runs down the hill with reckless abandon and quickly gains on Bill.

Kylie and Mary shout with all their might.

Bill reaches Kylie first and passes her the flag as she quickly gallops off.

It's only moments before Chad catches up and passes his flag to Mary.

Mary is off.

Bill and Chad regain their breath as Rex and Barb give them water.

Kylie is a little over-confident and isn't pushing her horse to the hilt.

Unbeknownst to Kylie, Mary is quite the horsewoman and quickly makes up for Chad's loss.

Kylie and Mary ride full force over the terrain, alternating leads before Mary gains the clear edge.

Kylie's innate sense of competition is now in overdrive.

It's too late!

Mary maintains the slight lead she has so cleverly gained.

Steve and Lee cheer as they see the horses come into view.

Steve quickly runs to Mary, grabs the flag and is in his canoe.

Lee is close on his tail and launches the second canoe.

Steve rounds the tip of Bridge Island feeling like he has a comfortable lead.

Lee makes an amazing turn around the tip and before you know it is bumping the back of Steve's canoe.

They now start the "battle at sea," each trying to sabotage the other. They are clearly enjoying themselves, laughing at each other's exploits to win the race at any cost.

Steve and Lee are now coming to the finish line.

Chad and Bill pull up with Rex and Barb in the Jeep.

They all hop out and join the already cheering Kylie and Mary.

Right as they near the shore, Steve and Lee are side-by-side in total hand-to-hand combat. They are laughing so hard that they can barely keep steady ...

Which they don't.

They both fall over each other backwards into the water.

They scramble to recover their flags in the shallow water.

Steve happens to catch hold of both flags by chance.

Steve tosses Lee's over to the side.

Lee dives to catch it.

Lee comes up out of the water. He has made a miraculous catch.

Steve takes advantage of his back-handed move and rushes to shore.

Steve is on shore and is about to stake his flag at the finish line just as ...

Lee grabs his legs and brings him down.

As Steve goes down he plants his flag.

Steve, Mary, and Chad have won the race.

Shouts of joy and disappointment ensue from the respective teams.

EXT. STEAMBOAT LAKE - EARLY EVENING

Kylie and Bill are down by the shore cleaning up the fresh trout.

BTT.T.

So, I'm not sure I understand exactly what your company does. I mean, Lee kind of clued me in a little, but I still don't think I get it.

KYLIE

We are sort of a philanthropic distribution center, if you will.

BILL

So you give to the needy?

KYLIE

We try to pinpoint our causes, but I guess in a basic sense, yes.

BILL

Where do your funds come from?

KYLIE

From inspired sources crying out to redeem their filthy lucre.

BILL

(confused)

Cool.

Kylie catches Bill looking at a unique braided bracelet on her wrist.

KYLIE

It's sort of an African friendship bracelet.

BILL

Sort of?

KYLIE

Well it's not from a friend, but I wear it to remind me of "a cause" very dear to my heart.

Rex, Barb sit in captain's chairs as Chad stokes the fire. Lee preps the fish and frying pan.

REX

(to Chad)

Bill and Kylie seem to be getting on alright then?

CHAD

Why, because they're talking as they dig out fish guts?

BARB

Or so it seems.

LEE

Bill at least likes to think he's a player.

Chad does not like to hear this.

REX

Yes?

Lee picks up on Rex and Barb's play with Chad.

LEE

All I'm saying is, I'm sure Bill isn't thinking that he lost anything today.

CHAD

I think I'll go see if I can speed this up. I'm hungry.

Chad walks down towards Kylie and Bill.

Lee takes notice of Mary and Steve, skipping rocks a little further down the shore.

BARB

I see someone who's soaking in his victory though.

LEE

Oh, no you don't. You're not going to get me going.

REX

Not the jealous type, eh?

LEE

Especially, not when there's nothing to be jealous about.

BARB

You poor denying soul. I haven't seen Steve get on this well with a lass for ...

REX

Never?

Lee shows the very slightest bit of discomfort - there is now a seed planted in his mind.

Barb takes this victory, albeit subtle, and moves on in her cat and mousing.

BARB

So, what big cases are you trying to crack?

REX

Yes. We're absolutely fascinated that we have two actual FBI men here in the flesh.

LEE

There are always many cases we have in the works.

BARB

Well, then tell us your biggest mystery of the moment.

LEE

Mystery?

REX

Oh, you know we English are always into a good "who-done-it."

BARB

So much Agatha Christie influence, you know?

LEE

Well, no murder mysteries to "excite" you, but there is one Bill and I've tabbed "the Flood Heist."

Rex and Barb's faces reveal the intensity of adrenaline rush they are feeling.

REX

BARB

Flood heist?

How intriguing.

LEE

A quaint little place called "Libertytown," was already under a flood watch when their dam unexpectedly gave way ...

EXT. STEAMBOAT LAKE - NIGHT

Framed by "lodgepole pines," the summer Colorado sky glows with an unmatched starry brilliance.

Gathered around the now roaring campfire, the whole group is broken up into three different "conversation pockets": Steve, Mary and Lee; Bill, Kylie and Chad; Rex and Barb.

MARY

... it's just that the biggest need I have, and I think that most charitable organizations have is not money ... it's actual flesh and blood people.

STEVE

(teasing)

So it's no longer good enough just to leave the money and run?

MARY

Steve, you know what I mean.

LEE

Oh, she'll take your money, alright!

Steve and Lee chuckle at themselves as if they were at that moment, ten-years old. Mary knows better than to take herself too seriously and play into their games.

MARY

For once, could you two be grown-up when you're together?

LEE

Grow up?

STEVE

Never!

MARY

Anyway, I came to your play day ... now according our agreement, you owe me a visit at the Compassion Center on Monday morning.

STEVE

Did I agree to that?

EXT. STEAMBOAT LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

Rex and Barb are trying to make s'mores, but are making more of a mess with sticky hands, oozing chocolate and burnt marshmallows.

Chad has left his jealous tendencies by the wayside, for now, and has decided to be the man that he is by warming up to Bill. Kylie is relishing the attention from both gentlemen.

BILL

OK. The ultimate fall group.

KYLIE

Fall group?

CHAD

You know, the group you find yourself listening to most in the fall.

BILL

The man is with me.

KYLIE

OK ...

CHAD

Hands down, U2.

BILL

(complete agreement, matter of fact) No better fall band. None.

KYLIE

U2?

BILL

Of course, they're great any time of the year ... but especially the classic U2 ... come fall.

CHAD

Live at Red Rocks ... I had tickets but decided to go skiing instead.

BILL

(utter shock)

I can't even allow that to sink in ... I'll be disturbed for months.

CHAD

(ashamed)

Who knew? I was young, in college and wanted to go skiing with some girls.

BILL

Girls? Over the concert of the decade?

(beat)

Downhill skiing?

CHAD

Water ...

BILL

Stop. Just stop.

KYLIE

You two are starting to scare me.

Steve, Mary and Lee are across the fire, now lying on their backs, in continued conversation as they look up at the stars.

Ah ... the crackling campfire the mountain air ... the starry night.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS LOFT - EVENING

The wildfire simulation flashes on the plasma screen, while Rex points to a specific location.

REX

This is definitely the area we need to make ready for. One, maybe two days and she'll be ripe for the picking.

Rex, Barb, Steve, Chad and Kylie are gathered at their usual spots around the meeting table.

BARB

This is it. Five of the premiere purveyors of African "conflict diamonds."

