

BELLA & THE BEAR

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FADE IN:

EXT. LAS VEGAS DINER - NIGHT

Miles from the shimmering lights of Las Vegas Boulevard stands a diner that was built in the 60's. It hasn't been maintained since. There's no sound but a breeze and --

A flickering neon light sign that reads _MERICA_ DINE_.

INT. LAS VEGAS DINER - NIGHT

It's a slow night. A booth full of STONER TEENS giggle and snort at the size of the portions they received. ELDERLY GAMBLERS study the value of the menu.

In walks BELLA, 9. Confident. Not an ounce of fear. A wise young soul with the streets smarts of an adult but the imagination of her age. Bella's the kind of girl that sneaks out her bedroom window at night. Born and bred Las Vegas.

A HOSTESS, 33, single mom of two at the end of a double shift approaches, chewing hours old gum.

BELLA

Two. Please.

HOSTESS

Now little girl, shouldn't you be home in bed?

BELLA

Do you say that to all your customers?

HOSTESS

Not all my customers are your age wanderin' the streets alone. Who's gon protect ya' somethin' happen?

BELLA

He will.

Bella points over her shoulder -- To no one.

The Hostess raises a drawn on eyebrow.

BELLA (CONT'D)

Hang on.

Bella leaves.

Through the large windows, the Hostess sees Bella walking backwards toward the front door, coaxing someone to follow.

HOSTESS

What in the world?

A brown, nine foot tall, three feet wide Bear moseys towards the entrance. It's clearly a bear suit costume. The huge head has big brown eyes and a smile.

This, is BEAR.

Bella helps Bear squeeze his head through the door.

Gob-smacked faces from the diners form a postcard of "what in the world" and right up front --

HOSTESS (CONT'D)

Two?

BELLA

Please.

The ROAR of a V8 engine accelerating hard.

INT. '68 MUSTANG (MOVING) / LAS VEGAS - DAY

The black mustang races through the Vegas back streets.

POLICE SIRENS in the distance.

At the wheel, ANGIE, early 30's, dark hair thrown up, a tank top, generally a slapped together appearance which is her in a nutshell -- last minute. She's sporting a mean black eye and a cut lip. Like she's gone a round with Tyson.

Mashing the horn, Angie swerves around a car.

The SIRENS get louder.

ANGIE

I'm not stopping!

Angie switches on the radio.

The music sounds like it's coming through a speaker at a --

EXT. LAS VEGAS BUS STATION - NIGHT

In the early hours of the morning. The last Greyhound for the night pulls up at the dead quiet terminal. Doors open with a burst of compressed air.

PASSENGERS pour off the bus swarming the luggage hold.

MICKEY, 60's, covered in ink and looks like he can do a thousand push ups steps off curling a duffle bag over his shoulder. Mickey's a long story with a short explanation.

Regret.

EXT. LAS VEGAS / PARKING LOT - NIGHT

All the buildings around are closed down or boarded up. Everything about the area screams bad neighborhood.

Mickey, his bag over his shoulder, walks through the empty car park clutching a piece of paper. Rotating it, he rubs his eyes. The directions scribbled down may as well be Japanese.

Mickey looks up at a large billboard for Dr. Reefer. A phone number underneath a huge marijuana leaf.

His expression slips from surprise to shock.

DRUNK

Psst.

Mickey turns to a DRUNK, late 40's, he's groggy. Like a bobble head in slo-mo, sipping from a bottle.

DRUNK (CONT'D)

Hey my man. You lost?

MICKEY

I'm looking for Roh's.

DRUNK

Whoa! Shh! God Damn it.

Lowering his voice --

MICKEY

I'm looking for a Roh's. Know it?

DRUNK

You need money?

MICKEY

No.

DRUNK

You got some money?

MICKEY

No.

The drunk studies Mickey's eyes. Looking for a lie.

DRUNK

Go East. Two blocks. You gon' see a big mother fuckin' blue sign from a bank. Do not look at that sign.

Mickey nods. Checking over his shoulder.

DRUNK (CONT'D)

Go left, you gon' see a yellow sign.

MICKEY
Don't look at it?

DRUNK
No my man, that's Roh's.

MICKEY
Right. Thanks.

DRUNK
You want a drink?

Mickey looks at the bottle long and hard. Too long.

MICKEY
I'm straight.

The Drunk smiles, nods. Genuinely happy to help.

DRUNK
Bless you my man. You alright. I
hope Roh got what you need. We all
need a thing off somebody.

The Drunk looks at Mickey's shirt then walks off laughing.

DRUNK (CONT'D)
Wouldn't pick you for a Belieber!

Mickey looks down at his Justin Beiber T-shirt, confused.

INT. FAMILY HOME / LIVING ROOM - MORNING

It's early. About seven thirty in the morning. Light slices
through the blinds into the living room.

Bella, still in her PJ's, zombie walks in, rubbing an eye.

DAN, late 20's, lies asleep on the couch. Handsome in a
boyish kind of way, clean shaven, buzz cut. Dan's a natural
leader and a natural father. The only thing he wasn't blessed
with when he was born was an ego. Bella taps Dan's forehead.

BELLA
Dad?

Dan doesn't move. Bella frowns.

DAN
Boo!

Dan lifts giggling Bella up onto the couch.

BELLA
Are you in trouble?

Dan wipes hair from Bella's face.

BELLA (CONT'D)
You only sleep here when you're in
trouble.

DAN
You going to miss me?

Bella nods, resting her head on Dan's chest.

BELLA
Do you sleep here because you're
scared of mom?

DAN
Bella. I'm a fully grown man. I'm
not scared of mom.

BELLA
Can we go and wake her up?

DAN
Are you crazy? Don't go in that
bedroom.

Dan strokes Bella's hair.

BELLA
She's not in bed.

Dan stops stroking Bella's hair.

BELLA (CONT'D)
She fell asleep in the garden
again.

Off Dan's reaction, the sound of static coming through a
radio fades up.

JOHN (PRE-LAP)
We're losing you.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - DAY

A convoy of three armored troop carriers amble along a dirt
track in a deep ravine.

JOHN, late 20's, rides shotgun holding a radio close to his
mouth. He's not big but he has a look in his eye that lets
you see he's fiery. A colored past that was trained out of
him by the military. John used to be the life of the party.

JOHN
I'm losing you, say again.

Static.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Fucking mountains.

John lobs the handset onto the dash.

Dan, sitting in the back, looks up from his phone.

DAN
You OK buddy?

JOHN
Fantastic sir.

Dan shows John his phone. A picture. Bella squeezing a YELLOW TEDDY BEAR. Huge smile. John studies the image.

DAN
She looks so much like Angie it's crazy.

JOHN
Thank fuck right?

DAN
What?

JOHN
I said yes sir.

Dan punches John in the arm.

John laughs, glancing out the window at a TEENAGE AFGHAN BOY, 15, standing on the side of the road, looking right at him.

Dan studies the picture on the phone.

DAN
Look at that smile. The Afghans make an alright teddy bear when they aren't making bombs.

JOHN
Huh?

DAN
I said the --

BOOM! An EXPLOSION rocks the truck showering the convoy in splintering rock and dirt.

High pitched mono tone piercing cuts off to a --

Beep -- Beep -- Beep... Medical equipment.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

In a quiet room full of the mid-day sun John sits on an examination bed studying his outstretched fingers.

His hand is perfectly still.

A DOCTOR, 60's, tanned with a full head of white hair and a perfect set of porcelain teeth strolls in perusing John's file while sipping a Coke.

DOCTOR

The results are in. You're alive.

John gives the doctor the best smile he can muster.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Apart from a few scratches and bruises, I can't find anything wrong with you. Welcome home.

The Doc snaps the file closed and offers a hand to shake.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Thank you for your service.

Pursing his lips, John obliges.

INT. FAMILY HOME / BEDROOM - DAY

Angie, fresh out of the shower, lies in bed with her back facing the bedroom door.

Dan, wearing army fatigues, steps into the doorway and leans against the threshold.

DAN

In the garden again Angie? You can't pull that stuff while I'm gone.

Angie doesn't respond.

DAN (CONT'D)

You'll go to your meeting?

ANGIE

Promise.

DAN

You said that last time.

ANGIE

You won't go away again?

DAN

If something happened to those guys and I wasn't there. I couldn't look at myself in the mirror. This'll be the last time.

Dan heaves a heavy rucksack onto his shoulder and walks away.

ANGIE

You said that last time.

After a beat, Bella runs past the door down the hall.

BELLA

Daddy!

Off Angie's blank stare --

ANGIE (PRE-LAP)

When did I stop saying I can't wait
for tomorrow and start saying I
hope I survive today?

INT. RUN-DOWN BAR - DAY

It's the middle of the day so the six or so PROFESSIONAL DRINKERS hovering around the bar need to be there.

Angie's slumped in a red leather booth with a smile that says tipsy. Tucking hair behind an ear she glances over the table.

ANGIE

I do things I know I shouldn't. Why
can't I stop? Before I can fix the
problem, I need to admit there is
one.

She throws a smile.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

So here I am. My name is Angie and
I'm an alcoholic. I need help.

A hand holding a shot glass of whiskey crosses Angie's face.

Angie downs the shot. Clenches her teeth. Places the glass down amongst a collection of other empties.

RYAN, 40's, handsome, slow claps over his cheeky grin that works every time.

RYAN

I almost believe you.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

The aging family home stands amongst similar beige colored houses in a suburban dust bowl a long way from the action of Las Vegas Boulevard.

An electrical cord comes flying over a fence landing in the dirt in an empty lot next the house.

Bella climbs over the fence. Grabs the cable and pulls it toward a hut made from collected boxes, timber, used white goods, anything that could be scavenged.

It's a junk igloo that stands in the middle of the lot right next to a flag pole that flies no flag.

INSIDE THE IGLOO

Bella enters -- plugs the cord into another one. The small space lights up with colored Christmas lights.

A collection of Dolls and teddy bears are seated around a makeshift table. Bella frowns at her yellow teddy bear.

The same one from the picture on Dan's phone.

The head has been RIPPED OFF.

Bella picks the head up off the floor, dusts it off, places it back on top of the body.

BELLA

Don't look at me like that. It aint stolen if no one was using it.

Bella hears something coming from --

OUTSIDE ON THE ROAD

Bella sticks her head through the cloth door with a blink.

A truck trundles down the road toward her house.

Her eyes go wide.

BELLA (CONT'D)

Daddy.

Bella grabs the yellow teddy bear and runs toward the house through the vacant lot, a giant smile on her face.

The truck pulls up at the front of the house and Bella sees a man in military uniform step out.

SCREAMING with excitement, her little legs pump faster.

EXT. HELEN'S BACKYARD - DAY

Impeccably shined shoes stride across freshly cut grass.

HELEN, 70's, waters the garden with a shower head duct taped to a hose. She's a small framed woman. A survivor. Her modest house needs work but is well kept. Sensing someone, Helen turns shielding her eyes from the sun.

John shows Helen the palms of his hands.

HELEN

John.

Helen grabs John, squeezing the life out of him.

Clutching John's face Helen plants kisses on him.

HELEN (CONT'D)

My baby!

Excited laughter slides into relieved sobbing.

JOHN

Come on mom.

John hugs her all the tighter.

INT. FAMILY HOME / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Angie lies on the couch, dragging on a joint blowing smoke at the roof. Day time shopping network plays on TV.

RYAN (O.S.)

A guy came looking for you today.

Ryan enters with a bottle of JD. Two glasses.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Looked like a debt collector.

Ryan sits. Pours.

ANGIE

I don't owe no one no money.

RYAN

Relax. Told him this was my house.

Ryan adjusts himself to be closer to Angie. Chewing a nail, Angie's furrowed brow shows something's on her mind.

ANGIE

Why do you go to meetings?

RYAN

Why?

ANGIE

Yeah.

RYAN

Free coffee.

ANGIE

Seriously.

RYAN

Honestly? I guess I'm trying to walk and talk like a man that's gon' be alright one day. It's funny how we can lie to ourselves.

Ryan drinks a whole glass in one consistent motion.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Your turn. Same question. What
pushed you through that door?

Angie's head goes back, the liquid disappears.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Let me guess. A promise?