REX

Or as some call them, the more apropos "blood diamonds."

BARB

A little outlet tourist trap called "Diamondville"... there's a reason they can sell them so cheap.

KYLIE

We'll show them the true cost of "looking the other way."

CHAD

(visibly angered)

They deserve more than this ... but at least we'll be able to turn the bad into some good.

STEVE

Definitely an occasion to funnel it back to the freedom fighters.

(MORE)

STEVE (cont'd)

It may not be your full Sudan cause, Chad, but I'm sure everyone would agree on getting the compensation back to the countries harmed.

BARB

We'll hopefully know better when we have the rocks in our hands, but I expect it will be the usual suspects ... The Congo, Sierra Leone, Angola ... Liberia ...

STEVE

Let's get full preparations under way and ready for launch when it's rock-n-roll time.

REX

It looks like we may need a pretty quick turn around too.

Rex motions to an area off the Gulf of Mexico on the plasma screen.

REX

There's a tropical storm brewing here that has all the right symptoms of a good ole' fashioned hurricane knocker!

BARB

Our best bet may be back to the FDIC gig ... but I'll know better when we see exactly where it's heading.

Steve gets up.

STEVE

OK. Well, I need to hit the sack early since I've committed myself to visit the "Compassion Center" in the morning. Who's coming with?

KYLIE

I need my beauty sleep.

BARB

Us? Help the needy?

REX

The down and outers?

STEVE

You may even have some real life contact!

REX

I think we have to ...

BARB

... dry some tea leaves!

REX

BARB

We English.

We English.

STEVE

Hey, I'm more of a hands off guy as well \dots

KYLIE

(jealous)

... but there just happens to be someone you'd like to be hands on with.

STEVE

Me and Mary? Just friends.

KYLIE

I would correct you and say "Mary and I" but it's pretty normal with you putting yourself first.

Kylie is up and down the loft stairs.

STEVE

What's eating her?

REX

Are we the only ones who see around here?

CHAD

Count me in, Steve. I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty.

BARB

Just make sure you bring some hand gel, dear.

EXT. COMPASSION CENTER - MORNING

It has turned out to be a rainy, Monday morning outside "The Compassion Center" - a renovated old church in the heart of the city.

The parish has been turned into a day shelter with a quaint little sign, "Soup's On" above the main door.

INT. COMPASSION CENTER - MORNING

Steve and Chad are coming to the end of their tour with LAUREN CRAWFORD, a cute, sincerely cheerful volunteer.

LAUREN

So that's basically it ... nothing too fancy, but we still think it's quaint.

CHAD

It's totally cool. I love the classic architecture. So, you work here full-time?

Chad is a little too obvious in his overly interested manner towards Lauren. Steve gives him a nudge on the sly.

LAUREN

In the summer. During the year I don't have so much time. I start med school here in a couple of weeks.

CHAD

(way obvious)

How do you manage all your time?

LAUREN

It's not so hard when you use it for the things you're passionate about.

STEVE

Thanks for showing us around, Lauren.

LAUREN

I'm surprised Mary isn't here yet
... she always ...

Mary walks in, wet from the rain. She tries to be in good spirits.

MARY

Here I coerce you into coming down here and I'm late. Oh, that's nice of you to come down, too, Chad.

CHAD

Lauren was kind enough to give us the grand tour.

STEVE

I thought Lee was coming?

MARY

So now you know why I'm late. He's forever leaving me standing in the rain for something more important. But, I'm sure I'll get over it as usual.

Before Steve can reply, a coughing, ragged WOMAN stumbles through the front door.

MARY

Oh, Maria, what are we going to do with you getting all soaked in the rain like this!

Maria is in a worse state than Mary had guessed as she hacks uncontrollably. Steve looks at Maria with disgust.

LAUREN

I'll get some blankets and dry clothes.

CHAD

I'll help you.

Lauren and Chad head back into the parish. Mary tries to help Maria across to a couch.

MARY

Maria. Come on honey ...

Maria starts to buckle with Mary. Steve jumps in to keep them both from falling to the floor.

Maria lets herself fall into Steve's arms.

As he helps Maria settle down on the couch he is thoroughly repulsed, until ...

She looks up into his eyes.

Steve is visibly shaken with compassion. He loses himself momentarily as he holds her tight.

Maria's coughing starts to subside.

Mary has been witness to what she knows is a miracle ... and not for Maria.

MARY

I'll run and get some hot coffee.

Steve is speechless, trying to maintain composure as Mary heads off towards the kitchen.

Chad and Lauren hurry to the couch with their bundle of blankets and clothes.

Lauren opens up a blanket and starts to wrap it around Maria with Steve's help.

LAUREN

Let's at least get you calmed down and warmed up a bit before we head back to change clothes, OK dear?

Mary is back handing off the promised cup of coffee to Lauren, who is now seated on the other side of Maria. Maria's cough is practically gone now.

We notice that Maria is gripping Steve's hand.

MARY

Try to get some of that down dear.

Lauren puts the coffee cup up to Maria's mouth. Maria takes a sip, as she looks around in thankfulness.

Steve is all of a sudden shaken out of the moment. He pulls a beeper from his waist.

"ROCK-N-ROll" appears in the message screen.

Steve sends a knowing glance Chad's way.

STEVE

Mary, I'm ...

MARY

I understand ... duty calls ... seems to be my lot of the morning. At least you finally made it down.

STEVE

I'll definitely take a rain check. I'd love to spend some more time with you.

MARY

OK. You've just gotten yourself into another commitment.

STEVE

I told you, I'm not the one who has trouble committing.

Mary gives Steve a warm smile without knowing how to reply.

Mary takes Steve's place by Maria.

CHAD

Lauren, it was an honor and a pleasure.

LAUREN

Sorry you have to run. See you again?

STEVE

You can be sure of it. (to Chad)
Let's go, slick.

Steve and Chad are out the door.

Maria is not really sure what's going on as she takes a sip of her warm drink.

It continues to pour down rain.

EXT. WILDFIRE - EARLY EVENING

A wall of fire is raging out of control as night is setting in.

A closer look reveals a few pockets where the trees have already been crisped.

Suddenly and simultaneously, three dirt bikes shoot out of the pockets.

Headlights off, Steve, Kylie and Chad, dressed in black from helmet to boot, fly over some charred debris. The three have oxygen rigs over their faces, giving the appearance that they are straight out of a 50s B Sci-Fi movie.

As the bikers floor down the hill, they have to dodge and slalom through a variety of burning brush patches in a small clearing before charging back into the thick of the woods.

A scorched falling tree plummets just behind Steve as he clears its plane.

New flames ignite underneath Kylie and damage the rubber on her tires.

Chad goes through two falling trees as they crisscross, with the bike barely clearing the crisp remains.

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - EVENING

The fire blazes on all sides of the town.

There is a burnt look everywhere, even places that were not consumed by the flames.

Steam rises from recent liquid drops from the fire fighting planes. Every living thing in need of oxygen has fled.

Here come the "three bikers from outer space" down the main drag.

We now see a sign that says "Diamondville ... Beauty Doesn't Have To Cost Uqly."

We get a better look to see that the town is virtually made up of jewelry stores.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT

The three ransack the jewelry cases, not believing these owners deserve any mercy.

INT. ANOTHER JEWELRY STORE - LATER

A safe has just been blasted. Bags of diamonds are seized.