Angie looks at Ryan like he's cheating in a card game.

ANGIE
I don't want my daughter to have a
drunk for a mom like I did.

RYAN
Don't beat yourself up. Everyone's
got a hole to fill. God. Money.
Fuckin' -- jogging. We're all
addicted to something.

ANGIE
Jogging?

RYAN
Best thing about Vegas? You can get
from New York to Paris in two
minutes.

Ryan kisses Angie, lowering her down.

ANGIE
Wait.

RYAN
What?

ANGIE
Stop.

RYAN
Why?

Angie sits up straight. Pulling hair from her face she HEARS
a truck pull up outside. Leaping off the couch she peers
through the blinds.

Ryan scoffs.

Angie sees A MAN in a military uniform get out of a truck.

ANGIE
Dan's home.

RYAN
He could have called first right?

ANGIE

Out! Go!

Ryan staggers off the couch toward the hall pushing past --

Bella enters, panting, clutching the HEADLESS YELLOW TEDDY BEAR, a confused look on her face with a drizzle of betrayal.

Slowly Angie opens her mouth, trying to find a word.

BANG -- BANG -- on the front door.

Angie and Bella turn to face the door.

Angie steps forward, fixing her hair and her clothes. She reaches for the door handle and pulls it open.

BELLA

Dad!

Bella pushes past Angie, latching onto the leg of --

ANGIE

Who are you?

Bella steps back. The man she assumed was Dan is --

JOHN

Mrs. Donovan. My name's John. Can I come in?

In pristine Class-A military uniform, John takes his hat off.

ANGIE

Where's Dan?

Angie edges backwards letting John enter.

A YOUNG SOLDIER, early 20's, also in Class-A's steps inside.

Angie notices his hands shaking.

JOHN

Maybe she can wait in another room?

John signals to the Young Soldier to take Bella outside.

He leads her away.

ANGIE

Oh shit.

Angie drops onto the couch placing her hands over her mouth.

BELLA

Get off!

Bella runs to Angie. Angie waves him off, wrapping an arm around Bella.

John says every word like it burns his throat.

JOHN

The secretary of defense regrets to inform you that your husband --

ANGIE

Not like this.

JOHN

Daniel was killed in action --

ANGIE

What have I done?

JOHN

-- during a fire fight in --

ANGIE

Stop!

John's mouth stays agape.

BELLA

When's dad coming home?

ANGIE

Are you sure it was him?

John nods.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Maybe you got it wrong? Maybe --

John shakes his head. The look in his eye is pure honesty. He could have said the Earth was flat and you'd believe him.

JOHN

Is there someone you can call? To be here with you?

ANGIE

We don't have anybody. That's our thing. It's just us. What the hell am I supposed to do now?

JOHN

A casualty officer will be in touch to go through everything that will happen from here. Would you like us to stay until --

Angie shakes her head.

John walks toward the door.

ANGIE

Was he in any pain? When --

John shakes his head.

JOHN

For what it's worth. He was one of
the best people I've ever met. I
was proud to know him. We all were.

Out of the corner of his eye he sees a shirtless, pant-less
Ryan run past the back window.

Angie catches it too.

John steps to a window to see --

Ryan getting into his truck.

Swallowing the disappointment John turns to Angie.

Holding each others gaze. Ryan's TRUCK STARTS UP. Drives off.

Angie looks at the floor. John leaves.

BELLA

He promised momma. Dad promised me.

Angie hugs Bella. The guilt eats her alive.

EXT. RUN-DOWN SURBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

The old front door creaks open as far as the chain will allow
revealing ALICE, 50's, a pack a day smoker squinting through
thick rimmed glasses that sit on the tip of her pointy nose.

Mickey, standing on the porch of the old white house that
desperately needs a lick of paint musters a smile.

MICKEY

Alice? Hi. You remember me? I used
to live next door?

ALICE

I remember.

MICKEY

How are you? You look great Alice.

ALICE

You look like shit. What do you
want?

MICKEY

I'm trying to find my daughter?
Angie?

ALICE
You lost her?

MICKEY
I didn't lose --

ALICE
Not surprised. Where's that wife of yours got to? She still drinkin'?

MICKEY
She's gone.

ALICE
You lost her too?

MICKEY
She's dead.

Alice scratches her nose, unsure of how to react to that.

ALICE
Try the Mirage. I saw Angie workin' there a while back.

MICKEY
Thanks Alice.

ALICE
My name is Anna you idiot.

MICKEY
Still as nice as ever.

ALICE
Get lost or I'll call the cops!

The door SLAMS. Mickey nods.

MICKEY
Anna.

INT. MARKET - DAY

John, enters. He looks tired. Needs a haircut and a shave.

Top 40 MUSIC echoes through the store.

Grabbing a cart, John moves off quickly down an aisle. Behind John, two YOUNG MIDDLE EASTERN kids come running down the aisle firing AK-47's, spitting rounds into the roof.

John turns, instantly on edge, to see -- they were just kids who have knocked over a large soup can display. As the aluminum drum roll plays, anxiety washes over John -- *did I just have a flashback?*

MEAT SECTION:

Cold cuts.

John looks up at a YOUNG BUTCHER behind the counter hacking into a forequarter with a cleaver.

The Young Butcher turns to John and throws the cleaver right at him. Spinning through the air it towards his face. Just as it is about to connect between his eyes --

SNAP BACK TO REALITY.

John steps out of the line of sight of the YOUNG BUTCHER.

BAKERY SECTION:

Six loaves. Sliced white drop into the cart.

John pushes his cart to the right. Stops. There is A WOMAN in a large Jacket approaching. She opens her jacket.

Her chest, wired with C4.

The music gets LOUDER.

She hits the trigger. EXPLODING in front of John -- flames engulf him -- John's body launches backwards through the air.

SNAP BACK TO REALITY.

John and the woman make eye contact. He turns, walks the other way.

MILK SECTION:

John examines the milk range. Grabs two gallons of two-percent and drops it into his trolley.

He turns to see a SUSPICIOUS LOOKING MAN aiming an AK-47 rifle right at him. His finger squeezes the trigger.

Through a flash of light the rifle ejects a bullet casing with a PING!

The round rotates through the air WHISTLING toward John.

The expression on John's face becomes vacant. In his eyes is a darkness that goes deep. John's gaze shifts to the left.

Running toward him down the aisle is Dan in full fatigues, covered in dirt and blood. John looks back to the bullet, approaching his eye, and just as it's about to hit --

MARKET CHECK OUT:

The YOUNG CASHIER busting her ass for minimum between college classes steals glances at John while she scans everything.

Sweat beads on John's forehead. He turns to the people in line behind him.

It's everyone he has just seen while shopping, all waiting with baskets and trolleys. Bored. On phones.

YOUNG CASHIER

Are you OK?

John nods, lying. Grabs his bags and heads for the door.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey pushes the door open and walks through the large store. Rows of shelves holding used goods. TV's. Golf clubs. Jewelry. You name it, it's there.

He stops at the counter, ringing the bell.

ROH (O.S.)

You're late.

Mickey turns to ROH, 50's, coming from the store-room carrying a box. Roh has a thing for keeping fit and being able to roll on both sides of the law. He's known around town for his a handle bar mustache and taking exactly zero shit.

MICKEY

Matias said eleven.

ROH

I told Matias ten.

MICKEY

You sure?

ROH

You calling me a liar?

Roh drops the box onto the counter.

MICKEY

No.

ROH

You sayin' he's a liar?

MICKEY

I'm not --

ROH

You suggesting we got together and conspired to make you look disrespectful?

MICKEY

No sir.

ROH
What do you want man?

MICKEY
You don't know me and you got no
reason to help me --

Roh rotates his right index finger in a circular motion.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
A job.

ROH
Everyone need a job. I got a guy
come in yesterday, had a masters
degree in some science shit. He's
smart and even he can't get a job.

MICKEY
I'm not real smart. But I'll do
what you tell me to do and I can
lift heavy things.

ROH
Why did you come to the desert?

MICKEY
I'm trying to find my daughter.

ROH
How long since you saw her?

MICKEY
Fifteen years, six months and two
days.

Roh nods. Looks around his shop --

ROH
I built this store from nothing
man. From dirt. All for my family.

Mickey nods.

ROH (CONT'D)
Got any devils inside that need to
get out?

MICKEY
No.

ROH
Gamblin'?

Mickey shakes his head.

ROH (CONT'D)
Drugs?

MICKEY

No.

ROH

Drinkin'?

MICKEY

Not anymore.

ROH

How long you been sober?

MICKEY

Fifteen years, six months and two days.

Roh looks Mickey in the eye.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Please.

Roh extends an open hand.

ROH

My mom, rest in peace used to say everybody deserves a second chance. I'm giving you yours alright man?

They shake. Roh yanks Mickey close. Face to face. Pulls a nine mm from behind his back and sticks it in Mickey's face.

Completely calm --

ROH (CONT'D)

Two conditions. One, change that fuckin' shirt. Grown ass man shouldn't be rollin' in that shit. Two. I catch you stealin', dealin', usin' or boozin'? You try to fuck me and my family? I'll bury you in fifteen feet of concrete. Not under it. In it. They'll never find you.

MICKEY

Got it.

Roh releases Mickey and pulls a flag out of the box.

ROH

We're hanging stars and bars for fourth of July. What's her name? Your daughter?

MICKEY

Angie. After her mother.

ROH

Good luck finding her.

Mickey nods, left holding the flag, watching Roh walk off.

Roh walks past the front door of the store, Bella enters.

Bella and Mickey lock eyes. Bella, walks past Mickey, crosses the shop coming to a stop in front of a large bear costume. She reaches out to touch it --

INT. JOHN'S TRUCK CABIN - DAY

The door creaks open revealing John in the same clothes he was wearing at the market. Bags of groceries land on the passenger seat.

John pulls himself up into the truck. He starts the engine and rests his head against the steering wheel. Breathing hard, he turns on the radio.

STATIC CRACKLES. A voice comes yelling over the airwaves.

DAN (PRE-LAP)
Contact front! Everyone out!

EXT. AFGHANISTAN - DAY

SOLDIERS leap out of the trucks and take up covering positions forming a perimeter of bodies around the vehicles.

DAN
Let's go!

The lead Humvee in the convoy has taken a direct hit from an IED. SMOKE pours from the twisted wreckage.

DAN (CONT'D)
Let's go lefty, bout time you did something. Medic up front!

LEFTY
Fuck!

Dan pulls the driver out of the lead vehicle. A young soldier known as LEFTY, 20, because he lacks coordination.

LEFTY (CONT'D)
Is it bad?

His legs have been minced.

DAN
Are you kidding? You kicked the fuck out of that IED. Doc! Now!

Lefty grits his teeth, screaming through pain.

The Platoon's Lieutenant, a rough neck through and through moves strategically through the wreckage.

LIEUTENANT
Watch those peaks!

He takes a knee next to John, scanning the mess.

LIEUTENANT (CONT'D)
Bullhorn, get me a medivac ASAP.

John removes the radio from his ear. The expression on his face clearly says "what the fuck do you think I'm doing?"

JOHN
Foxtrot Hotel niner three, this is
Mike Romeo six five requesting
medivac.

Static.

The Soldiers scan the mountains. Waiting for the ambush.

Lefty screams louder.

JOHN (CONT'D)
No signal sir.

LIEUTENANT
Donovan!

JOHN
Sir.

LIEUTENANT
Take Bullhorn. Get up high.

DAN
Sir.

LIEUTENANT
Donovan.

Dan turns around.

LIEUTENANT (CONT'D)
Get some fuckin' signal or these
guys die.

DAN
Yes sir.

Dan jogs off. John follows.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STREET - NIGHT

Bella and Bear run toward a bus waiting at a bus stop.

BELLA
Quick!

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Bella climbs the steps onto the bus. Smiling at the driver.

BELLA

Hi.

The BUS DRIVER'S eyes go wide when he sees Bear squeezing on.

Bella waits for Bear to take a seat and then slides in next to him, leaning in close. The bus pulls away. The lights of Vegas whip by out the window.

BELLA (CONT'D)

Wait till mom sees you.

Bella closes her eyes.

INT. AA MEETING - DAY

The meeting has finished and the hall full of recovering ALCOHOLICS sip coffee, eat doughnuts and trade small talk. Angie walks towards the exit. Ryan intercepts her.

RYAN

You made quite an entrance.

ANGIE

You saw that huh?

RYAN

Solid nine out of ten.

ANGIE

Only a nine?

RYAN

You lost a point for the landing.
I'm Ryan.

ANGIE

Angie.

Ryan flashes his pearly whites.

RYAN

We have lots of information you can take home with you. I could also send you some if you like? If you give me an address I'll get some stuff out to you.

ANGIE

Sure.

Ryan offers some paper, a pen. Angie scribbles her details.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
I better go. My little girl's
waiting for me.

RYAN
What's her name?

ANGIE
Bella.

RYAN
You didn't want to go with
something that will make her famous
like Unicorn South Colorado?

ANGIE
Way too common.

RYAN
Bring her in next time.

ANGIE
I can do that?

RYAN
You can.

ANGIE
Alright. Thanks.

RYAN
Congratulations on taking the first
stumble. See what I did there?

ANGIE
Clever.

RYAN
I moonlight as a comedian.

Off Angie's smile.

INT. RUN-DOWN APARTMENT - DAY

Mickey forces open the front door and steps inside. The cheap apartment is hardly livable. Yellow paint that was once white barely grips the walls. Curtains ripped. Dirty carpet.

An old steel spring mattress sits against a wall in the living room which is also the bedroom and kitchen.

Mickey looks at a clock on the wall. Ten AM.

Mickey falls forward landing on out stretched arms straight into pushups.

INT. GYM - DAY

It's the early afternoon and quiet. A few PEOPLE WORKING OUT dot the equipment.

John pounds out reps on the bench press. Pain shows on his face. Gritting teeth. Veins stick out on his neck. He slams the bar into the wrack. Breathing heavy.

Sitting up, John notices a BALD CHUBBY GUY sitting on a rowing machine -- not rowing -- watching him, mouth agape.

John nods and throws a thumbs up. The Chubby Guy snaps out of his trance. Starts rowing.

RAMON (O.S.)
Hey fuck face!

John hears banging on a window. He turns to see two guys pressed up against the glass. RAMON and CHRIS both 20's. Everything about the way they look screams no job and no responsibility.

RAMON (CONT'D)
There he is!

CHRIS
We had to hear it from your mom you were home? What a dick.

RAMON
What. A. Dick.

CHRIS
Let's get a beer.

RAMON
Let's go!

CHRIS
Don't make us come in there!

John smirks, shaking his head.

EXT. OLD LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

Bella and Bear walk toward the Old Strip down a quiet street.

BELLA
Ready?

Bear stops.

BELLA (CONT'D)
What are you doing? We always race.
First one to the other end wins.

Bella pulls on Bear, he resists.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Are you scared?

Bear looks ahead -- lots of people moving along the brightly lit Las Vegas strip.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Don't worry about them. What do they know? We'll go together.

Bella stands next to Bear. He looks down at her.

BELLA (CONT'D)
One! Two! Three!

EXT. AFGHANISTAN MOUNTAINS - DAY

Dan races up a steep hill of a ravine.

He gets to the top. Absolutely spent.

John comes up behind him, only a second after.

DAN
Oh hey. Glad you could make it.

JOHN
My lungs are going to explode.

John looks at what lies before them. Dan laughs.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Seriously?

In the distance -- a mountain range. Standing tall.

JOHN (CONT'D)
False fucking summit.

DAN
False *fucking* summit.

JOHN
Tell me we're not going over that.

DAN
You tell me, bullhorn.

John checks his radio receiver. Static.

DAN (CONT'D)
Foxtrot Hotel niner three, this is Mike Romeo six five come in?

Static.

Dan scans the area.

DAN (CONT'D)
 Foxtrot Hotel niner three, this is
 Mike Romeo six five come in?

Dan points at something.

John looks at what he is pointing at, lowering the radio.

A small compound with a high roof covered in aerials and a satellite dish.

DAN (CONT'D)
 Maybe they got the Cowboys Niners
 game?

Dan and John look at each other for a beat -- both sprint towards the compound.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Helen sits in John's truck thumbing through legal paperwork. She closes the file and looks out the window at a construction site.

A large jack hammer works on stubborn concrete.

TACK -- TACK -- TACK -- TACK.

Helen slides out of the truck.

Walking around to the pump, Helen sees the nozzle connected, but no one is there. She looks around for --

HELEN
 John?

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Helen enters. Two members of STAFF are BANGING on a closed door with a sign that reads --

GAS STATION STAFF 1
 Staff only! Read the sign asshole!

GAS STATION STAFF 2
 I'm not playing crack head. Open
 the fucking door or I'm going to
 bust your head.

Helen pushes them away.

GAS STATION STAFF 2 (CONT'D)
 What the fuck lady?

Helen leans on the door.

HELEN
 John? It's me, open up.

GAS STATION STAFF 1
You know that guy?

HELEN
Please John.

The door opens.

John stands in the dark cleaning cupboard. His arms wrapped around himself. Helen gently takes his face in her hands and looks into his eyes. He's confused. In pieces.

JOHN
I'm broken.

INT. STATE PEN CHECK OUT - DAY

Mickey approaches a Guard carrying a crumpled suit and a bag full of prison clothes.

The Guard drops a clipboard of paperwork onto the counter.

PRISON GUARD
Mickey, Mickey, Mickey. I'm going to miss you old man.

Mickey holds up his prison issued clothing.

MICKEY
Can I keep my peels boss?

PRISON GUARD
Sure. What other souvenirs you want? How 'bout a fuckin' pen?

The Guard slides a pen out of his pocket. Holds it out.

PRISON GUARD (CONT'D)
Sign the dots you're rehabilitated and I want my fuckin' pen back.

Mickey signs the paperwork, glancing at his prison clothes.

MICKEY
No one will miss those right?

PRISON GUARD
Are you actually asking me if you can steal property owned by the state of Nevada while still standing in prison? Are you that fuckin' stupid convict?

Mickey frowns. He hadn't thought about it like that.

He looks up -- a fresh idea in mind.

MICKEY

Anyone come through that don't need
his rags no more?

The Prison guard's expression tells us he is searching his
mind while picking at food in his teeth with his tongue.

PRISON GUARD

I got one fish be about your size.
Tweaker, first time down, doin' all
day and night. Won't see the street
'til he's older than you.

MICKEY

How's his style?

PRISON GUARD

What do you fuckin' care?

The Prison guard walks into a small administration office.

Comes back out with a T and some sweats.

PRISON GUARD (CONT'D)

Hundred bucks should do it.

MICKEY

That's almost everything I got.

PRISON GUARD

I know.

Mickey starts counting out notes, glancing at the T.

MICKEY

Who's the kid on the shirt?

The Guard shrugs. Holds out his hand.

PRISON GUARD

Pen.

EXT. STATE PEN MAIN GATE - DAY

Mickey, a confused expression on his face, strolls out the
main gate to WHISTLING and APPLAUSE from INMATES and GUARDS.

Fitting him like a glove, he wears a Justin Bieber T-shirt.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE - DAY

Angie and Bella walk through the carpark toward the store.

BELLA

When does dad get back?

ANGIE

Soon.

BELLA
I don't like waiting.

ANGIE
You get that from him.

BELLA
He said I get it from you.

ANGIE
Did he now?

BELLA
He said you are smart and pretty
and all that but stubborn as
stubborn can get.

ANGIE
He's one to talk. Wait here.

Angie flicks her cigarette heading to the front door.

BELLA
What am I supposed to do?

ANGIE
Give me a break.

Angie enters the store.

BELLA
I don't like waiting!

Bella looks around. Over the road she sees a big yellow sign for Roh's Pawn Shop.

Out front Mickey looks from the same piece of paper he was holding in the car park, up to the sign. Mickey walks inside.

Bella looks through the liquor store window at Angie walking among the shelves, then heads off toward Roh's.

INT. COUNSELLOR OFFICES WAITING ROOM - DAY

Helen sits on a leather chair clutching her hand-bag. Through a slightly open door she can hear a clicking pen. She peers through the gap into the --

OFFICE

John sits in a big arm chair staring at the floor, his knee goes up and down fast. Across from John sits the COUNSELLOR, 50's, clicking a pen, thumbing through John's file.

COUNSELLOR
John. I can't fix anything if you
won't talk to me.

JOHN
There's nothing to say.

COUNSELLOR
The LVPD says different.

The counsellor closes the file. Clicking his pen.

COUNSELLOR (CONT'D)
Talk me through what happened.

John thinks on it.

Under her breath Helen whispers --

HELEN
Please.

JOHN
It ah, all started with a smell.

COUNSELLOR
A smell?

JOHN
Yeah. I can still smell 'em. See
'em. Their faces. I can't even go
to the fuckin' store. At
restaurants I'm keeping my back to
a wall and I got to be facing a
door and if there's lots of people?

John laughs. Shakes his head.

JOHN (CONT'D)
At night I wake up fighting
something I can't even see. I've
nearly hit mom tryin' to wake me
three times.

John's testimony crushes Helen.

COUNSELLOR
I see.

John looks from the floor to the clicking pen.

In, out, in, out, it slows, gets heavy, it doesn't sound like
aluminum anymore, it's heavy iron smashing into heavy iron.

The darkness returns behind John's eyes. He looks up at the
roof. We HEAR the high pitched wail of falling ordinance.

COUNSELLOR (CONT'D)
John?

Wailing. Louder. Closer. Drowning out the counsellor's voice.

Iron smashing into Iron gets louder.

Just as the wail reaches it's highest pitch --

The counsellor stops clicking.

Silence.

COUNSELLOR (CONT'D)

John?

JOHN

I know I should just get about living right? Celebrate every damn sunrise. Watch TV. Get drunk. Get a job at some place. A job... How the fuck can I go from blowing holes in people to working for minimums?

John rubs his eyes.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You know what? What I did over there? Almost all of it I can live with OK? But one thing I need to fix, but I can't.

COUNSELLOR

You can't blame yourself for Dan's death. It wasn't your fault.

John's vacant stare, for the first time, makes eye contact with the Counsellor.

JOHN

Yes it was.

EXT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

Out the back of Roh's Pawn Shop is a low lit car park. It's dead quiet.

The back door opens. Bella steps out.

BELLA

Come on.

Bear squeezes through the back door into the night.

BELLA (CONT'D)

This way.

Bella walks off toward the boulevard.

BELLA (CONT'D)

I hope we don't get the waitress with the attitude. I'm going to say something one of these days.

(MORE)

BELLA (CONT'D)
 She should know better, I'm a loyal
 customer. Oh! First up though,
 let's go to the park. Swing set!

Bear stops.

Bella runs off -- coming to a stop she turns around.

BELLA (CONT'D)
 Please? For me?

Bear walks to Bella and they head off toward the boulevard.

EXT. RUN-DOWN SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Despite the garden being over grown someone still lives here.
 Mickey pushes open the front gate and approaches the porch of
 the old white house that desperately needs a lick of paint.

MICKEY
 Annie? Alice?

Mickey climbs the porch stairs.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
 Anna. Hey Anna -- Is it Anna?

Gets to the old front door.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
 Alice. Definitely Alice.

Composing himself, he knocks.

INT. BAR - DAY

John pushes open the door filling the entrance to the dark
 bar with sunlight. Looking around, he's the only one there.
 Neon beer lights illuminate a pool table.

The BARTENDER, 60's, limps toward John from out back.

BARTENDER
 What can I get you?

JOHN
 I'd like to buy a beer for a buddy.

The Bartender slaps the bar.

BARTENDER
 Two beers coming up.

JOHN
 And the next twenty people to come
 through that door on his behalf.

BARTENDER
You can buy the whole state of
Nevada a beer' you got the Bens to
back it up.

The Bartender laughs placing two beers on the counter. He
looks over John's shoulder.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Where's your buddy?

John leans a photo of Dan against the beer. In front he puts
a small card with his name, rank, date of birth -- and death.

John counts out a few dollar bills.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Put your money away son.

John nods respectfully.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Can I get you something stronger?

JOHN
Only if you let me pay for it.