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - LATER

A good sized pile of bags full of jewelry and diamonds of all sizes is in the middle of the street.

INT. YET ANOTHER JEWELRY STORE - LATER

Steve, Kylie and Chad try a back door by chance and come upon a hidden safe.

INT. HIDDEN SAFE - MOMENTS LATER

Explosives pop open the safe with military precision. Inside they find the mother lode.

EXT. SKY ABOVE DIAMONDVILLE - NIGHT

A FEMA search and rescue helicopter flies overhead with lights scanning the ground in a routine pass.

INT. FEMA SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER - MOMENTS LATER

The OPERATOR and his COPILOT both fight to stay awake.

COPILOT

A final pass of the night before I pass out.

Both are looking out the window.

The light passes over the loot pile in the middle of the street.

OPERATOR

Tell me about it, compadre. Wait - I think I saw something.

COPILOT

No you didn't.

Makes hand motions in front of the operator's face.

COPILOT

You didn't see anything ...

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - NIGHT

Steve, Chad and Kylie are pressed against a wall.

EXT. SKY ABOVE DIAMONDVILLE - NIGHT

The helicopter moves makes a large arc to come back around.

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - NIGHT

Steve, Chad and Kylie make a mad dash for the loot.

INT. FEMA SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER - NIGHT

OPERATOR

Just one more pass OK? Otherwise I'll have this nagging unction all night.

COPILOT

I think we're in the hallucination stage, to tell you the truth.

OPERATOR

Just shine the light directly down the main strip there, OK?

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - CONTINUOUS

The light comes down through the center of the main drag.

Kylie barely clears the light pool as she dives to the side.

INT. FEMA SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

COPILOT

There. Nare a gnat. Are you satisfied?

OPERATOR

Satisfied.

EXT. SKY ABOVE DIAMONDVILLE - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter hits full throttle and takes off into the night.

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - CONTINUOUS

Steve, Kylie and Chad give each other the "all is clear" signal.

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - MOMENTS LATER

The three desperados quickly load their saddle-bags to the hilt ... bulging out as far as they can go.

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - MOMENTS LATER

The three, now very low-riding dirt bikes book it side-byside down the street the opposite way they came in.

They disappear into the fiery darkness.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

There are many varieties of rescue vehicles lining the road.

Each division is in their own little crisis and oblivious to what is happening outside their own rescue unit and specific mission.

There is an espresso coffee cart set up right off the road, with a couple of coffee hounds doing their community service - sharing their gift of stimulation to the weary rescue workers.

Two familiar backsides have just finished receiving their five coffee order.

COFFEE HOUND ONE

Thank you for all your sacrifice and hard work.

It is ... of course ... Rex and Barb.

REX

Don't mention it.

BARB

Your part is just as important as the rest of ours.

COFFEE HOUND TWO

Well, we like to think we are at least offering the warmth of a friendly cup of inspiration.

REX

In more ways than you know.

BARB

We better get these out to those sacrificing while they're hot now.

REX

Cheers, friend.

Rex and Barb head back towards the road.

COFFEE HOUND ONE

I just love an English accent.

COFFEE HOUND TWO

So cosmopolitan.

Rex and Barb amble to a white service truck featuring a generic red cross emblem.

BARB

All this chatter is pushing us just a nudge towards being late.

REX

Plenty of time. I'm aware. Always aware.

They casually climb in the truck.

Rex nonchalantly looks around before starting it up.

Rex backs down a small dirt access road to the edge of the clearing.

They stop just at the edge of the woods, the truck covering a "hole" into the woods.

Rex takes a sip of his coffee before stepping out of the truck.

BARB

Need any help love?

REX

I got it, dear.

Rex whistles a happy tune as he opens the back of the truck. He glances around, then pulls out the ramp. He looks at his watch.

REX

(muttering)

Should be right about ...

We hear the sound of dirt bikes.

REX

Now.

He gives a smile of satisfaction as Kylie, Chad and Steve zip up the ramp and into the truck, one, two, three.

Rex casually pulls down the door, pushes in the ramp and gets back in the drivers seat.

BARB

Your timing is truly impeccable.

REX

Like I said, I'm aware.

Rex pulls the truck back onto the road and heads down through the myriad of flashing lights.

Barb gives a quick wave to the coffee hounds.

As they clear the last of the rescue units, Barb opens the cab window that gives access to the rear.

Steve, Chad and Kylie's heads pop into view. Barb hands them each their coffees.

BARB

A bit of a surprise bonus to top off your evening of fun.

KYLIE

No way.

CHAD

Unbelievable.

STEVE

And it's even piping hot.

REX

I trust that's not the only hot thing back there?

KYLIE

Besides me?

CHAD

You will not be disappointed.

STEVE

Oh, no.

Kylie glances down and notices her friendship bracelet is gone.

The truck disappears into the night.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

A red convertible Mustang cruises down the road. There are smouldering remnants of the wildfire on all sides.

INT. MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Lee helms the wheel as Bill lies back soaking up the sun. He slyly dons his "Risky Business" Wayfarer Ray-Bans. Willie Nelson's "Always On My Mind," plays softly on the radio.

Lee looks over at Bill.

LEE

Nice shades.

BILL

Hey, if they're good enough for Tom, they're good enough for me.

LEE

Sure ... maybe 24 years ago!

BILL

It's not like I wear them all the time. I pull them out for special occasions. Riding in a Mustang convertible is one of those occasions. You know, I think I like Willie's version of this song, almost as much as the Elvis rendition.

LEE

That's arguable.

BILL

Regardless. This moment, right here (motions at surroundings)
This is a classic Willie moment to be savored.

Lee reaches forward and turns up the radio.

EXT. DIAMONDVILLE - DAY

The once quaint bargain hunter's paradise looks like a war zone. The wildfire's ugly toll carries a stark contrast to the gorgeous weather.

There is yellow police barrier tape strung throughout the village.

There are POLICE OFFICERS peppered amongst the shops, documenting the crime scene.

We notice the red Mustang parked at the end of the street.

Lee and Bill come out from one of the stores on the end and start walking towards us with OFFICER JOHN.

LEE

... but why just this area? There are plenty of banks, million-dollar homes and the like that were just as vulnerable during the wildfire.

OFFICER JOHN

We've been asking ourselves the same question and there is one unique thing about Diamondville.

BILL

You mean, beside the cheesy oldwest motif and every tourist gag in the book?

Officer John stops to get the most out of his dramatic pause.

OFFICER JOHN

Blood diamonds.

He takes another ultra-dramatic pause as he looks Bill and Lee each in the face looking for their reaction.

OFFICER JOHN

More commonly known as "Conflict Diamonds," I suppose because it sounds nicer.

BILL

And those would be unique because...

LEE

(annoyed at Bill's
 ignorance)

I suppose if there was a song about it you might have a clue.

OFFICER JOHN

They call them that because they are harvested at the expense of repressed people under the hand of cruel warlords to finance terrorists worldwide ... or so they say.

LEE

They say?

OFFICER JOHN

This area is a constant boil on the neck, if you'll excuse my Mr. Potterism, to the local law enforcement. We have all kinds of protesters here unleashing their peace-promoting shenanigans.

BILL

(vacant)

Interesting ...

A broken colorful friendship bracelet catches Bill's eye off to the side by some debris.

He reaches down and picks it up.

LEE

Find a souvenir?

OFFICER JOHN

Everyone's got a cause bracelet these days for everything you can imagine. No longer just a friendship thing ... You got this cancer awareness, that disease awareness, WWJD and so on. Can't we all just be aware and leave it at that? You know?