BARTENDER
First one's free if you served.

The Bartender walks away, John sees his two prosthetic legs.

John sits in front of Dan's small shrine in solitude.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE - DAY

Mickey sits cramped in the stark cubicle across the desk from
his parole officer, NANCY, 40's, a woman who loves cats more
than people and gets her fashion inspiration from the 80's.

Nancy works behind a HUGE stack of files piled up on her
desk, paying very little attention to Mickey.

NANCY
Just don't go over there.

MICKEY
We used to be neighbors.

NANCY
I don't care.

MICKEY
I didn't know she hated me.

NANCY
How long you been out?

Nancy flicks a page in Mickey's file. Reads.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Not even a week -- I already got a call 'bout you harassing some nice old lady?

MICKEY

Old, yeah. Nice?

Mickey screws up his face and shakes his head.

Nancy tilts her head to the side.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

She said I was harassing her?

NANCY

Listen --

MICKEY

I hardly said a word to her.

NANCY

Any more trouble? I'm moving your file from this pile, to that pile. You do not want to be in that pile.

Mickey looks from one to the other.

NANCY (CONT'D)

If I don't have a problem, you don't have a problem, understand?

Mickey nods.

Nancy continues touch typing. Not once looking at the screen.

MICKEY

Hey Nancy? Do you think you could help me with something?

NANCY

Probably not.

MICKEY

The reason I went there, the person I'm looking for, it's my daughter --

NANCY

Don't know her.

MICKEY

Can you look at records or something?

NANCY

What about the mother?

MICKEY

She's gone.

NANCY

Can't help you.

MICKEY

I've obviously got you at a bad time huh?

NANCY

My daddy was like you. Always the victim. It's the rest of the world's fault you can't get straight. He drank until the day he died and beat our ass every other day.

MICKEY

I never laid a hand on my wife or my daughter. I have a problem, I admit that. I'm trying to make it right.

NANCY

As a Christian, I know it's in the lord's hands weather or not you get to be redeemed.

MICKEY

And what does the good lord say about second chances?

NANCY

Get the fuck out of my office.

MICKEY

Real Christian of you.

NANCY

Out!

Mickey leaves.

EXT. MILITARY CEMETARY - DAY

Bella stands in front of Angie. They are wearing black.

White gloved hands pass Bella a folded flag.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey hangs an American flag in the aisle of the store.

EXT. MILITARY CEMETARY - DAY

Dan's coffin being lowered into the ground.

John, standing as far back in the small crowd as he can doesn't take his eyes off Bella.

RIFLES FIRE. Bella jolts.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey looks down an aisle. Flags hang from the roof.

EXT. MILITARY CEMETARY - DAY

Bella watches the coffin disappear from sight.

INT. AA MEETING - NIGHT

The CROWD of about 30 alcoholics at different stages or their recovery listen to Ryan, standing at a lectern on a stage.

RYAN

One time, I was so drunk and high I
drove my car into a police station.
Not to a police station, into, a
police station.

The Crowd smile and giggle. Ryan paces around the stage.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Lucky I was only going fifteen
miles an hour! The only damage was
to some glass doors and a
particularly loved plant. Talk
about divine intervention, I hit
rock bottom so hard I drove myself
to jail.

Ryan flashes a smile disarming everyone in the room.

Angie falls through the door landing hard on the floor.

Angie picks her self up. Tucking her hair behind her ear.

RYAN (CONT'D)

This is a non smoking meeting.

Angie drops her smoke. Stomps. Smiles at Ryan. Her eyes go wide -- she bends down, picks up the butt and scrunching up her nose, mouths the word 'sorry'.

Ryan winks.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Grab a seat.

Angie dodges eye contact and slides into a chair.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 You can dig yourself out of the
 hole you are in. It's hard, but you
 can. I did. Six feet straight up.

Ryan returns to the lectern.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 I see some new faces out there, so
 for those who don't know me, my
 name is Ryan and I'm an alcoholic.

CROWD
 Hi Ryan.

RYAN
 To those new faces, welcome, you
 have just made the best decision of
 your life.

Ryan smiles at Angie.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

In the bright moon light, Bear pushes Bella on the swing.

BELLA
 So then, I go in and I say hello!
 And I'm banging on the door and no
 one is there. No one. Not even Mrs.
 Childs was there. That's when I
 realized what happened.

Bear catches Bella mid swing.

BELLA (CONT'D)
 Mom dropped me off on Saturday.
 There's no school on Saturday.

Bear releases Bella. She swings away.

BELLA (CONT'D)
 I'm happy you're back.

INT. THE MIRAGE CASINO - NIGHT

Mickey strolls through the endless poker machines as people
 pump away their savings to 8 bit music and digital bells.

MICKEY
 S'cuse me? Miss?

A WAITRESS, 30's, single mom working one of three jobs. She
 can balance a tray full of tropical drinks like it's nothing.

WAITRESS
 Can I help you sir?

MICKEY

I'm looking for someone who works here. Angie Donovan?

WAITRESS

I can't say nothing. Casino policy.

MICKEY

Is there a manager or something --

WAITRESS

But she don't work here no more.

MICKEY

Really?

WAITRESS

Between you and me? She had a problem turning up on time, sober.

MICKEY

Angie was drinking?

WAITRESS

Her husband Dan had to come and take her home three times. After the last time? I never saw her again after that.

MICKEY

Her husband?

WAITRESS

Mmhmm. Although, from what I put together, it might be on the rocks. They was fighting all the way out.

MICKEY

Really?

WAITRESS

A friend of mine who works the Sunday double sometimes, told me she's working at the Heart Attack Grill now. But I can't say nothing about that.

MICKEY

Casino Policy?

WAITRESS

Mmhmm. It's so sad though because of the little girl ya know?

MICKEY

Angie has a daughter?

WAITRESS

Mhmm. But you didn't hear nothing from me. Good luck sir.

MICKEY

Thanks.

She walks off leaving Mickey with the news he is a grandfather. A huge smile appears on his face.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

Dan and John get to an old wooden door to the compound.

DAN

Let's get up high. Call it in and get the hell back.

John nods.

DAN (CONT'D)

On me.

Dan pushes the door open and steps inside scanning the area through his M4 rifle iron sights.

John follows, covering. Eyes wide. Ready for action.

Across a large open clearing stands the building with the high roof and the satellite dishes.

They move towards the building, methodically keeping aim ahead and checking the flanks.

John tries a door to the building.

Locked.

DAN (CONT'D)

Going up.

John boosts Dan up onto the roof of the first story like they've done it a thousand times.

Dan pulls John up.

They move to a small stair well and climb the stairs to the --
Second level.

DAN (CONT'D)

There.

A wooden ladder.

Dan starts climbing the CREAKY ladder.

John follows to the --

ROOFTOP.

John gets on the radio.

JOHN
Foxtrot Hotel niner three, this is
Mike Romeo six five how copy?

Static.

Dan and John look at each other.

Then at a mountain that towers over them.

FOB
Mike Romeo six five that's a good
copy.

They both visibly exhale a sigh of relief.

JOHN
Requesting a medivac ASAP to D
seven keypad three, we have
multiple wounded how copy?

FOB
Good copy. Be advised medivac en-
route Foxtrot Hotel niner three
out.

DAN
That wasn't that hard was it?

They laugh.

John looks out at the mountains.

Breathtaking. The silence.

DAN (CONT'D)
Wanna get out of here?

JOHN
I was thinking we could stay. Camp
out, you know? Tell stories, cook a
fuckin' marshmallow.

DAN
Good luck finding a fuckin'
marshmallow.

Dan walks back to the edge. Peers over.

DAN (CONT'D)
Shit.

John looks down. The ladder is lying on the ground.

DAN (CONT'D)
Jump or take the stairs?

John looks at Dan. His face asks "you know how high that is?"

DAN (CONT'D)
I'm on point.

Dan shoulders his rifle and heads off. John follows.

INT. RUN DOWN BAR - NIGHT

John is propped up on a bar stool watching Ramon and Chris smoke and play pool. It's late. They've got a head full of steam and a belly full of booze.

RAMON
She told him?

CHRIS
Yes sir. Told him straight through
the heart.

Chris makes a pistol with his hand. Mimes firing.

RAMON
What did he say?

CHRIS
He started crying like a bitch.

Ramon laughs.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
They're better off apart anyway.

RAMON
Right? At least now I can fuck her.

Chris punches Ramon in the arm.

CHRIS
Dick. That's my sister.

Ramon laughs it off.

Chris sways his attention to John.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
It's great to have you home Johnny.

John looks up from his beer.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
You're a fuckin' hero man.

RAMON
We're proud as shit.

CHRIS
You look fuckin' great man. Jacked.

RAMON
Yeah man. They got you in shape.
Look at those guns!

Ramon grabs John's arm making him flex.

RAMON (CONT'D)
Show me those things. Show me!

CHRIS
I'm not into dudes. But tonight,
you can have me.

RAMON
I'm going to join the marines. Go
over there, blow shit up.

Ramon wraps an arm around John's neck.

RAMON (CONT'D)
Really glad you're back in one
piece man.

Chris finishes his beer.

CHRIS
Who's round is it?

RAMON
Yours.

CHRIS
Bullshit.

RAMON
Bullshit nothing. It's yours.

CHRIS
Bullshit. It went, me, then Johnny
and then you, then -- shit.

RAMON
Fuckin' moron.

CHRIS
Same again Johnny?

Chris looks at an empty stool.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Where'd he go?

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

Mickey carries a box of flags down one of the aisles.

Comes to a stop at the bear costume, drops the box.

HEARS a high pitched YELP.

Underneath a shelf, curled up in a ball, he finds Bella.

INT. FAMILY HOME / KITCHEN - MORNING

Bella, Dan and Angie are eating breakfast.

Dan is wearing his fatigues as this is the day he is shipping out for Afghanistan and Angie is wearing the dress she was in when she was woken up in the garden.

Bella enters the kitchen, followed by Dan and Angie.

BELLA
Pancakes! Let's go!

ANGIE
Pancakes!

BELLA
Yeah!

Angie joins Bella.

ANGIE
We need music.

BELLA
Music!

Bella has taken a pancake mix bottle from a cupboard.

Angie puts on music and Dances with Bella in the kitchen.

Angie tips pancake mixture onto the hot frying pan.

Dan laughs at them.

ANGIE
Sit! We've got this don't we Bella?

BELLA
We got this dad.

DAN
Alright.

Dan opens the freezer and takes out the ice cream.

ANGIE
Grab the plates Bella.

Bella takes a plate.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
That's for dad.

Bella serves Dan a plate with a pancake on it.

Angie drops a plate in front of Bella, then sits.

Dan studies Angie. She is being bathed in sunlight. Angelic.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
What?

DAN
Nothing.

ANGIE
Stop looking at me.

DAN
Never.

Bella looks from Angie to Dan. A huge smile on her face.

ANGIE
You know what this needs?

BELLA
What?

ANGIE
Hair of the dog.

BELLA
Gross mom. We don't even have a dog
and even if we did, why would we
eat her hair? Oh my God! Are we
getting a dog!?

Angie laughs, taking a beer from the fridge.

ANGIE
It's a her?

BELLA
Yes. A Great Dane. And her name
would be Monster radio driver.

Angie laughs. Dan frowns at Angie.

ANGIE
What's wrong with you?

DAN
The sun just came up Angie.

Angie rolls her eyes.

DAN (CONT'D)

We woke you up in the garden.

ANGIE

Don't judge me. Don't do a tour of home and judge me. You can't judge me. You don't have the right. You're never here.

DAN

I'm shipping out in two hours. I don't have time for this.

Dan leaves.

ANGIE

Yeah. Running back to your real family. We all know who that is!

BELLA

Here you go momma.

Bella holds up Angie's beer.

Angie grabs the bottle and storms out of the kitchen into --

BATHROOM

Angie leans against the wall. She bangs the back of head against the tiles.

Looking at the beer she grits her teeth and shakes her head.

She turns on the shower, keeping an eye on the beer.

She grabs the bottle and holds it over the sink.

It hovers. Heavy in her hand.

She DRINKS IT DOWN.

KITCHEN

Bella stares at pancakes burning on the stove.

She turns off the hot plate.

INT. STATE PEN - DAY

A finger runs along words in a Dr. Seuss children's book.

MATIAS

I've heard there -- are -- troubles
-- of more than one kind.

Mickey sits at a steel table opposite an ink covered Latino holding the book. This is MATIAS, 30's, hard as nails.

Came up tough. Knows nothing but the concrete of the inside or the streets. He glances up at Mickey looking for approval.

Mickey nods.

MATIAS (CONT'D)

Some, come -- from ah -- ahead and some come from behind.

Matias glances up. Mickey nods.

MATIAS (CONT'D)

But -- I've brought a big bat. This motherfucker carryin' a bat? Matias looks up.

MICKEY

Yeah.

MATIAS

No shit?

MICKEY

No shit.

MATIAS

Damn.

Matias focuses back on the book.

MATIAS (CONT'D)

I'm all ready, you, see. Now, my troubles are -- going to, have troubles with me.

Mickey claps once, then knocks twice on the table.

MICKEY

Nailed it.

MATIAS

What's it mean?

MICKEY

I think it's saying, there's always going to be trouble in your life and unless you learn to deal with it, it will stay around forever.

MATIAS

This is some dark shit you got me on old school. This is a fuckin' kids book?

Mickey laughs and nods.

An overweight PRISON GUARD, 50's, approaches.

PRISON GUARD
Alright Mickey.

Mickey stands up.

MATIAS
Hey? I spoke to my Bro.

MICKEY
Yeah?

MATIAS
See him Friday when you get to Vegas, tell him what you're about. Place called Roh's. The dick named it after himself.

MICKEY
Thanks Matias.

MATIAS
Nah man. Thank you.

Matias holds the book out to Mickey.

MICKEY
Keep it.

Matias points at Mickey.

MATIAS
We straight?

MICKEY
Yeah. What time?

MATIAS
Eleven.

The Prison Guard leads Mickey away.

MATIAS (CONT'D)
Don't be late! He hates that shit.

Mickey is lead away. A smile creeps across his face.

INT. FAMILY HOME / GARAGE - DAY

John forces the old stuck door open.

Inside are power tools, kids toys, a motor bike and a Black '68 Shelby Mustang GTR 500. Someone has poured his heart and soul in to this car. John runs his hand over the immaculate paint job.

John keeps searching until he finds what he was looking for.

A lawn mower.

JOHN

Alright.

John grabs hold of the starter cord and gives it a yank.

The old mower fires up, groaning to life.

EXT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

It's late. The streets are quiet.

Looking through the front wind screen of a car out the front of Roh's, Bella, wearing her PJ's and carrying a headless teddy bear crosses the road.

Moving through bright car head lights, she enters the store.

INT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

Inside the building -- Dan nudges open a door, and following the barrel of his rifle, steps inside.

John close on his six.

They descend down a dark stair case into a --

KITCHEN

They move through, scanning all the angles.

Dan points to --

Fresh meals sitting on a table. Two rows of tea cups.

JOHN

Warm.

DAN

Move.

They move off, quietly through the house past --

ENTRANCE

They both stop and look down at a pile of shoes.

DAN (CONT'D)

Keep moving.

John opens a door to a hallway.

Six INSURGENTS carrying AK-47's get the shock of their lives.

JOHN

Contact!

John falls back out the door kicking it closed. AK-47 rounds rip through the door showering John in wooden splinters.

He scrambles along the ground until Dan pulls him up.

DAN

Go!

Dan and John sprint through the house.

Bullets ricochet around them.

Dan kicks a door open -- bright sunlight fills the dark room.

DAN (CONT'D)

There!

Dan points to an exit that leads to the large open courtyard they crossed when they arrived.

John's head swivels. Insurgents moving down their flank.

JOHN

Contact right!

John sprays some rounds into the building suppressing the Insurgents chasing them.

Dan slides into cover behind a mud brick wall.

John drops down beside him

DAN

We got about thirty seconds 'til our exit is shut. Cover me. When I get across, I'll cover you. We'll leap frog our asses back to the convoy.

Dan runs for the way out.

JOHN

Up top! Up top!

TWO INSURGENTS appear on the roof.

John fires at them.

Dan, being peppered, ducks behind a pile of wood.

An INSURGENT comes out behind John, right on top of him. John grabs him and they fall to the ground.

John draws his side arm -- the Insurgent aims his rifle -- a round CRACKS into the Insurgents head.

Another Insurgent steps through the door and John, ready for it, unloads his magazine into him.

John spins to face Dan's. Dan's gone. Off John's reaction.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Helen walks into the foyer of the LVPD. It's late and busy.

GEOFF LIMAN (O.S.)

Helen?

Shiny suit. Gold watch. Smile of a salesman. GEOFF LIMAN is a by the numbers lawyer that loves his clients if they can pay.

HELEN

Mr. Liman? Is John OK? What happened?

GEOFF LIMAN

John's fine. He had a situation with some guys down town. It's all fine. No one was hurt. We can get him out on bail alrighty?

HELEN

What happened?

GEOFF LIMAN

Let's just get him home. You come see me in the morning. We sure got work to do.

HELEN

To do what?

GEOFF LIMAN

Keep John out of prison. Helen, you need to know it won't be cheap.

Geoff Liman hands Helen a piece of paper.

GEOFF LIMAN (CONT'D)

I've already put my discount on that, alrighty?

Helen's jaw hits the floor. She's never seen a dollar amount that big.

GEOFF LIMAN (CONT'D)

Come see me tomorrow. Make sure you bring John.

John is lead out of the holding cells.

Helen runs straight to him and hugs him.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Lunch time rush is in full swing. Lot's of FAMILIES and PEOPLE ON BREAK from their jobs are enjoying a meal.

Angie and Bella sit in a booth. Bella scans the menu. Angie scans the restaurant.

BELLA
We could share a pizza. Or a
burger? We could share that right?

ANGIE
I'm going to the bathroom.

BELLA
But we haven't ordered.

ANGIE
Order what ever you want.

BELLA
What do you want?

ANGIE
Whatever you're having.

BELLA
What if you don't like it?

ANGIE
I'll never have it again.

BELLA
Don't go.

ANGIE
Bella. I'm just going to the
bathroom, relax.

Bella glumly watches Angie leave.

BELLA
No you're not.

Angie strolls through the restaurant. She stops.

To her left.

The women's bathroom.

To her right.

The bar. Glimmering bottles line the wall.

EXT. RUN-DOWN BAR - NIGHT

Having just walked off from his two Buddies at the run down bar, John climbs into the cabin of his truck.

Starting the truck up, John accelerates out into the street.

Runs out the first gear.

Accelerates.

Runs out second gear.

The ride gets bumpy.

Runs out third.

John bounces in the cabin staring blankly out the windshield.

The engine ROARS.

Lights blur by out the window.

John slams on the brakes -- SCREECHING to a halt.

Reaching into the glove box John wrestles out a hand gun.

Chambers a round.

Holds the gun to his head. His white knuckle grip can't get tighter.

The engine ticks over. John breathes heavy.

Something grabs his attention through the wind shield.

His expression shifts. *A moment of realization.*

Lowering the pistol, John slides out of the truck.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

The store has been closed for hours.

Bella crawls out from underneath Bear and takes something out of her pocket.

On her tip toes, she places a wedding ring into Bear's mouth.

BELLA

You promised.

Bella crawls back down underneath Bear.

INT. FAMILY HOME / LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The living room has been trashed. Coffee table destroyed, book shelf smashed, front door is broken to pieces and there is stuff everywhere. Angie, beaten to a pulp is propped up against the front door threshold. Morning sun on her face.

A cell phone RINGS. VIBRATING.

Angie's eyes slowly open. She answers the call.

ANGIE

Bella? Baby where are --

Fear crosses Angie's face as she listens.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Who is this?

Angie sits up.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
I'll be right there. Please don't
hurt her!

Angie stands -- instantly the weight of her body is too much for her bleeding leg and she collapses.

She crawls out the front door.

EXT. FAMILY HOME / GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Angie yanks open the door to her car and hauls herself up.

She starts the muscle car. Hits the gas...

INT. '68 MUSTANG (MOVING) / LAS VEGAS - CONTINUOUS

Vegas back streets flick by outside. Angie grips the wheel... Police lights appear in the review mirror.

Angie accelerates...

INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

Angie enters the hallway, no longer beaten up, she has a large smile on her face and is covering her eyes with one hand while nursing a JD with the other.

ANGIE
Ninety nine! One hundred!

Angie takes her hand off her eyes.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Here I come!

Angie yanks open a cupboard door in the hall way.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Gotcha!

Angie frowns. Empty.

There is a KNOCK at the front door.

LOUNGE ROOM

Angie opens the front door.

RYAN
Hi there.

ANGIE

Oh shit!

Angie slams the door closed.

RYAN

Angie?

ANGIE

Just give me a second!

Angie downs her drink in one hit then runs into the --

BATHROOM

Fixes her hair. Shirt. Mouthwash.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Just a second!

LOUNGE ROOM

Angie grabs all the empty, half full and full bottles that populate the lounge room and goes about hiding them.

OUTSIDE AT THE FRONT DOOR

Ryan looks around. Confused.

RYAN

You OK in there?

The front door opens.

ANGIE

Hi.

RYAN

Hey. I hope I'm not bothering you coming by like this.

ANGIE

No. Come in.

Ryan enters.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Have a seat. Can I get you anything? Coffee? Juice?

RYAN

I'm fine, thank you.

Ryan sits down, noticing a wine bottle sticking out from under the couch. Another on the floor under the coffee table.

RYAN (CONT'D)
How are you?

ANGIE
I'm great.

RYAN
When you left the other night,
something occurred to me and I
don't normally do this, but I would
like to be your sponsor.

ANGIE
My sponsor?

RYAN
I can help you out when you need
someone to lean on.

Ryan hands Angie a card with his phone number on it.

ANGIE
In case I fall over right?

RYAN
Yeah.

Ryan puts a hand on Angie's leg.

Bella jumps out behind Ryan with a loud LION ROAR, her face
painted as a lion and wearing a lion costume.

Ryan spins around falling out of his chair.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Jesus!

Angie and Bella crack up laughing.

ANGIE
Ryan, this is Bella. Say hi Bella.

BELLA
Hi Bella.

RYAN
You shouldn't do that.

Ryan picks himself up. Composes himself and forces a smile.

RYAN (CONT'D)
I'll see you at the next meeting?

ANGIE
Thanks for stopping by.

RYAN
Sure thing.

Ryan leaves.

ANGIE
Did you have to?

BELLA
Way too tempting. Start counting!

Bella runs off.

INT. RESTAURANT / BAR - DAY

Angie sits at the bar, resting her head on her hands, staring at a whiskey neat in front of her.

It's a stand off.

ANGIE
Shit.

Angie slides off her stool and walks back to the restaurant area. She sees Bella sitting in the booth by herself.

Angie stops. Covers her face with her hands.

BAR

Angie takes the drink and downs it.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Can I get another please?

EXT. DESERTED ROAD / AFGHANISTAN - NIGHT

John, in full battle gear, stands guard at a small checkpoint on a deserted road.

A MAN, of middle eastern appearance, 30's, walks straight toward John, dodging eye contact and looking suspicious.

JOHN
Hey. Hold up.

John draws his side arm and aims at the Man.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Get on the ground!

The man puts his arms in the air.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Down! Now!

John throws the Man to the ground.

Searches him.

Wallet.

Keys.

Hand gun.

JOHN (CONT'D)
There we go.

John checks the gun. No magazine.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You got no bullets shit head.

John looks up. Two more STRANGERS, similar looking men, have appeared right near him.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Stay back!

John can HEAR sirens. Getting LOUDER. He looks around for the source of the sound.

JOHN (CONT'D)
What the fuck? Hey don't move!

John aims at the Men. The Stranger at his feet begs

STRANGER
Don't shoot my man!

John looks down at the man.

JOHN
What did you say?

John examines the man on the ground.

It's the Drunk that helped Mickey when he was lost.

DRUNK
Don't shoot my man! Don't shoot!

John turns to the source of the siren sound. A confused look of shock appears on his face when a Las Vegas Police Department car slides to a halt.