BILL

(to himself)

No. This one is unique.

INT. MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Lee and Bill are driving back through the area they came in. Bill is abnormally quiet.

LEF

What's with you?

BILL

Just thinking ... pondering ...

LEE

That's just not like you.

BILL

Ha-ha.

Lee hits the scan button on the radio and it lands at the beginning of Boston's "More Than A Feeling."

LEE

OK. If we're talking about the ultimate "cruising in a convertible nice weather song" - this is it.

Lee cranks it up, just as the guitar kicks in.

Bill can't hold himself back and snaps out of his mode. Both join in with the verse when it comes back in.

LEE

(singing)

"I see my Marianne, walking away..."

Bill joins in full force.

BOTH

"So many people have come and gone, Their faces fade as the years go by; Yet I still recall as I wander on, As clear as the sun in the summer sky."

Bill is now out of control standing on top of his seat airguitaring the chorus as they both sing along.

When the guitar solo/bridge kick in, Bill is standing with both hands in reckless abandon in the air.

BILL

Woo!!!

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER - DAY

The Mustang convertible is parked outside a vintage railway car conversion diner.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER - DAY

Lee and Bill are in the middle of a hearty diner lunch.

Lee is halfway through his burger and steak fries. Bill is a "breakfast anytime of day" type guy enjoying his American fried hash browns, smokehouse thick-cut bacon and eggs over easy.

As he eats, Bill flicks the edge of a 1/2 & 1/2 creamer trying to get it to flip and land back upright.

It does.

BTTT

Three.

Bill immediately flicks it again. The creamer lands on its side.

BILL

Three in a row is the record for today.

Lee feigns that he could care less about this fact.

LEE

Well, the explosives used are definitely the same ... and the clean way they were used is the same. But really that's where the similarities seem to end.

While he talks, Lee takes a creamer and starts flicking the edge.

LEE

The whole ransacking feel, is definitely different.

(the creamer lands
 upright)

One. More of an act of anger. (the creamer lands upright again)

Two.

BILL

Yeah, but maybe they're more the same at the root.

LEE

(creamer-flick flips
 upright)

Three. Tied. How so? Because of the cause?

BILL

Maybe the Libertytown's "Member FDIC" tip had some truth in it?

LEE

Four.

BILL

Not in the government conspiracy, but at someone knowing it's insured.

Lee is now feeling the adrenaline of victory and flips the creamers in rapid succession.

LEE

Five. Six. Seven.

Try number eight ends Lee's hot streak.

LEE

Record is now at seven, thank you very much.

BILL

Nice. Just some ideas I'm throwing around.

LEE

So your theory, if you follow the thinking through, would mean that we have some kind of group serving justice where they see fit.

BILL

Or a modern Robin Hood and his Merry Men at work here?

LEE

So they're not giving it to the poor ... but maybe they feel better inside about taking it.

BILL

Or maybe they *are* giving it to the poor ...

Bill flips the friendship bracelet out onto the table.

INT. COMPASSION CENTER - DAY

Lauren and Mary are cleaning up after lunch service. There is a knock on the door as Chad enters, bearing FLOWERS and a CARD.

CHAD

FTD man here.

LAUREN

Where is your winged helmet?

CHAD

Gone with the wind.

MARY

OK, Rhett ... what brings you down to our neighborhood?

CHAD

Special delivery...

Chad hands the flowers and card to Mary.

Mary looks at card. "Rain-check tonight?" is scribbled plainly.

CHAD

I told Steve since I was heading this way, I'd be glad to stop by.

LAUREN

Glad you did. What's it say, Mary?

Mary hands Lauren the card.

LAUREN

But aren't you and Lee supposed to -

MARY

Yes. Chad, I'm sorry to say that I'll have to rain-check the rain-check.

CHAD

I'm sure Steve will get over it.

LAUREN

But first you'll have some of this fresh apple pie.

CHAD

Well...

LAUREN

I'll put on some fresh coffee...

CHAD

Make it a la mode, twist my arm and I'm in.

LAUREN

Done.

Mary looks again at the card with a torn expression.

INT. MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Lee and Bill cruise down the highway.

 $_{
m LEE}$

I just keep thinking that there are many bracelets like that one.

BILL

I'm sure there are. But come on, Lee. You have to admit it's at least worth investigating. You know that whole company of your friend's is a little elusive.

LEE

There's no need for Steve to pull this. Him, his children and his grandchildren's children - they're set to be wealthy for life. That's what happens when you're born into the right class.

BILL

Hey, what better reason to give away your spoils? I'm just saying we check it out, at least. It's not that I want it to be true. I have to say... well... I just feel like I have this connection with Kylie. Maybe that's why I know.

LEE

You feel that connection with every woman you set your eyes on.

BILL

This is different. Truth be known, I can't get my mind off her.

LEE

You want it to be true, don't you? You want Kylie to be a bad girl.

BILL

I feel how I feel and that feeling is different than I've ever felt. You know?

(teasing back)

Surely, you understand, with Mary and all. Oh, that's right... you love but can't commit.

Lee's face scowls in self-frustration.

LEE

I can't believe it! I am a total
loser!

BILL

And you want me to disagree?

Lee picks up his cell phone. Bill turns up the radio. It is Elvis' version of "You Were Always On My Mind."

BILL

You wanted The King's version... couldn't be more fitting.

INT. COMPASSION CENTER - DAY

Mary is on the phone. Chad is just finishing up his improvised apple a la mode.

LAUREN

(whispering)

From the looks of it, I think Lee is breaking yet another date.

CHAD

(whispering back)

So he has a habit of this?

LAUREN

It's been getting really bad lately.

Lauren and Chad both glance at Mary, who is in the midst of a heated discussion.

CHAD

She looks pretty ticked.

LAUREN

I don't blame her. She's totally taken for granted. I mean I like Lee and all, but I'm tired of seeing Mary hurt like this. You know?

CHAD

I know more than you know, you know?

Mary hangs up the phone. She takes the card from Steve and scribbles on it.

Chad and Lauren pretend they haven't noticed what's been going on.

CHAD

That sure was great, Lauren.

LAUREN

I'm so glad you liked it, Chad.

Mary walks over and hands the card to Chad.

MARY

(trying to joke)

You two are so obvious.

LAUREN

CHAD

What?

Huh?

We can see that Mary is totally ticked as she heads for the door.

MARY

Make sure you get that to Steve.

Chad and Lauren look at the card at the same time.

Mary has written, "Pick me up at 5."

EXT. COLORADO FOOTHILLS - EARLY EVENING

A black limousine pulls up into an open field void of all other human presence except for Steve.

The limousine stops at Steve's feet.

Steve opens the door and reaches in to take Mary's hand.

MARY

OK, what's going on?

As Mary's head appears, blindfolded, Steve glances in and sees Rex at the wheel.

REX

Sorry, Mary... this scheme is not of my making.

Rex winks at Steve as the door is closed.

The limo pulls away. Steve stands there still holding Mary's hand.

MARY

Rex? Where are you going, Rex?

STEVE

Not to be afraid my fair maiden.

MARY

I was wondering when you would finally enter this picture. So, is this blindfold a whole date thing?

STEVE

With great patience comes great reward.

Steve gets behind Mary and slowly takes off her blindfold.

A HOT AIR BALLOON is revealed.