TWO OFFICERS pop up out of the vehicle. Guns drawn.

John looks over at the two Strangers. They are wearing everyday civilian clothes you would see on tourists in Vegas.

John glances at the drunk, the dirt road has become asphalt.

He looks around. The Afghanistan desert, has become --

EXT. LAS VEGAS - CONTINUOUS

John clutches at his clothes. He's wearing what he was wearing when he bought the beer for Dan at the bar.

JOHN
Wait. What the fuck?

The cops move cautiously toward John.

POLICE OFFICER 1
Drop the weapon!

John shields his eyes from the squad car lights.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)
Drop it!

John rubs his head. He's lost.

JOHN
The fuck?

POLICE OFFICER 1
Drop the fucking gun!

The pistol hangs heavy in John's hand.

John drops the gun. Then to his knees.

The Officers rush John tackling him to the ground.

INT. STATE PEN DISCHARGE OFFICE - DAY

In the Discharge office, Mickey steps up to a desk.

The Prison guard who came and took Mickey from the table with Matias slides a clear plastic bag over the counter. Mickey pulls out black clothing. Leather shoes.

PRISON GUARD
One really terrible old suit with a
shirt to match and some shoes.

Mickey looks at the clothes like they give him nightmares.

PRISON GUARD (CONT'D)
Gate money.

The guard slides some money to Mickey.

PRISON GUARD (CONT'D)
Get changed in there. Then head
over to processing, sign out and
you're a free man.

He points over to another small office. Mickey looks, he sees the Prison Guard that sold Mickey the Bieber T shirt.

Mickey nods and walks off carrying his clothes to the --

INT. STATE PEN DISCHARGE OFFICE CHANGE ROOM - DAY

Mickey has squeezed into a much too small three piece suit that a groom would wear to his wedding, years ago. Searching the pockets he pulls out a wedding ring with a modest stone.

MICKEY

I'll make it right.

Mickey examines himself in the mirror, long and hard.

He opens the jacket to put the ring in the pocket.

There's blood on the white shirt.

He looks around for an answer. Picks up his prison clothes.

EXT. AA MEETING - DAY

Middle of the day. It's hot. Bella and Angie are walking along the sidewalk next to a busy street. They walk up some stairs toward the entrance to a building.

BELLA

You said you would.

ANGIE

I know what I said!

BELLA

So you have to.

ANGIE

I know!

Angie gets to the top of the stairs and comes to a stop in front of a busy notice board covered in upcoming events.

Next to that, Bella stops in front of a white door.

Angie puts a hand on the door handle and opens it slightly.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Wish me luck.

BELLA

Good luck.

ANGIE

Here I go.

BELLA

Here you go.

ANGIE

Push me.

BELLA
What?

ANGIE
Push me.

BELLA
What are you talking about?

ANGIE
I promise you won't get in trouble.

BELLA
Seriously?

ANGIE
Yes, just for God's sake push --

Bella pushes Angie through the door and she trips over falling through. Bella gasps looking up at the door closing over Ryan's shocked face up on a stage.

Bella cracks up laughing.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

The Italian pizza place bustles. Lunch time local crowd. Ryan slouches at a table by himself next to a window.

Angie and Bella approach.

ANGIE
Hey there.

RYAN
You brought Bella?

ANGIE
Is that OK?

RYAN
Yeah. I mean, of course. You eaten here before?

ANGIE
I've wanted to. Looks real nice from the outside.

RYAN
And the inside?

ANGIE
Even better.

RYAN
Best and I mean best pizza in Nevada. You won't find a slice like it.

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

The guys out back are East Coast,
they know what dough is. Bella, you
like pizza?

BELLA

No.

ANGIE

You do. She does.

RYAN

Angie? I'm glad you decided to take
me up on my offer. The minute you
walked in I knew you were
different.

ANGIE

Really?

RYAN

Yeah. See, some people can't
function and drink. Some people
just go bam, deep end, only thing
that stops them is a wall right? My
point is --

A WAITRESS approaches. Puts a beer down in front of Ryan.

Angie stares at it.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Time to time I take the edge off.
I'm not made of stone right?

WAITRESS

Can I get you anything Ma'am?

Angie looks up at Ryan.

ANGIE

Double Vodka. Neat.

RYAN

Alright. Destroy that edge. Let me
get one of those too.

WAITRESS

What are we celebrating?

RYAN

Tuesday.

The waitress laughs, walking off.

ANGIE

When was your last drink?

RYAN

If I'm lying? Three years. If I'm
telling the truth? Three seconds.

BELLA

Can we go now?

ANGIE

We just got here.

The waitress returns. Puts the drinks down.

RYAN

Cheers.

ANGIE

Cheers.

The glasses CHINK over Bella's frown.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

Mickey approaches Angie's house carrying a piece of paper
with directions scribbled onto it in red ink.

Before he can climb the stairs, Ryan gets out of his truck.

RYAN

Can I help you?

MICKEY

I'm lookin' for Angie? Does she
live here?

Ryan tries to make himself look bigger while looking Mickey
up and down. He flashes a smile.

RYAN

Who?

MICKEY

Angie Donovan? I'm her --

RYAN

Think you got the wrong place. This
is my house.

Mickey stands for a minute looking at the house.

MICKEY

You sure? I just need to --

RYAN

Aint no Angie here and I got things
to do so, you know.

MICKEY

Sure.

Ryan watches Mickey walk on back down the drive.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

At the end of an aisle, Mickey finishes hanging a flag.

All the aisles are now done.

MICKEY
How you going in there?

Mickey walks into the aisle next to his.

He smirks.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Not like that.

BELLA
Like what?

Bella has hung a flag --

MICKEY
It's upside down.

BELLA
So?

MICKEY
So, you can't do it like that.

BELLA
Why?

MICKEY
Two reasons. One. Respect And two?
'Cause that means SOS.

BELLA
What's, SOS?

MICKEY
What's SOS?

BELLA
Yeah.

MICKEY
You hang it like that when you're
in trouble, so everyone knows and
they can come help.

Bella scrunches up her nose.

BELLA
Whoops.

Mickey looks down the aisle Bella had been in.
Ten flags. All upside down.

MICKEY
Oh...

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Bella wakes up in ROH'S PAWN SHOP lying on the counter. She turns to see Bear placing a phone receiver back on the hook.

BELLA
Who did you call? Did you call mom?
Is she OK?

Bear nods.

BELLA (CONT'D)
She's probably worried sick about
me. Can we go home now?

Bear shakes his head.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Why not?

A figure appears at the front door, the shape of a person trying to put a key in the lock.

Bella and Bear hear the keys land on the ground.

Bear starts moving toward the back of the store.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

Bella hops off the counter.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Wait!

Bear goes into the back store room.

Bella follows, closing the door behind them.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

John and Helen pull up in John's truck.

John looks at Helen -- flicking through his legal documents with a roll of his eyes he slides out.

Flipping open the gas cover, he pumps gas into his truck.

On a construction site nearby, a jack hammer starts pounding. Steel on concrete. TACK -- TACK -- TACK -- TACK.

John turns, the jack hammer gets LOUDER becoming --

EXT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

Gunfire. Back to John and Dan in combat.

John fires into the building, fighting off the insurgent attack. Dan comes running back toward him and drops down beside him.

JOHN
Where the fuck did you go?

DAN
Left side is closed.

A MACHINE GUNNER sets up over looking the clearing.

DAN (CONT'D)
We got to go now. Back the way we came. We run straight through, maintain fire superiority, then back down the mountain. Hey!

John snaps out of a vacant stare.

DAN (CONT'D)
I go then you go, OK? Cover me. John!

JOHN
Yeah?

DAN
Cover me. Ready?

JOHN
OK.

DAN
Go!

Dan pushes off the wall.

John doesn't move.

EXT. LAS VEGAS OLD STRIP - NIGHT

On the busy Old Strip, Bella and Bear run through the old strip.

BELLA
Come on! Let's go!

The bright neon lights go whizzing by over their heads.

The sight of a nine foot tall Bear and a small girl seems quite entertaining for the public.

They keep running until they reach a brightly lit busy intersection.

Coming to a stop, Bella smiles at Bear and the attention he is getting.

TOURIST
What movie is he from?

BELLA
What? Nothing.

TOURIST
Haven't seen it.

People take out their cell phones to take photo's.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Having lost the battle with the booze, Angie pushes herself up off a barstool.

ANGIE
Thanks.

She drops a few notes next to a bunch of empty glasses and then walks back past the women's bathroom door to the --

RESTAURANT

Angie enters to see Bella sitting at the table alone. Two meals in front of her going cold. Bella is smiling at something at another table.

Angie looks at what Bella is smiling at.

A PERFECT FAMILY of three.

Mom. Dad. Daughter. All sharing a meal. Sober.

They pass the ketchup bottle around.

Bella puts ketchup on her meal. Slides out of the booth and puts some on Angie's.

Sitting back down Bella watches the family eat.

Angie slides into the booth opposite Bella.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
This looks great. What is it?

BELLA
Cold. You were gone forever.

ANGIE
I'm back now, alright? Smile.

BELLA
I don't want to.

ANGIE
Bella.

BELLA
No.

Bella frowns.

ANGIE
Here it comes. It's starting in the
corner of your mouth.

Bella stares blankly at Angie.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
You want to play hard ball? Fine.

Angie gets out of her seat.

BELLA
Where are you going?

ANGIE
Got a quarter?

BELLA
Mom no. Please.

Angie strides over to the Perfect Family.

ANGIE
Excuse me?

They look up. Startled.

Angie can't hide the fact she's been drinking.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
I hate to bother you but, can I
please have a quarter?

PERFECT FAMILY WOMAN
A quarter?

ANGIE
A quarter.

The man searches his pockets discovering a quarter.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Thanks.

PERFECT FAMILY WOMAN
You shouldn't be with your daughter
like that.

ANGIE

Like what?

PERFECT FAMILY WOMAN

You're an embarrassment.

Angie nods.

ANGIE

You bet I am.

Angie walks over to the Jukebox.

Holds the quarter above the slot.

Looks over at Bella.

BELLA

Mom, no.

ANGIE

You made me do this.

Bella covers her eyes with her hands peeks through.

Angie drops the quarter in and makes her selection.

'Surrender' by Cheap Trick plays.

Angie starts singing.

Strutting around the restaurant, Angie owns the performance.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Bella. Up. Come on. Everyone that
is my daughter, Bella!

Bella's face turns red.

Into the first chorus. Everyone's watching now.

Angie's clearly done this before, hitting the drum roll with
her arms in the air, stomping her left then right heel
quickly, kicking her skirt around.

The FAT BALD MANAGER comes out.

Angie dances with him. He grabs for her arms with no luck.

Angie steps up onto her table for the second chorus.

Going from table to table, Angie moves into another part of
the restaurant.

PERFECT FAMILY WOMAN

Jesus. Look at her.

Bella buries her face in her hands, laughing.

A LARGE SECURITY GUARD arrives.

Angie grabs Bella and makes a run for the door.

EXT. SURBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Mickey stands on the sidewalk in front of an old run down home with knee high grass that has been long since foreclosed. The windows are boarded up and the place has been tagged into oblivion.

GARAGE

Mickey forces open the garage door with three big shoves.

He approaches a wrecked black muscle car that has been totaled. The whole front end is a crumpled mess of twisted chrome and steel.

Mickey looks in through the passenger side window.

Long black hair hangs from the spider web of cracks in the broken windshield.

A white veil from a wedding dress sits on the back seat.

Mickey stumbles, trying to catch his breathe he limps back to the garage door.

INT. LAS VEGAS BAR - AFTERNOON

There are a couple of people hovering around a pool table at the back.

Angie enters and heads to the bar.

BARTENDER
What can I get you?

ANGIE
Beer. Thanks.

BARTENDER
Coming up.

The BARTENDER places a cold beer on the bar.

Angie hands over a ten.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
No charge.

Angie straddles a stool. Takes a sip.

ANGIE
Seriously?

BARTENDER

Yeah.

ANGIE

Thanks. That's the nicest thing
anyone's done for me for a while.

Angie smiles up at the bartender. It's the same guy John
spoke too when he made the small shrine for Dan.

BARTENDER

Don't thank me. Thank him.

Angie moves along the bar coming to a stop at Dan's picture.

It hits her like a truck.

INT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Slamming the door closed Angie buries her face in her hands.

Pulling hair from her face, she pushes off the door.

ANGIE

Bella? Are you here?

The front door explodes open. Ryan, drunk off his ass stalks
toward Angie worked up as hell, blood running from his nose.

Angie braces for SMACK fist on face -- Angie goes down.

Ryan hauls Angie to her feet by her hair.

RYAN

Man enough to give it but not man
enough to take it?

Angie's limp body crashes through the coffee table.

Hands grip Angie's throat, her windpipe GURGLES closed.

INT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Ryan has his hands around Angie's neck.

They are kissing.

ANGIE

Wait.

RYAN

What? You want it too.

ANGIE

I just --

RYAN

Just what?

BELLA (O.S.)

Mom?

Ryan looks up to see Bella, one hand hanging by her side holding her yellow teddy by an arm.

ANGIE

Go back to bed sweetie.

BELLA

My music stopped.

ANGIE

I'll fix it.

Angie goes into Bella's room.

Ryan moseys toward Bella, finishing a whiskey.

RYAN

Your momma said go to bed.

BELLA

I got ears.

Ryan laughs.

RYAN

You got no respect though.

BELLA

Dad says you got to earn respect.

RYAN

Does he now? Well I say go to bed.

BELLA

Why don't you? In your own house.

RYAN

Go to bed.

Ryan shoves Bella toward her room.

BELLA

Don't touch me.

Ryan grabs Bella by the wrist.

Bella wheels around and hits Ryan with her yellow teddy bear.

Ryan laughs, grabs the bear, rips it's head off.

RYAN

Do what your told.

ANGIE (O.S.)

Alright sweetie --

Angie comes back in.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
-- all fixed.

Bella heads back to her room.

RYAN
Night Bella.

Angie closes Bella's door.

ANGIE
I think you should go.

RYAN
Angie --

ANGIE
She's up now, it's late.

RYAN
Fine.

Bella looks up at her open bed room window.

MICKEY (PRE-LAP)
You want to come out of there?

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

Mickey crouches on the floor looking at Bella curled up under the shelf.

BELLA
No thanks.

MICKEY
Want me to call your mom?

BELLA
I don't want to go home.

Mickey re-thinks his position.

MICKEY
What's your name?

BELLA
Bella.

MICKEY
Bella?

BELLA
Yep.

MICKEY

No way. Bella? The Bella?

BELLA

I don't know.

MICKEY

It would only matter if you were the Bella I was looking for.

BELLA

What Bella are you looking for?

MICKEY

I need to give her something.

Mickey holds out the wedding ring that was in his pocket when he was checking out of prison.

BELLA

It's just a ring.

MICKEY

Just a ring? What? This isn't just any ring. It's magic.

BELLA

Are you lying to me mister? I can spot BS a mile away.

MICKEY

Cross my heart.

Bella crawls out and stands in front of Mickey.

BELLA

What does it do?

MICKEY

If you wear it and make a wish. It will come true.

BELLA

You serious?

MICKEY

Dead serious.

BELLA

Anything I want?

MICKEY

Anything you want.

BELLA

I'm the Bella you're looking for.

Mickey laughs.

MICKEY

If I let you wear it, you call your mom to come get you. While we wait you can help me hang some flags.

BELLA

You got a deal pal.

Bella stretches out a hand to shake and a hand to drop the ring in.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

John watches Dan fire and run across an open clearing to the other side of a large compound.

JOHN

Dan! Move!

The Machine Gunner from the roof top aims fires, TACK -- TACK -- TACK -- TACK and dirt kicks up around Dan's feet.

DAN

Dan!

John is staring at Dan like he is watching TV.

DAN (CONT'D)

Fire your fucking weapon!

John fires at the Machine Gunner who switches aim to John.

John gets ABSOLUTELY SMASHED to the point he has dropped his rifle and covered his head with his hands. Debris rains everywhere around him.

Dan drops behind cover about half way to the other side.

The Machine Gunner keeps up the pressure on John.

Dan fires at the Machine Gunner and the Machine Gunner swings around to Dan.

John's hearing has gone. He's covered in concrete dust. Through blurry eyes he sees Dan trying to fight.

John pulls himself to his feet. Sees --

Dan make a break for it across the clearing.

Dan slides into cover on the other side of the clearing.

He's made it out.

DAN (CONT'D)

Come on!

Dan sprays rounds at the Machine Gunner.

John looks from Dan to the Machine Gunner to see a rocket propelled grenade fired in his direction, it explodes over his head.

The wall behind John collapses, right on him.

Darkness.

Silence.

INT. FAMILY HOME / KITCHEN - DAY

Angie is in the kitchen fixing a drink. Bella enters carrying a bag of groceries. It's heavy but she's managing.

Bella places the groceries onto the floor.

ANGIE

Did you go to the store?

BELLA

No. There's more outside.

Bella leaves. Angie follows.

ANGIE

Where did --

Angie gets to the front door to see another six bags of groceries waiting.

Bella picks one up.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Who --

BELLA

Don't know. But they did good.

Angie looks at the bags. Among other things, there's cold cuts, six loaves of bread and two gallons of two percent.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Angie and Ryan are quite drunk eating pizza.

Bella watches on unimpressed.

ANGIE

Would you rather be a rabbit sized elephant or an elephant sized rabbit?

RYAN

Elephant sized rabbit. Roam the country side, eat all day. Jump over fences. Living the dream.

BELLA
Can we go home yet?

ANGIE
Soon baby.

Bella sits back and crosses her arms.

RYAN
Maybe you want to stay just a few
more minutes?

BELLA
No.

RYAN
You shouldn't say no to adults.

BELLA
I don't. Trust me.

ANGIE
Soon Bella.

BELLA
Now!

Bella pushes her plate onto the floor.

Then Ryan's.

Then Angie's.

ANGIE
Bella!

The restaurant's lunch service comes to a stop.

Bella runs off.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Sorry.

Ryan holds up his hands, he's covered in food.

Angie goes after her.

OUTSIDE

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Hey! Stop right now!

Angie catches up to Bella and spins her around.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
What was that? You have no right to
do that!

Bella slaps the glass out of Angie's hand.

BELLA
You promised dad!

ANGIE
I'm trying alright?

BELLA
No you're not! You say you are but
you're not!

ANGIE
You're right. I'm sorry.

BELLA
Can we just go home please?

Angie puts an arm around Bella.

ANGIE
Let's go.

Leading her away Angie pulls Bella close.

INT. HEART ATTACK GRILL - DAY

Here's all you need to know about The Heart Attack grill.
It's a place in Vegas you eat free if you weigh over three
hundred and fifty pounds and people have died eating there.

Mickey strolls in.

FRAN, 30's, African American, dressed as a nurse because
that's what the staff wear, cleans a table. She pockets a few
bucks left as a tip.

FRAN
Oh shit.

MICKEY
Fran? You working here too?

FRAN
How long you been out Mickey?

MICKEY
Can we talk? Please?

Fran sighs.

FRAN
I'm going on break!

EXT. HEART ATTACK GRILL - MOMENTS LATER

Out back in the carpark Fran lights a smoke.

FRAN
Angie know you were getting out?

MICKEY
I need to find her Fran.

FRAN
You drinkin'?

Mickey shakes his head.

FRAN (CONT'D)
She don't work here no more. We
aint spoke since she left.

MICKEY
For where?

Fran shrugs.

FRAN
A lifetime of watching you guys
slowly kill yourselves wrecked her.

MICKEY
I can't change what's happened
alright? And I don't know what's
going to happen. All I can do is
try and make things right and hope
that fixes both.

FRAN
Well. Good luck with that.

Fran flicks her cigarette. Walks back inside.

MICKEY
Please.

FRAN
You know she's married now? Got a
little girl and everything. You're
a grand-daddy, can you believe it?

MICKEY
Fran!

The door closes.

Mickey aggressively rubs his face.

Starts pacing, back and forth, remaining calm.

SNAPPING Mickey punches the wall.

Clenching his fist, he grits his teeth -- fuck that hurt.

Mickey turns and unleashes -- fists SMACK against solid brick. The wheels have come off.

MICKEY (CONT'D)
Can I get one more fucking chance!

Clenching bloody fists Mickey takes a deep breath in.

FRAN
If you mess this up.

Mickey, frozen mid melt down, a compromising expression on his face, slowly turns to Fran.

FRAN(CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Fran takes out a red pen. Scribbles something onto her pad. Rips off the paper and holds it out for Mickey.

Mickey runs to Fran and hugs her.

FRAN (CONT'D)
Wait! Get the fuck off! They make me pay for this stupid uniform!

Fran pushes Mickey away. Mickey laughs it off.

EXT. MILITARY CEMETARY - DAY

Angie lies in lush kept green grass, clutching the photo of Dan that was left underneath the drink at the bar.

Looking at Dan's grave she wipes her eyes. Dan's head stone is one of hundreds.

ANGIE
We were a team. What the hell do I do now?

DAN (PRE-LAP)
Get up Angie.

EXT. FAMILY HOME / GARDEN - DAY

It's the morning that Bella woke Dan sleeping on the couch.

Dan looks down at Angie, asleep in the garden.

Dressed to hit the strip the previous night, Angie is disheveled, messy hair, makeup running squints through tired eyes. Dan helps Angie to her feet.

BELLA
You should stop sleeping in the garden mom. You know that?

ANGIE

Hey baby.

BELLA

Can we have breakfast now?

DAN

Ask your momma if she'd like to
join us.

BELLA

You want breakfast momma?

ANGIE

Sure.

BELLA

We're having pancakes.

ANGIE

That's great.

Bella walks back toward the house.

Angie shields her eyes from the sun and looks up at Dan.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Fran was having one of her melt
downs. I couldn't leave her alone.

BELLA

Dad! These pancakes won't cook
themselves. I got juice to make,
let's go!

ANGIE

I lost track of time.

DAN

Uh huh.

ANGIE

I must look like shit.

DAN

I think you're beautiful.

Dan turns and walks off. Angie watches them go.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey stands next to Bella, who sits legs crossed on the counter, a phone held to her ear, she draws a picture while she talks.

BELLA
 Yes. OK. Well that's true mom, but
 these things wouldn't happen if one
 of us was a responsible adult.

Bella hangs up the phone.

BELLA (CONT'D)
 Mom's coming.

Mickey raises his eyebrows.

BELLA (CONT'D)
 She wouldn't have noticed I was
 missing until I called.

HELEN (O.S.)
 Excuse me?

Mickey turns to Helen approaching the counter.

HELEN (CONT'D)
 I need to sell something. Do you
 rip me off now or do I need to
 wait?

MICKEY
 Come through. Bella, stay there.

HELEN
 Shouldn't you be at home?

BELLA
 Shouldn't you?

HELEN
 Fair enough.

Mickey walks Helen to another section of the store.

MICKEY
 Roh?

Roh comes over.

HELEN
 I want to see what this is worth?

Helen holds up her hand to show Roh her wedding ring.

ROH
 Get it off. I'll have a look.

HELEN
 I've never -- I don't know if it
 will come off.

ROH
Take a seat.

Roh takes a pieces of string, starts wrapping it tight around Helen's ring finger like he's done it a hundred times.

HELEN
I'm not sure it will come off.

Roh finishes wrapping the string tight.

Slides the ring over the string over Helen's finger.

ROH
Easy.

Helen nods.

Mickey can read on Helen's face how much that just hurt.

Roh looks at the ring.

ROH (CONT'D)
I'll give you eight hundred. Cash.

HELEN
Is that all?

ROH
I got a shelf full of rings lady. I need it less than you need the money.

HELEN
Couldn't you just go a little more?

ROH
Take it or leave it alright?

Helen looks at Mickey. Mickey looks back at Helen.

HELEN
I'll take it.

ROH
Come with me.

Roh leads Helen away.

Mickey heads back out to the front of the store to see the front door closing over Bella, being lead out by Angie.

Mickey goes behind the counter, looking down he sees the drawing Bella left on the counter.

A man, a woman and a small girl standing in front of a house.