MARY

OK, you definitely know how to sweep a girl off her feet.

Steve takes her hand again and leads her to the balloon.

STEVE

That's what I hope to do.

EXT. COLORADO SKY - LATER

A fitting LOVE SONG lifts us as the balloon floats across an awe-inspiring sky. The mountains make for a perfect backdrop.

Steve shows Mary how to work the controls. She startles herself as she sends a blast of heat up into the balloon.

Mary is content to just enjoy the ride. She loses herself as she gazes over the side.

The balloon slowly makes its way into the mountains.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - LATER

Steve navigates the balloon down onto a small clearing with a breathtaking overlook of the scenery below and the majestic mountains in the distance.

Steve anchors the balloon.

Mary passes Steve a picnic basket and blanket.

Steve helps Mary out of the balloon and leads her to a magnificent spot at the edge of a rugged cliff.

They begin setting up their picnic area.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - EVENING

The sun is now setting. The stunning scenery is now more surreal than ever as a golden glow paints the moment.

Steve and Mary finish up their picnic.

MARY

It's all just a little too perfect.

STEVE

Perfect as far as the surroundings or as far as the company you're keeping?

MARY

Perfect in that it doesn't seem real...

STEVE

You know, I'm real.

MARY

But do I know the real you?

STEVE

Don't you?

MARY

I wonder if anyone does. You seem to enjoy being the man of mystery.

STEVE

Yes, but who doesn't enjoy solving a mystery?

MARY

See. You can't be serious, can you? Who is the real Steve?

STEVE

The real Steve is the one who has loved you since the day I laid eyes on you back when you walked into Mrs. Miller's class in the third-grade.

MARY

I think you're in love with that story, not with me.

STEVE

How can I prove it to you?

Steve leans in and gently kisses Mary on the lips. Mary loses herself in the moment before trying to regain her composure.

MARY

The man of mystery who likes to prey on women when all guards are down.

STEVE

I can always hope.

Mary rests against Steve and is absorbed in the sunset.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DUSK

The stars are coming out and the sun is fading, beyond the horizon.

Steve releases the balloon and hops inside as they slowly rise back into the air.

EXT. COLORADO SKY - EVENING

The moon rises gently as the balloon moves silently along.

Mary leans on the side with her head on top of her arms. She is willing the experience to never end ...

EXT. COLORADO FOOTHILLS - EVENING

The balloon has landed back where Steve and Mary first took off. They are out of the balloon and are walking towards the waiting limo across the clearing.

MARY

I can honestly say that this is the most wonderful rain-check I've ever gotten.

STEVE

The most enjoyable I've ever given.

MARY

Don't think you're fooling me. I know this is the way you woo all your women to their doom.

They arrive at the limo.

STEVE

Watch it now.

Mary looks Steve in the eyes.

MARY

(beat)

Thank you, Steve.

STEVE

We'll have to talk about things, you know.

MARY

I know. But let's not ruin the moment.

STEVE

As you wish.

Steve opens the limo door. Rex looks back from the driver's seat.

REX

I trust all was splendid!

MARY

You might say that.

STEVE

I owe you big time, Rexy-baby.

REX

You didn't owe me anything until you just called me, "Rexy-baby."

STEVE

I'd love to take you home, but I have this thing back here I need to put away.

MARY

I think this is maybe for the best.

Mary kisses Steve on the cheek.

MARY

Night.

STEVE

Goodnight, Mary.

Mary climbs into the limo and Steve closes the door.

As the limo drives off, Steve stares after it for a few moments before walking back to the balloon.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Mary opens the sunroof, leans back and stares at the sky.

INT. COMPASSION CENTER - MORNING

Mary is deep in thought as she prepares for the day. She tries her best to be in good spirits and ignores her inner turmoil for the moment.

Maria knocks on the door and pokes her head in. She almost looks like a different woman, more in her cheerful countenance than anything else.

MARIA

Good morning, Mary.

Maria walks in carrying a crock-pot.

MARY

Maria, you look so much better.

MARIA

God bless you, Mary. Thank you for always putting up with me. I brought you something... it was my Harold's favorite...

MARY

You don't have to...

MARIA

Shush. You'll never taste a better split pea and ham soup.

MARY

It's only lived in legend until now. We will cherish every bite, Maria.

Lauren walks in the front door.

LAUREN

Maria! You look like a new woman!

MARIA

I feel so much better.

MARY

She brought us some of her famous soup.

LAUREN

Perfect for today! It looks like it may be a rainy one again.

MARIA

Don't say it! I will keep myself inside.

MARY

And call us. You know we can always arrange transportation for you.

MARIA

I just hate to always be a bother.

MARY

Now you know that's a lie! Don't believe those thoughts.

LAUREN

You know we love you, Maria.

Maria pauses as she looks in Lauren and Mary's eyes.

MARIA

(tearing up)

I know. Thank you. I better get my errands done then before the rain comes.

MARY

See you Sunday morning, then.

Maria heads out the front door.

LAUREN

God bless you, Maria.

Mary starts working.

LAUREN

Oh, no you don't. How can you even think you are going to go about your day without filling me in?!

MARY

It was... exquisite. Utterly romantic.

LAUREN

Too perfect?

MARY

Yes. And no at the same time. You know how complicated this is.

LAUREN

I know.

There is a knock on the door as a local FLORIST opens and comes in. BERNARDO TUCCIARONE, a lovely elderly immigrant Italian comes in with a huge bouquet of fresh cut daisies.

BERNARDO

Ah! I thought I was carrying something beautiful until I open the door, and I am touched with the true beauty of my favorite neighbors.

LAUREN

Where have all the men like you gone?

Mary walks to Bernardo and they embrace as old friends do.

MARY

Bernardo. What occasion honors us with your presence?

BERNARDO

Not that I need an excuse for a visit, but I received a high priority request to do a personal delivery.

Bernardo hands Mary the daisies.

MARY

Thank you.

BERNARDO

But you are not forgotten, my sweet Lauren.

Bernardo takes a quaint FRESH ROSE he has pinned to his lapel and pins it on Lauren.

Lauren blushes and gives Bernardo a gentle kiss on the cheek.

BERNARDO

Woo-wee! I better regain my composure quick. Mrs. Tucciarone knows me too well and is waiting at the curb!

Bernardo heads out the door.

LAUREN

Have a wonderful day, Bernardo!

MARY

See you.

Mary looks at the daisies. There is a simple card with, "Sorry" written on it.

Mary sighs and softens.

MARY

(to herself)

Now this is real.

LAUREN

Real?

MARY

Oh. Nothing.

LAUREN

Nothing?

MARY

Well, I guess something.

Mary places the daisies over by the plush roses. She points out the roses.

MARY

This. This is a surreal romantic dream... this is the fairy-tale. It's someone who loves the thought of loving me.

She points to the daisies.

MARY

This. This is not only me... it's someone who KNOWS me.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS DECK - DAY

Kylie is sitting out on the deck taking in some sun, giving her all to look her sexy best.

Steve walks out the door, light on his feet and humming a tune. He takes no notice of Kylie.

KYLIE

Someone is in a chipper mood today!

STEVE

Huh? Oh, hey Kylie.

He is off down the stairs. Kylie is perturbed at this unintentional "diss."

Kylie notices Chad coming from a ways off. She is glad that she is about to gain the attention she craves from her doting smitten fan.

Or is she?

Chad is in an uncharacteristically carefree mood as he practically skips up the deck stairs. He is in some unseen happy land.

As Chad passes, Kylie is unseen - two times in row.

KYLIE

Hey, Chad.

Chad stops and looks back.

CHAD

Kylie! I didn't even see you there!

Chad is off inside the house.

Kylie goes quickly from perturbed to extremely insecure and uneasy.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS LOFT - LATER

Rex, Barb, Steve, Chad and Kylie are gathered in their usual spots at the conference table.

REX

So the plentiful loot is safely on its way to the Alps. Our initial estimates make the take larger than we even dreamed of.

BARB

The redistribution channels are very positive about the turn around.

CHAD

I don't think I've ever been totally clear about this... surely we're not going to just hand them back to people.

STEVE

That would be the ideal situation, but it's too hard to track the diamonds to the direct source.

REX

And, we can do a better job getting a fair market price overseas.

Kylie, lacking self-confidence, doesn't like the fact that Chad isn't his usual smitten self around her.

KYLIE

So, with the surplus, is this a good time to focus towards the Sudan? As well as the original conflict countries, of course.

CHAD

Great idea, Kylie.

Kylie is feeling a little more secure.

BARB

We'll do our best. Our sources say the distribution channels are looking pretty secure for the Sudan, as well as the other countries.

REX

No matter what, it will not get back in the hands of the oppressors. We will be sure of that.

BARB

There's plenty of time to figure that out, but what needs our focus right now, is this...

Barb refers to the plasma screen, pointing out the tropical storm which is moving closer to land.

REX

(to Steve and Chad)
You two can focus, can't you?

KYLIE

Yeah, what's going on with you two?

BARB

And where have you been, dear?

KYLIE

Evidently I've missed something.

Chad can't hide a huge smile.

CHAD

Hey, nothings going on. We just had a cup of coffee together.

REX

A cup that lasted how many hours?

KYLIE

Who?

STEVE

You and Lauren?

KYLIE

Who's Lauren?

BARB

A young girl who works with Mary.

Kylie tries to contain her obvious jealousy on all accounts.

KYLIE

I should have known it was connected there somehow.

CHAD

Hey, we just talked for a few hours.

REX

Is that all.

Steve is beaming and happy for Chad at the same time.

STEVE

Well, hey. Didn't you have something important to go over, Barb?

Barb is enjoying Kylie's torment.

BARB

Who's to say what's more important? But we do have some challenges with this.

She's back at the plasma screen as the weather woman.

BARB

This area here is where it looked like it was heading, but it seems to be taking a turn over here.

REX

The problem is, we need to step up our casing of the area. We don't feel totally settled about where we need to hit and how many.

BARB

At the same time, it is good news, because it's moving fast, picking up hurricane force and moving to an area over here that's totally unprepared.

We see, Kylie. She just looks plain ticked, lost in her thoughts, scheming something.

EXT. DENVER FEDERAL OFFICE CENTER - AFTERNOON

It's starting to rain as Bill and Lee make their way out of the Federal Office Center in Denver.

LEE

So the only evidence we have is an African friendship bracelet?

BILL

So it seems.

LEE

That's solid.

BILL

There is nothing else. These jobs were completely clean.

LEE

Pretty amazing.

BILL

Pretty stealth.

LEE

Pretty "Special Forces."

BTT.T.

That fact would add to our circumstantial evidence. I've decided that the SEALs are clean. You aren't going to get me to incriminate my brethren.

Lee's cell phone rings. Almost immediately following, Bill's cell phone rings as well.

Bill and Lee give each other a look before answering. They say the exact same words with completely different meanings.

LEE BII

Hello. Thanks for calling.
No, I actually was hoping
you'd call. Wasn't sure if I
should or not. Tonight?
Please. That would be good.
Where should we meet?
Perfect. Alright. See you at
eight, then. Bye.

Hello. Thanks for calling.
No, I actually was hoping
you'd call. Wasn't sure if I
should or not. Tonight?
Please. That would be good.
Where should we meet?
Perfect. Alright. See you at
eight, then. Bye.

Bill and Lee look at each other.

They don't believe what has just taken place.

LEE BILL

We're spending too much time We're spending too much time together.

LEE BILL

Stop. Stop.

LEE BILL

OK. Now I'm scared. OK. Now I'm scared.

They both hold their hands up to signal stop. Bill points to Lee.

 $_{
m LEE}$

We know who called me...

BTT.T.

You won't believe it.

LEE

Try me.

BILL

Kylie.

INT. FORD PICKUP - AFTERNOON

The rain is falling pretty hard now, as Lee drives along in his Ford F-150 extended cab pickup.

He picks up his cell phone and dials through his contacts. We see the name: Steve.

He presses the send button and listens for an answer.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS DECK - AFTERNOON

Steve sits under an awning as the rain comes down. He stares at his cell phone deep in thought as it vibrates.

The screen reads, "Incoming Call... Lee." He doesn't answer.

INT. FORD PICKUP - AFTERNOON

BEEP. Lee talks into the phone.

LEE

Hey, pal. Just calling to say hey and see what's going on. Give me a call when you get a chance.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS DECK - AFTERNOON

Steve looks up from his phone and off into the distance as the rain continues to fall.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

Bill and Kylie are thoroughly enjoying each other's company. Kylie has her normal self-confidence back and Bill is more than fueling it.

BILL

...still, you are in amazing shape. I don't know how you do it.

Kylie looks deep into Bill's eyes.

KYLIE

When you want something bad enough, you do whatever it takes to get it.

Bill almost visibly quivers at what he takes this to mean.

BILL

Yes. Well, I guess it's true.

KYLIE

I'm sure you know what I mean, being an ex-SEAL and all.

BILL

No "ex" there. Once a SEAL, always a SEAL.

KYLIE

Really, now you just have to seek out danger on your own?

Bill can't stand under the weight of all these double meanings and tries to change the subject.

BILL

So, I noticed that you're missing your friendship bracelet.

Bill is surprised he was so frank in saying this. Kylie of course is not expecting anything.

KYLIE

(purposefully)

I must have lost it on my last business trip.

EXT. DINER - NIGHT

The rain is in a torrential downpour outside a diner that has a total "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" look about it, although there are booths lined up along the window.

We see Lee and Mary talking through the window and the rain.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

There is a half-eaten piece of chocolate cake in the center of Lee and Mary's table with two forks set on top.

Lee takes a sip of his coffee right before the WAITRESS stops by with a steaming pot.

WAITRESS

Warm up?

MARY

Please.

LEE

Me too.

The waitress heads back behind the counter and we now sense the tension between Mary and Lee. MARY

Well say something ... please.

LEE

What am I supposed to say? I wish you and my best friend well?

MARY

It's not like that.

LEE

Do you want it to be?

MARY

I know I want something more than just being in an endless state of limbo with someone who is supposed to be my soulmate.

LEE

I know I'm forgetful lately, but it's just job-related, it doesn't have anything to do with you.

MARY

Doesn't it?

Silence.

LEE

Look, this is what you get. This is me. I'm not some hot shot millionaire who can make all your romantic fantasies come true. I won't hold you back. You have my blessing. Both of you.

MARY

You just don't get me anymore if you believe that.

LEE

And that's my fault? I'm not the one who's changed.

MARY

Lee. Changing is a part of life. We're supposed to move on... to grow. Otherwise we're either going backwards or we're just stagnant.

LEE

So then I'm just your festering, stagnant, boring -

Mary is now angry.

MARY

Stop just thinking about yourself and how you can have a little pity party! I wonder how we ever got back together.

LEE

Well, maybe that was a mistake!

Mary is hurt to the core by these words. Lee can't believe they came out of his mouth.

Mary waits for Lee to retract his words. He hesitates too long.

Mary is off and out the door.

Lee realizes the major jerk he has been.

Lee looks out the window and sees Mary trying to wave down a cab. He quickly throws some cash on the table and runs out after her.

EXT. DINER - CONTINUOUS

Mary is drenched. Lee comes out of the diner, grabbing Mary by the shoulders.

LEE

Mary, I'm sorry.

MARY

You're always sorry.

Mary sees a cab a ways off and waves at it.

T.E.F

Come on, this is... let me take you home.

MARY

Why? So you can keep saying you're sorry?

LEE

You know I'm not the best with words.

MARY

Right, and you're sorry about that, too.

The cab pulls up on the curb. Mary and Lee are soaked to the bone.

Lee knows what he should say but can't get the words out of his mouth. Mary looks at him with a glimmer of hope in her eyes...

But Lee blurts out the last thing he wants to say in his self-frustration.

LEE

Alright, just go then. And I won't say I'm sorry. Is that better?

MARY

Why can't you just fight for me? Why can't you love me enough to fight your inner fears... or whatever it is that keeps you from letting your best friend actually know how you truly feel?

LEE

Mary, you know...

MARY

No I don't. Lee, I'm tired and I'm going to go.

Mary opens the door and gets into the cab.

LEE

I love you.

MARY

Love moves us to action, Lee. That's true love.

Mary closes the door and the cab drives off. Lee watches for a few moments before walking up to his truck, unlocking it with his remote.

Just as Lee is about to get in, he stops and re-locks the truck. He looks around and then leans back against the truck looking up into the rain.

Lee takes a deep breath and then walks down the street in the rain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

It is a beautiful mountain morning after the rain. The sun reflects across the heavy dew and lingering puddles.

Steve finishes his morning walk through the pines. He appears to be deeply stirred and filled with life at the same time.

As he walks up on the deck, he notices Kylie curled up on a chair with her arms wrapped around her legs.

STEVE

Hey, girl.

Kylie just smiles timidly at him. Steve walks over and sits by her.

STEVE

What's going on?

Kylie's eyes well up with emotion. Steve looks into her eyes with trust and reassurance.

STEVE

Do you want to tell me about it?

KYLIE

(struggling to find words)
I was just so... I wasn't
thinking... You are going to really
hate me now...

STEVE

Now you're talking crazy. We're a team. Whatever it is, I'm... all of us... Hey. We're practically like a family, you know.

Steve puts his arms around Kylie in a fatherly fashion.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS LOFT - LATER

It has the appearance that Steve, Kylie, Chad, Rex and Barb have already been meeting for some time with marked up MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS of banks and landmarks, NOTEPADS, COFFEE CUPS, etc.

STEVE

As we talked about when we formed our "band" earlier this year, the key to its success was to hit strong and fast in three different fashions and then disband, each going our own way until a later time.

CHAD

(reassuring)

We already planned it this way.

STEVE

Now, from what Kylie says, she only thinks she gave our cover away by her...

KYLIE

... obvious sense of guilt.

STEVE

She was caught off guard, maybe, but we all know that our tracks are clean, so definitely no worries.

CHAD

There's nothing else to go on...

BARB

It only heightens the thrill of the stakes.

REX

You three get your adrenaline rush in your way, we'll get ours in our way.

BARB

I'm just sorry I didn't think of planting the bracelet...

Kylie appreciates everyone trying to make her feel better.

KYLIE

(humble)

Thanks, everyone.

REX

Let's just hope Steve's "best" friend hasn't found out about his romantic interludes, deciding to go on a jealous raging warpath.

Steve is on the move.

STEVE

I think that is our cue to hit it.

BARB

Such a clever out.

Each member of the group gathers his respective personal items and heads out.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

We immediately recognize this road from Steve and Kylie's race in our first introduction of the mountain headquarters.

A '57 T-Bird, top off is cruising its way up the road. As we come closer, we now recognize that it's Bill helming this classic, as Lee rides shotgun.

INT. T-BIRD - DAY

Lee is the one fiddling with the radio dial for a change.

LEE

I still can't believe you've been holding out on me.

BILL

I needed to know you didn't like me just for my car.

LEE

Understood.

BILL

I only take her out for special days and/or special occasions.

LEE

Oh. The fog is slowly lifting. You are hoping to impress a certain someone, aren't you.

Bill pretends he didn't hear that comment.

BILL

Easy on the buttons there, bub.

Lee turns the dial again.

BILL

Can't you just settle on something?

LEE

My how the tables have turned, my friend... my how they have turned.

Mostly static.

LEE

The reception is really hurting up here.

BILL

AM radio isn't what it used to be.

Lee finally settles on the Jim Reeves', "Yonder Comes A Sucker."

LEE

This will have to work.

BTT_iT

Quite fitting, if you ask me.

Lee gives Bill a "nice comment" look.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Bill and Lee head up the long drive in the T-Bird to the lodge.

INT. T-BIRD - CONTINUOUS

BILL

You sure this is OK, just dropping in like this?

LEE

It's the only way we can lay our suspicions to rest once and for all.

They take in a full view of the home.

BILL

Very nice.

LEE

Used to be an old logger's lodge way back when before Steve's family bought it and totally renovated it. As a kid, I used to come up here all the time with Steve and his family. I don't think I've been here since Steve took it over. All looks pretty much the same.

They pull in to park and look around.

BTT.T.

Seems pretty quiet...

LEE

I was just thinking the same thing.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS GREAT ROOM - DAY

Lee and Bill knock and enter at the same time.

LEE

Hello.

BILL

Anyone home?

LEE

Must have gone out for coffee.

BILL

Since you're such old chums...

LEE

We might as well have a looksee around...

BILL

Since we're here...

LEE

Steve won't mind.

They glance around a little bit. Bill looks up to the loft.

BILL

What's up there?

LEE

Only the coolest loft you've ever seen.

They both head up the stairs.

INT. MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Bill turn the corner at the top of the stairs. They are both speechless for a few moments as they take in the technological extravagance of the set up.

LEE

It appears Steve has made some changes since I was last here...

BTT_iT

Nice plasma...

We slowly move in on the plasma screen map, first seeing the hurricane churning off the gulf of Mexico...

Then into the Alabama/Florida Gulf Coast...

Then into Ocean Point close enough detail to notice how vulnerable it is with so much water around it.

EXT. FLORIDA COAST - EVENING

The hurricane winds are whipping up the coast. Massive waves crash against the shore. Palm trees bend towards the ground.

EXT. OCEAN POINT HARBOR - EVENING

The normally sheltered harbor is being hammered by the storm.

EXT. OCEAN POINT CITY - EVENING

The power is out in the entire city, making it very dark.

EXT. OCEAN POINT STREET - EVENING

There is a truck donned with the official logo "SERT: Search and Rescue Team" parked with it's back door open and ramps out.

EXT. OCEAN BANK - EVENING

The front door shows signs that it has been blasted.

EXT. BANK OF DIXIE - EVENING

Another door shows signs of "forced entry."

EXT. COASTAL SAVINGS & LOAN - EVENING

Yet another door blasted.

EXT. OCEAN POINT - EVENING

Three four-wheelers with their back racks loaded to the hilt speed down the city streets.

Steve, Chad and Kylie are unrecognizable in full dry suits. More than the two previous heists, we get the sense that they are in a race against time.

They whiz around a corner and then out into the open. Ahead of them is a long bridge that extends all the way across Ocean Point Harbor.

Steve, Kylie and Chad open their throttles all the way. Just as they are about to hit the bridge, they veer to the left, off the road and into the sand.

Steve looks at his watch. It is in timer mode. 10 - 9 - 8 - 7 - 6 - 5...

They slow down as they turn to pull under the bridge.

INT. CITY POWER GRID - EVENING

There is a strange electronic devise attached to the mainframe of the power grid computer.

CU of LED screen: 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1.

EXT. OCEAN POINT - EVENING

The Ocean Point street lights pop on just as all three of the four-wheelers pull under the bridge.

EXT. OCEAN POINT BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Steve, Kylie and Chad finish loading their loot sacks in specially designed rafts resembling mummy sleeping bags, only there are air pockets where the down filling would be.

They each zip the top of their "raft bags" making sure that they are air and water tight.

Steve, Kylie and Chad drag each of their bags down towards the water. There are three Sea-Doos beached at the edge of the water.

EXT. OCEAN POINT BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Steve, Kylie and Chad are sitting side-by-side on their Sea-Doos with the raft bags floating behind them. They are in a somewhat safe haven looking out at the raging storm.

All of them are charged with the ultimate adrenaline rush.

STEVE

This is it! We're at the home stretch!

CHAD

Let's have some fun!

KYLTE

Last one there's a rotten egg!

The three Sea-Doos fly out from under the bridge into the turbulent waters.

EXT. OCEAN POINT BAY - CONTINUOUS

The chase is on as they cut across the waters. The hurricane's fury seems to have risen in an effort to crush these riders of the storm.

Steve, Kylie and Chad look as though they are zipping around the lake on a calm, sunny day.

A wave crests, giving Steve and Kylie the ultimate jump. Chad is behind just a bit too far and has no choice but to go through the wave.

They head out to sea and seemingly into the eye of hurricane. Where are they going? There is nothing but blackness on the horizon until...

A single light, as if from a lighthouse, pierces through the darkness.

EXT. OCEAN POINT BAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Sea-Doos have reached the light. It is coming from the deck of a large fishing boat.

Steve, Kylie and Chad guide their crafts to the back of the boat and onto a specially crafted ramp.

They each dismount and pull their raft bags of money up onto the ramp. They look up to the deck of the boat to see the light outlining two silhouettes.

A hydraulic switch is thrown and the ramp raises out of the water.

There are two ladders, one on each end, from the ramp up to the deck of the ship. Steve and Kylie each start to climb a ladder as Chad prepares to hand up the raft bags.

Each of the silhouetted figures reach down to help. We assume these to be Rex and Barb until we hear:

LEE

Need a little help there?

Lee reaches down and pulls Steve's hand and then Steve over onto the deck just as...

BILL

(singing)

Strangers in the night...

Bill likewise helps Kylie up and over.

STEVE

Well, I guess that answers whether or not you were on to us.

We now notice Rex and Mary sitting in shelter up by the helm. They seem to be enjoying this whole game from their boxed seats. They smile and wave.

LEE

I guess you just never can have enough, can you?

STEVE

It's not about wanting more. You know me better than that.

LEE

I thought I did... I thought a bond of friendship had certain things understood.

Chad's head pops up over the back of the ship.

CHAD

Can I have a little...

Bill moves over to him.

BILL

...help? That's just what we're here for.

Bill looks over to the ramp and sees the raft bags.

BILL

Oh, hey! I wonder what's in those?

Chad goes back down and hands the raft bags up to Kylie and Bill as Steve and Lee continue their conversation.

LEE

How could you have gone behind my back to steal the love of my life?!

STEVE

The love of your life? Some kind of love. If you loved her, you would make a commitment to her... something I will not hesitate to do. But in some crazy way, no matter how much I love Mary... how much I've always loved her... she's always gone to you. And I'm the one who would give the world to her if I could.

LEE

You think that, but the only reason you want Mary is because she went for me instead of you. You just can't handle that fact. You don't really want her... you just want to win her from me.

STEVE

You are crazy!

Kylie, Chad and Lee are listening in.

LEE

I'm crazy?! What do you call someone of your wealth and status stooping to...

STEVE

I call it sweet justice. There is no harm done to any decent individual from anything we've taken.

KYLIE

None of us have kept a dime for ourselves. We haven't lied about that.

(to Bill)

I've been truthful about what we do... surely you can feel it. I would have told you about all of this if I could have.

LEE

Regardless of your motives, it's too late for us to look the other way now.

STEVE

Is it too late? Maybe it is. Maybe it's too late to hope that oppressed peoples will be served justice. Maybe it is too late to believe that those who are being exploited for cheap Americans to wear diamonds deserve redemption... but I just can't believe that it is too late. And I do believe that you know what we're doing is true justice. Otherwise you would have had the whole Coast Guard out here after us.

Steve is softening Lee and striking a nerve. Lee is listening.

CHAD

Besides, this is our last job.

Bill and Lee look at each other and then at Steve, Kylie, Chad, Rex and Barb.

LEE

What's your word, Steve?

STEVE

This is it. This was always going to be it.

Amidst this whole confrontation, the storm gains force until a huge gust almost knocks them to the deck.

Lee makes his decision.

LEE

If this one was as clean as the others, then you have nothing to worry about.

Lee motions "let get out of here" to Bill with his head.

Bill walks over to Kylie and grabs her hand just before giving her a passionate kiss.

LEE

Alright, already. The Coast Guard will be coming by anytime now.

Bill breaks away from Kylie's lips.

Steve and Lee look into each other's eyes with a knowing and caring only lifelong friends have.

Lee and Bill climb over the side of the boat and into a SEA-DOO SPORT BOAT and are almost immediately off into the darkness.

Back on the deck, Kylie realizes that Bill has placed something in her hand. She slowly opens it up. It is her African friendship bracelet.

EXT. COMPASSION CENTER - DAY

Mary's just finished giving candy to some of the local neighborhood kids. She decides to sit on the front steps of The Compassion Center to take in the perfect weather.

Mary closes her eyes and faces up to take in some rays.

A familiar Ford pickup pulls up curbside and parks. Lee is inside, not moving and looking straight forward.

Mary squints to see what's going on. Lee finally takes a deep breath and then gets out of the truck.

Lee walks around to the front of the truck. He pauses, taking one more deep breath of determination.

As Lee slowly walks forward towards Mary, his right hand clutches a simple black-velvet ring box.

MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The U2 - B.B. King "Rattle and Hum" classic "When Love Comes To Town" rips in as we see Rex and Barb just on their way down the gravel driveway in their Land Rover.

Up in the parking area, Steve gives a handshake and hug to Chad. Chad gives Kylie an awkward embrace as Kylie kisses him on the cheek.

Chad hops into his souped-up, orange '57 Ford Pickup and is on his way.

Kylie and Steve embrace for a moment before she hops into her Jeep CJ. She pauses momentarily then looks back at Steve one more time before heading down the driveway.

Steve gives a final wave and heads back up to the lodge. Just before reaching the door, he stops, turns around, and takes in the beauty of his surroundings.

Steve walks back down to his Harley, fires her up, breathes in the fresh mountain air and then cruises off as the music continues to play.

FADE TO BLACK.