INT. LIGHT STORE - NIGHT

Bella creeps through the store full of different colored LED lights. It's dark, but colorful.

BELLA
Nineteen. Twenty! Here I come!

Bella bumps into a LATE NIGHT SHOPPER.

LATE NIGHT SHOPPER
What are you doing?

BELLA
Looking for my dad.

Bear steps behind the Late Night Shopper.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Found you!

Bella points to Bear.

Bear TOWERS over the Late Night Shopper. The low light does nothing but make Bear look real.

EXT. LIGHT STORE - NIGHT

The LATE NIGHT SHOPPER runs out SCREAMING.

Bella walks out --

BELLA
What was her problem?

-- followed by Bear.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Let's go find mom.

Bear looks around.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Follow me.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

It's late. Mickey closes up.

He switches off the lights. Heads towards the front door.

HEARING A NOISE he stops.

He walks along the aisles looking for any sign of someone.

Nothing.

Goes into the

STOREROOM

Shelving full of pre-owned stuff.

Mickey walks along the shelves.

Nothing.

Heads back toward main part of the store.

Mickey pushes on the store room door leading back to the main front of the store.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey comes through the store room door into the ROH'S PAWN SHOP carrying a limp, blood covered Bella in his arms.

MICKEY

C'mon. Hey! Stay awake!

Mickey runs toward the front door of the store.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

Stay with me!

Mickey gets to the front door and pushes on it --

INT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Bella pushes open the front door and steps inside.

BELLA

Mom!

Bear enters.

BELLA (CONT'D)

She's not here. Let's wait in my room so we can surprise her.

INT. FAMILY HOME / BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bear and Bella wait in Bella's room for Angie to return.

They HEAR the front door slam closed.

ANGIE (O.S.)

Bella? Bell are you here?

They HEAR the front door explode open and Angie scream.

RYAN (O.S.)

Man enough to hit me but not man enough to take it?

Bella runs into the living room to see Ryan choking Angie.

BELLA
Hey! Get off her, dick!

Ryan turns, fire in his eyes.

RYAN
About time someone taught you some
respect.

Ryan stalks toward Bella, she steps backwards bumping into --
Bear steps out pulling Bella behind him.

RYAN (CONT'D)
What the fuck?

Bear shoves Ryan into the dry wall. Ryan collapses in a heap.

Ryan gets up -- runs at Bear throwing punches.

Bear pushes him again. Ryan's body going into a book shelf.

Ryan stands up.

Angie tries to stand, weak on her legs she limps toward Ryan
and pushes him hard into the book shelf. He slumps in a heap
on the floor.

Wincing, Ryan gets up. His body looks like it weighs a ton.

ANGIE
Don't come back. Dick.

BELLA
Yeah. Dick.

Ryan and what's left of his pride limp out the door.

Angie watches him go. His truck starts up and he drives off.

Angie turns her attention to --

ANGIE
Bella get away from him!

Angie props herself up against the wall.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Who the fuck are you?

BELLA
He came to say goodbye.

ANGIE
What?

BELLA
He promised he wouldn't leave
without saying goodbye.

Bella looks at Bear.

ANGIE
Bella what are you talking about?

BELLA
Show her.

Bella leans in close to Bear.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Prove it. What is the last thing
you sent me?

Bear walks into Bella's room.

Angie is confused, beaten up and tied. Her mind races.

Bear comes back out carrying a headless yellow teddy bear.

BELLA (CONT'D)
See?

Angie limps toward Bear. Dropping the bat.

ANGIE
How?

Angie studies Bear. The expression on her face changes.
She believes.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. For everything.

Angie latches onto Bear.

Bella squeezes between them.

For a brief moment, the family are reunited.

Bear steps away from Angie and walks toward the door.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
Please forgive me.

Bear nods. Then leaves.

BELLA
Wait!

Bella goes after him.

ANGIE
Bella, no! Wait!

Angie limps to the door -- falls onto the floor -- her leg won't hold her weight.

Angie leans against the threshold watching Bella and Bear disappear into the night.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Angie walks toward her house clutching the picture of Dan.

A small orange light glows in the shadows.

RYAN
Not taking my calls now?

Ryan staggers out, flicking his cigarette away. He's had more than his fill for the night but is still sipping on an almost empty bottle of whiskey.

ANGIE
Go home Ryan.

RYAN
He doesn't mean shit right?

ANGIE
Yes he does.

Angie tries to walk past Ryan. Ryan grabs her arm.

RYAN
What about us?

ANGIE
There's no us. There never was. I made a mistake. I'm sorry.

RYAN
You're sorry?

Angie tries to wrestle free, Ryan shakes her.

RYAN (CONT'D)
How do you think he'd feel if he found out what a good wife you were while he was --

Angie SMACKS Ryan across the face.

They square off.

Ryan pushes Angie, smirks.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Tough girl huh? Think you can take
me?

Angie punches Ryan clean on the chin and he goes down.

Angie runs toward her front door.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

John wakes up GASPING for air.

In a pile of rubble. A mess. Blood everywhere.

DAN (O.S.)
John!

Looking over the clearing, John sees Dan. Firing at the
Machine gunner -- he kills him.

DAN (CONT'D)
You got to move, now!

John gets to his feet.

DAN (CONT'D)
Let's go!

John doesn't move.

DAN (CONT'D)
John! Now quickly! It's clear, go!

John looks blankly at Dan. Darkness behind his eyes.

DAN (CONT'D)
Shit.

Dan sprints toward John.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

Bella wakes up in ROH'S PAWN SHOP cuddled into Bear.

She scans her surroundings.

Closed for the night.

Bella walks toward the front door.

Stops. Turns back to face Bear.

Bear stands up! He's big.

Bella paces backward, terrified, bumping into the front door.

Bear waves.

Bella GASPS with excitement and sprints toward Bear

BELLA (PRE-LAP)
Daddy!

INT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

The morning Dan ships out for a tour just after he and Angie have argued. Dan walks away from their bedroom down the hall.

Dan gets to the open front door.

BELLA
Daddy!

Dan turns -- Bella jumps into Dan's arms. Holds on tight.

BELLA (CONT'D)
You weren't going to say goodbye.
You were just going to leave?

DAN
What?

BELLA
You were going to leave without
saying goodbye?

Dan laughs.

DAN
I'm just putting my bag in the
truck. I wouldn't leave without
saying good bye. Ever.

BELLA
You promise?

DAN
Yeah.

BELLA
Say it.

DAN
Bella. I promise I'll never leave
without saying goodbye.

BELLA
You really really promise?

DAN
I really really promise.

Bella hugs Dan.

BELLA
I'm glad we had this talk.

Dan laughs.

EXT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Angie's Mustang slides on gravel to a halt. It is the moment Angie was being chased by the police. Angie, beaten up, leaps out and runs toward Roh's.

A POLICE CAR pulls in just after her and the TWO OFFICERS leap from their car and give chase.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

Bella runs after John's truck as it drives away.

Dan looks at her in the review mirror.

Bella stops running, watching the truck drive away.

BELLA (PRE-LAP)
You're going away again aren't you?

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Bear and Bella are in the store room.

Bear bends down to be eye level with Bella.

Bella steps close. Nose to nose.

BELLA
And you're not coming back?

Bears wet nostrils expand and contact with each breath.

His eyes are real. Fur is real. It is a real bear.

Bella hugs Bear as tight as she can. Bear moves off.

BELLA (CONT'D)
Please don't go.

Bear becomes less visible moving through the shelving.

ROH enters through the back door of the store. This puts Bear directly between Roh and Bella.

ROH
Hey! The fuck!

Drawing his gun, Roh aims at the shelving.

ROH (CONT'D)
You got a death wish coming up in here. Where you at? I'll tell you where you're going. Six feet under mother fu--

Roh catches a glimpse of Bear.

ROH (CONT'D)
What the fuck.

BELLA
Wait!

Bella runs out from behind the shelving toward Roh.

Roh turns -- squeezes the trigger.

The muzzle flashes three times. TACK -- TACK -- TACK.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

It is the moment Dan is sprinting toward John.

A bullet goes straight through his head.

His body lands hard in the dust.

Frozen in place, John's stunned mind plays catch up.

EXT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

A continuation of Angie running from the police.

Angie frantically yanks on the locked door -- the THUD sound of three gun shots comes from inside the shop.

Angie steps back, hands shaking.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey, stands at the counter going through boxes. He looks up at the door -- Angie yanks on the door trying to get in.

Three GUNSHOTS ring out from the store room.

Mickey's head pivots to face the store room door.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

Stunned in place, John studies Dan's body lying in a heap.

Two INSURGENTS move out into the clearing and search Dan.

John retreats back into the building.

There are three dead bodies inside half buried in rubble.

John hides among a large stack of bed rolls and clothing.

INT. AA MEETING - NIGHT

A microphone and an empty lectern.

Angie steps in front of the mic. Nervous. She exhales.

INT. BELLA'S HOUSE - DAY

Bella, now dressed differently than we have ever seen her sticks up the picture she drew the night she spent at Roh's in her little cave out in the dust bowl.

EXT. BELLA'S HOUSE - DAY

She walks out into the bright sunny day carrying the folded flag that was given to her at Dan's funeral.

ANGIE (V.O.)
When did I stop saying I can't wait
for tomorrow and start saying I
hope I survive today?

INT. AFGHANISTAN COMPOUND - DAY

John is hidden among the bed rolls.

INSURGENTS enter and start searching the room.

Two arms reach into the bed rolls near John. They pull out the Teenage Afghan Boy who John saw on the road side.

The Insurgents yell outside the door.

An OLD INSURGENT, balding and heavy set man enters. He grabs the boy, yelling at him in Arabic while searching him.

He finds what he was looking for. A cell phone.

The boy cowers under the verbal barrage. He glances up, making eye contact with John.

They hold each other's stare.

The Old Insurgent slaps the boys face.

Grabs him by the shirt and drags him away.

ANGIE (O.S.)
Before I can fix the problem, I
first need to admit there is one.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey pushes through the store room door carrying a limp, blood covered Bella in his arms.

The police officers are waiting, guns drawn.

Angie SCREAMS and hauls Bella out of Mickey's arms.

ANGIE (O.S.)
 I do these things I know I
 shouldn't do. Why can't I stop?

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP STORE ROOM - DAY

Roh kneels over Bear. We can see on his face that the weight of having just taken a life hits him hard.

Roh looks up. Mickey comes from behind, lifts Bella off Bear.

Roh slides the Bear mask off --

ANGIE (O.S.)
 I lost sight of what's important.

-- John's lifeless face, eyes open.

EXT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Angie wipes hair from Bella's face.

ANGIE (O.S.)
 So here I am.

Bella's eyes spring open.

EXT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

The night Bella ran away from home, from across the street we see Bella enter ROH'S PAWN SHOP.

John, who has just run the red light is sitting in his truck.

He kills the engine, this was his POV.

INT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - NIGHT

Through a gap in the shelf, John sees Bella place the ring inside Bear's mouth.

ANGIE (O.S.)
 Saying out aloud.

BELLA
 You promised.

INT. AA MEETING - DAY

Angie forces the words from her throat.

ANGIE
 My name is Angie.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Helen sits in Mr. Liman's waiting room nursing John's file.

Mr. Liman comes out of his office Helen looks up and forces a smile. Shakes her head. John's not here.

ANGIE (O.S.)
I'm a mother.

EXT. ROH'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Mickey looks at Angie holding Bella. Angie glances at Mickey. Her look of gratitude changes to shock.

ANGIE (O.S.)
A daughter.

INT. AA MEETING - DAY

ANGIE
And I am, an alcoholic.

Mickey and Bella watch Angie from the front row.

EXT. BELLA'S HOUSE - DAY

Having just hung the flag she was carrying to the flag pole, Bella walks back toward the house.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - CONTINUOUS

Angie watches from the back door.

ANGIE (O.S.)
And I need help.

Mickey steps in behind Angie.

MICKEY
So what happens now?

Watching Bella. Angie smiles.

ANGIE
We try again.

Mickey looks from Angie to Bella, marching toward them.

Above Bella, bathed in the warm light of a setting sun, the flag flicks around in the breeze.

Upside down.

CUT TO BLACK: