

circle of confusion

APERTURE

By

Steeve Léonard & Caroline Labrèche

Los Angeles

8931 Ellis Avenue
Suite B1
Los Angeles, CA 90034

New York

270 Lafayette Street
Suite 402
New York, NY 10012

INT. AIR DUCT - DAY

Lewis Markham pops his head into view out from an open ventilation grill. He's in his late 30s, dressed in blue overalls -- has a simple face with a mousy charm.

He inspects the duct work around him... Picks up a dust ball.

He climbs back down the ladder, revealing a large, empty UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM below -- an M.I.T-type school.

A TEACHER (50s) walks in. He's only got one arm.

Lewis catches himself staring...

LEWIS

Sorry... I didn't mean to stare.

TEACHER

That's quite alright.

(looks around)

How long is all this going to take?

LEWIS

We've been called here for maintenance, but... some of these ducts really need repairs so, I dunno... you'd have to ask my boss.

TEACHER

I suppose I'll be teaching quantum mechanics in the gym for a while, then.

Lewis answers with a friendly shrug. The teacher sighs and walks holding a box of term papers...

EXT. UNIVERSITY BREAK AREA - DAY

Six GUYS dressed in overalls sit at a picnic table in an outside lunch area. LEWIS arrives, alone. The other guys hardly acknowledge him. He goes for the only seat left; there's a NEWSPAPER on it.

LEWIS

Is this yours?

DWIGHT

Yeah, but you can trash it.

Lewis picks it up and instantly JUMPS BACK! It's a RAT!

A rubber rat -- but it gave Lewis a good scare. The guys burst out LAUGHING as Lewis regains his composure:

LEWIS
Yeah, alright, ha-ha... you got me.

DWIGHT
Aw, shit that never gets old!

Lewis picks up his lunch, starts to leave.

YOUNG CO-WORKER
Come on, don't be like that...

LEWIS
I'm gonna go grab a nap in my car.

DWIGHT
You know it's funny though, right?

The boss -- ALFREDO (50s) -- intervenes.

ALFREDO
Markham, they're just fooling
around.

No response. Lewis turns a corner, out of sight.

DWIGHT
Aw... you gonna go cry to your wife
about it?

INT/EXT. LEWIS'S CAR - DAY

Lewis's car (Connecticut plates) is parked at the edge of the UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT, alone. INSIDE sits Lewis, eating a sandwich while talking to his WIFE on speakerphone..

LEWIS
How's the sandwich?

INT. ELISE'S OFFICE - THIS MOMENT

ELISE -- 30s, pretty, long chestnut hair -- sits behind her desk in a PEDIATRICIAN'S OFFICE. She talks on speakerphone.

ELISE
Damn good. I want that tomorrow
too.

LEWIS (V.O.)
You got it.

INTERCUT: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION --

Lewis takes a bite -- sauce drips out of his sandwich.

LEWIS

Ah crap.

ELISE

What?

LEWIS

I'm dripping mayo all over my boots.

ELISE

...Are you in the car?

LEWIS

Uh huh.

ELISE

The guys bust your balls again?

LEWIS

Yeah. Dwight did the rubber rat thing.

ELISE

Of course he did. Sorry baby.

LEWIS

Hey... at least it gives me an excuse to come out here and talk to you.

INT. UNIVERSITY - DAY (SERIES OF SHOTS)

- LEWIS removes ceiling tiles, exposing vents underneath...
- He cleans vents with a large electrical brush...

EXT. UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT - SUNSET

Lewis walks to his car when he spots DWIGHT sitting in his pick-up truck. The man SLAMS the steering wheel.

DWIGHT

Goddammit!

His truck won't start. Lewis notices. They lock eyes.

DWIGHT

What?

MOMENTS LATER --

Lewis stands in front of the pick-up truck, hood open.

He's cleaning the tip of a sparkplug with a blowtorch. Dwight silently watches him do it.

LEWIS
This should help... for a little
while, anyway.

He screws the sparkplug back in place.

LEWIS
Try it now.

Dwight goes behind the wheel and tries the motor... It stutters
a bit but soon gets going. LEWIS goes back to his car...

DWIGHT
Hey uh, Markham, look --

Lewis cuts him off; a mix of awkward and cocky:

LEWIS
Buy some new sparkplugs.

He gets in his car and leaves.

EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - SUNSET

Lewis pulls into his driveway, next to a red Hyundai. The
HOUSE is a late-60s bungalow, in a quiet suburb.

INT. LEWIS'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A fondue kit on the coffee table. "Wheel of Fortune" on TV.
LEWIS & ELISE are on the couch -- having supper...

ELISE
You know, I wasn't sure about the
whole "mango dipping sauce" thing,
but I have to say...

She nods, dips bread in the sauce, eats it... Her eyes
suddenly widen as she points at the TV.

ELISE
(*mouth full*)
Oh! Oh!

THE TV presents a PUZZLE on screen. It reads:

"R()LL () ()TH TH() P()NCH()S".

LEWIS
(*steals it*)
"Roll With The Punches"!

ELISE slaps him on the arm!

LEWIS

Ow!

ELISE

That one was mine!

LEWIS

You don't have to hit me!

He goes to take a bite --

LEWIS

Hey did I ever tell you my dad
wanted me to become a boxer?

Elise almost SPITS OUT HER food --

ELISE

What?!

LEWIS

Yeah -- he was obsessed with
Muhammad Ali.

ELISE

Oh my God... that's hilarious.

LEWIS

What? You don't think I could box?
I could box.

ELISE

Oh honey...
(*pauses; patronizing*)
I love you.

INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lewis & Elise are at the dining room table. They're playing a classic TILE-LAYING GAME called "Rummy".

LEWIS

Lizzie... Come on...
(*waits*)
You're taking forever.

Elise doesn't care. She's busy moving tiles around, creating new combinations of numbers -- it's impressive.

And then, she stops. Smirks.

LEWIS

You're gonna finish aren't you?

ELISE

Yep!

She flips her tile-rack over: it's empty. She won.

ELISE

As always, it was a pleasure.

LEWIS

Two out of three?

ELISE

No thanks. I'm gonna go take a shower.

She kisses him on the forehead then leaves down the hall.

ELISE

You know what your problem is don't you... You never plan your moves ahead of time.

LEWIS

I'd remind you that we're still missing that blue number two tile. That's got to count for something.

We hear the SHOWER starting up in the distance.

ELISE (O.S.)

Are you gonna join me?

INT. LEWIS'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lewis and Elise are together in the shower. It's barely big enough for the both of them.

LEWIS

You're sure you can't stay home tomorrow?

ELISE

I don't think so, hon... I'm still getting flack because I didn't go to her party last year.

Without her having to ask, Lewis SWITCHES PLACES with his wife -- giving her room to rinse her hair..

LEWIS

It's gonna be so boring without you here.

ELISE

What do you mean, boring? You'll have more than your hands full with all those trick-or-treaters.

He agrees with a grumble.

ELISE

Come here.

She gives him a quick KISS. And then... a much longer one...

INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAY

Elise is by the front door, shoving a "devil" HALLOWEEN COSTUME in a tote bag. She's getting ready to leave for work.

ELISE

Oh my god, I hope Becky doesn't make her pumpkin squares. I don't know if I'll be able to control myself.

Lewis is at the kitchen table, on his laptop.

LEWIS

So... just don't control yourself.

ELISE

Are you kidding? Do you know how much sugar she puts in those things, I don't wanna get fat.

LEWIS

You? You'll never get fat.

ELISE

I might.

LEWIS

And what if you did?

ELISE

I don't know, I just...

LEWIS

You know I'd still love you.

ELISE

You mean "there would be more of me to love".

Lewis goes to her --

LEWIS

Elise Markham.. I would love you even if you were fat.. or sick, or disfigured, or an actual devil.

ELISE

Jesus, Lew..

LEWIS

I mean it.

ELISE

(beat; smiles)

Yeah... I know you do.

INT. AIR DUCT (UNIVERSITY) - DAY

Lewis has his head up an air duct, working with a NOISY power drill. He stops after a while, revealing the sound of students TALKING LOUDLY -- echoing through the vents.

VOICE #1 (O.S.)

This proves the whole goddamn theory, it fucking proves it!

VOICE #2 (O.S.)

Holy shit, this is incredible! This is incredible!!!

Lewis shrugs it off. Continues working..

INT/EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

RAIN falls heavily, soaking a JACK-O'-LANTERN on the front porch. Up in the window, LEWIS scopes out the empty street.

He glances at his phone: 8:00 PM. He sighs; bored.

LATER -- Lewis zaps through TV channels, not really registering what's on-screen. He shuts the TV off...

LATER -- He's on his knees, CLEANING THE OVEN... He checks the time on his phone, goes back to his task.

LATER -- He tries juggling with some oranges. Fails at it.

FINALLY -- In the KITCHEN, phone to his ear; ringing...

INT. BECKY'S PARTY - THIS MOMENT

Elise, dressed-up as a devil, fills her cup with punch while people dance in the background. Her phone RINGS in her tiny red purse. She takes it out, sees it's Lewis -- smirks.

ELISE
(answers phone)
 You're bored, aren't you?

INTERCUT: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION --

LEWIS
 Yeah. When are you coming home?

ELISE
 Not for a while. Becky just convinced everybody to order pizza and then she's got this whole charades thing planned out. Besides, it's raining cats & dogs. I might as well wait it out over here.

LEWIS
 Come on, what's a little rain?

ELISE
 You know Lew, I'm actually having a good time over here.

LEWIS
 Oh.

Things fall quiet -- he's clearly disappointed.

Elise shakes her head and smiles; she knows her man.

ELISE
 Alright, look... I'll have a bit of pizza -- and then I'm coming straight home. How 'bout that?

LEWIS
 No, look I'm being stupid, that's all -- you don't have to come home.

ELISE
 We can watch an old horror movie in bed if you want. Dracula, the mummy, the fish guy - you pick!

LEWIS
 Well... That does sound good.

ELISE
 Of course it does -- 'ya big baby.

LEWIS
 Alright, alright... Have some fun,
 have some pizza -- I'll see you
 later. Drive safe... I love you.

ELISE
 Love you too dummy.

INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - LATER

LEWIS is asleep on the sofa... He WAKES with a start.

LEWIS
 Lizzie? You home?

He checks his PHONE: 12:50 AM.

LATER, IN THE KITCHEN --

The stove-top CLOCK reads 1:30 AM... Lewis paces, cellphone
 in hand. On speakerphone, a voicemail welcome message:

ELISE (V.O.)
 "Hi there! You've reached Elise
 Markham, I'm obviously not here to"--

LATER STILL -- 2:05 AM.

Lewis TEXTS nervously: "Where are U?"...

The DOORBELL suddenly rings.

Lewis opens the door, revealing two POLICE OFFICERS.

OFFICER
 Lewis Markham?

LEWIS
 Yes?

INT. LEWIS'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The OFFICER speaks in a slow, restrained manner..

OFFICER
 She must have swerved to avoid
 hitting the animal -- slipped on
 the wet asphalt...

(pauses)
 Mister Markham.. Your wife's car
 collided head on into a tree.

LEWIS stares into space, rubs his THUMB on his wedding ring.

OFFICER

The coroner believes she died on impact... I'm so sorry.

Nothing from Lewis. Tears run down his face...

INT. MORGUE HALLWAY - NIGHT

LEWIS

I have to see her!

CORONER

Mister Markham, you have to understand.. Because the vehicle caught fire --

LEWIS

Please... just let me see her.

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

The CORONER exchanges a look with Lewis, then pulls back the sheet covering Elise's body. We only catch a GLIMPSE of her face: charred, no eyes, no humanity left.

Lewis turns away. He starts crying.

CORONER (O.S.)

I'm sorry.

Lewis lets himself slide to the floor... And we FADE OUT...

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - DAY

LEWIS stares into space as mourners walk to a PHOTOGRAPH of Elise to pay their respects. There is no casket in the room.

LATER, BY THE PHOTOGRAPH --

Lewis shakes people's hands as they leave the room...

ALFREDO

You take all the time off you need.

LEWIS

Yeah... Thanks.

Up next is some distant AUNT in her 70s --

AUNT

Such a shame you couldn't have an open casket, dear.

Lewis bites his lip.

AUNT
 She had beautiful eyes. Such
 beautiful --

EXT. FUNERAL PARLOR - DAY

Lewis VOMITS next to his car. Alone in the parking lot.

INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BEDROOM: Lewis walks in wearing his funeral suit. He looks over at the EMPTY DOUBLE BED. His gaze falls onto one of Elise's SWEATERS on the comforter.

LIVING ROOM: Lewis is asleep on the couch, still wearing his funeral suit -- holding ELISE'S SWEATER is in his arms...

EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAY

Leaves blow around the yard. A brisk autumn morning.

INT. LEWIS'S BATHROOM - DAY

Lewis showers, dead-eyed. He stops to smell Elise's shampoo.

INT. LEWIS'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lewis sits in the empty room, despondent... It's dead quiet.

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - DAY

On a desk: a WALLET, HOUSE KEYS, and a LUNCH COOLER.

UP A LADDER: someone working -- head in the ceiling.

ALFREDO
(walks in)
 Markham? Is that you?

It is. He takes a few steps down...

ALFREDO
 What are you doing back at work?

LEWIS
 I just felt like working.
(dry)
 Is that a problem?

ALFREDO
 No, no it's not a problem per se,
 it just seems --

LEWIS

Good.

Alfredo watches him climb back into the ceiling. Sighs --

ALFREDO

Don't finish up too late.

He leaves, getting no answer from Lewis.

EXT. UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The place is mostly empty at this hour.

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Lewis steps down the ladder, wiping his dust-covered face.

He exits the room, propping the door with a cardboard box to keep it from closing behind him.

As he makes his way **DOWN THE HALL**, unknown to him, the box starts to slip ever so slightly...

INT. UNIVERSITY WASHROOM - NIGHT

Lewis steps out of a stall and goes to wash his hands.

He catches his **REFLECTION** in the mirror; he looks like crap.

INT. UNIVERSITY HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Lewis walks down the hallway when he notices the box is now out in the hall -- and the **CLASSROOM DOOR** is closed.

LEWIS

Of course.

He tries the handle; it's locked. He **PEEK**s through a small window, revealing his **KEYS** and **WALLET** on the desk inside.

LEWIS sighs, looks around -- the place is dead.

MOMENTS LATER, BACK IN THE WASHROOM --

A **VENTILATION GRILL** on the floor... **SCREWS** next to it...

UP ABOVE all this -- Lewis stands on top of the bathroom stalls; hoisting himself up a ventilation shaft...

INT. AIR DUCT - MOMENTS LATER

Lewis **CRAWLS** on his belly through the ducts... He comes to a junction, turns right, keeps going...

Something suddenly catches his eye up ahead. A lab RAT.

LEWIS

Oh crap.

He starts CRAWLING backwards... very slowly. But the RAT unexpectedly SCURRIES TOWARD HIM!

Lewis starts to panic. Moves FASTER. His OVERALLS get caught on something. He tries to WRIGGLE free. The RAT is close now! LEWIS jerks! Too hard this time --

The DUCT collapses under him! Sending him falling into the ROOM DOWN BELOW along with half the DUCT WORK.

The ROOM he's in is a **STUDENT LAB**; it's made up of ten WORK STATIONS holding computers, electronics, and student projects in various stages of development.

LEWIS gets up out of the debris, aching.

MOMENTS LATER --

Lewis tidies up the room... He puts a workbench back upright and picks up an OBJECT off the floor: it's a BLACK CUBE, about the size of a dodgeball. It has a single BUTTON and a DIGITAL DISPLAY -- both on the **front** and **back** of it.

Note: Astute viewers might notice a weird-looking GLOVE off to the side (like a high-tech version of the "Nintendo Power Glove"). But that's not important right now...

Lewis puts the CUBE down on the workbench when he notices its button's CASING has come undone. He tries to snap it back in place but it won't budge. He gives it more pressure... Bingo! But his FINGER slips & hits the button.

The CUBE suddenly splits open about one inch! Lewis waits...

But... Nothing happens. He looks INSIDE the "split" and sees a shiny piece of metal. He gently pries the two half-cubes apart, revealing the metal piece to be a flat, telescopic plate: it extends three-feet long, effectively joining the two halves of the cube together AT THEIR BASE.

Lewis stares at the contraption, wondering what the hell it could be for. And then -- the device begins to HUM...

LEWIS

(recoils)

Uh...

Something suddenly appears out from the bottom plate, CHOPPING OFF part of a low-hanging lamp in the process!

This "something" is a semi-transparent "SCREEN", emanating from the metallic plate. It measures 3 feet wide by 6 feet high, shimmers pale blue, and catches the light like a pane of glass. LEWIS stares at it -- awestruck...

On this "**screen**", Lewis sees an empty TEACHER'S LOUNGE.

Strangely, the image he's looking at aligns perfectly with his current POINT OF VIEW. In other words: the size & shape of the LOUNGE on-screen is identical to the ROOM Lewis is in right now; the only differences are the FURNITURE and DECOR.

It's almost like this screen was a window; but it showed a DIFFERENT VERSION OF REALITY when you looked through it.

Intrigued, Lewis PANS the device around, revealing more of the "other room" shown on-screen... A whiteboard with the date written on it catches his attention: "Nov. 12 2018"

Lewis whips out his iPHONE and checks it. It too reads "November 12 2018". Lewis frowns -- looks back at the whiteboard and sees a CLOCK above it: "11:15 PM".

Lewis checks his phone again. Its TIME reads the same.

As Lewis contemplates what all this means, a TEACHER enters the LOUNGE on-screen (with his back to us).

No such person is present in the STUDENT LAB -- only Lewis.

The latter watches the TEACHER, who makes himself coffee while talking on his cell. SOUND coming from the screen is MUFFLED, making the teacher's dialog unintelligible.

The man eventually TURNS AROUND -- and we recognize him: it's the ONE-ARMED TEACHER Lewis was talking to some days ago.

But to Lewis's surprise, the man has both his arms!

The teacher keeps chatting when something catches the corner of his eye... He turns to look, nonchalant, and then --

DROPS HIS COFFEE. He's looking right at Lewis!

Lewis panics -- he instinctively SLAMS the device's button, making the glowing screen disappear!

No more teacher. No more lounge. Only Lewis -- in awe...

LATER --

Lewis stands at the workbench where he found the device, flipping through a handwritten NOTEBOOK.

We catch glimpses of TECHNICAL SCHEMATICS and WORDS like "multi-verse theory", and "breaching as of yet untested".

A tile suddenly FALLS FROM THE CEILING, snapping Lewis back to reality.

He walks across the student lab to a DOOR that leads into the CLASSROOM where he'd previously been working. THERE he grabs his ladder and tools...

LATER, BACK IN THE STUDENT LAB --

Lewis REPAIRS THE CEILING... Glancing back at the DEVICE every once in a while -- unable to shake off what he's seen.

MUCH LATER -- the STUDENT LAB all fixed up --

Lewis looks the place over, satisfied. He carries his stuff back into the ADJOINING CLASSROOM... Shuts the light off... Goes to leave but then... stops.

He stays there. On the threshold. Mind reeling... And with his LEFT hand... strokes his wedding ring with his thumb...

INT. LEWIS'S CAR - NIGHT

Lewis drives... On the seat next to him: the DEVICE.

INT. LEWIS'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Lewis stands in front of a screen, projected by the DEVICE. It's only now that we truly notice the SHAPE AND SIZE of this "screen": it's a large rectangle -- big enough for a man...

It's an opening -- a DOOR. *It has to be.*

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT, we see another version of the GARAGE we're in: less cluttered, with a cargo-van parked inside it.

LEWIS puts his hand up to the screen and PUSHES FORWARD, making energy ripples dance around his fingers: resistance.

Lewis really puts his weight into it. But nothing changes.

He swings at it with a HAMMER. But it's a virtual brick wall.

NEXT THING WE NOW --

Lewis is aiming a nail-gun at it! He turns his face away and fires! But to his surprise, he doesn't hear any ricochet. He tests the screen with his hand again... But it's still solid.

Lewis scans the OTHER SIDE for the nail. It takes a while, but he eventually sees it -- stuck in the side of the van.

A thought enters his mind...

EXT. LEWIS'S DRIVEWAY - DAWN

Lewis stands at the edge of his driveway, facing his open garage -- and the GLOWING SCREEN inside it. He takes a deep breath... and CHARGES TOWARD IT at full speed!

A side-view shows him disappearing into the garage...

Then stumbling back outside -- flat on his ass!

EXT. FOREST BIKE PATH / CLEARING - MORNING

LEWIS sits on a mountain bike wearing a helmet and a large backpack. He's on a BIKE PATH atop a steep slope.

A HUNDRED FEET DOWN, where the path gives way to a CLEARING, the DEVICE projects a shimmering screen. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT, we see a JUNK YARD filled with decaying semi-trucks.

LEWIS takes a deep breath... And GOES FOR IT! He pedals like crazy and, helped by the slope, he soon gathers an impressive amount of speed! His eyes widen as he gets closer and closer!

We GO TO SLOW MOTION --

...Lewis SQUEEZES his bike handles...
 ...CLOSES his eyes...
 ...The BIKE approaches the screen...
 ...Its WHEEL is now only inches away...

And finally... IT GOES THROUGH -- *a hot knife through butter.*

ON THE OTHER SIDE, the DEVICE appears below the floating aperture in a ripple of energy...

We RESUME NORMAL SPEED just as Lewis EMERGES from the opening at full blast, opening his eyes only to realize that he's about to crash into a rusty semi-truck --

He SWERVES to avoid it, nearly falling off his bike!

He SLAMS ON THE BRAKES and steadies himself, then looks around. His face lights up. He starts laughing. *It worked!*

Lewis looks back at the DEVICE: thankfully, it came along into this world the instant he crossed over. Its screen now shows the FOREST CLEARING (Lewis's world) on the other side.

LEWIS

Huh. Okay.

He pedals over to it and tests the screen with his hand; but it's rigid again. *Dammit*. He gets off his bike and CLIMBS BACK UP THE HILL (which exists in this universe as well).

MOMENTS LATER --

ON THE GROUND -- the innards of a busted AUDIO CASSETTE sway in the wind, near the foot of the slope...

Lewis PASSES IT BY at full blast! Then PUNCHES THROUGH the aperture -- back into his world.

He gets off his bike when he notices a strand of tape caught onto his BIKE PEDAL. He pulls it free, noticing that the tape reaches ALL THE WAY to the device, and THROUGH THE APERTURE -- ending in the cassette ON THE OTHER SIDE.

Lewis frowns... And goes check it out...

He gently PULLS on the tape, resulting in the CASSETTE moving on the other side! *Holy shit...*

Lewis notices ENERGY RIPPLES surrounding the area where the tape CROSSES THE THRESHOLD. He tries a hunch... Puts his HAND up to the screen and... it goes through!

LEWIS

Huh!

He pulls out his hand and grabs the tape, then starts REELING IN the cassette. And as soon as the cassette crosses over, the ENERGY RIPPLES on the aperture subside.

Lewis puts his hand up to the screen once more, and...

Yep -- it's solid again. *He understands*.

INT. LEWIS'S GARAGE - DAY

Lewis rummages through his cluttered garage... He eventually finds a BUNDLE OF ROPE, and... a T-shaped PLASTIC CASE.

EXT. LEWIS'S BACKYARD - DAY

Lewis walks in wearing sunglasses, a hoodie, and a backpack. Oh, and carrying a CROSSBOW. He walks to a secluded nook at the back of his yard; between his HEDGE and TOOLSHED.

MOMENTS LATER --

The device now projects an APERTURE; waiting to be breached. LEWIS stands in front of it -- aiming his CROSSBOW at it. We notice the ARROW he's using has a ROPE tied to its tip, which ends in a bundle on the ground.

Lewis STEADIES himself and... fires! Sending the ARROW flying through the screen, taking with it about ten feet of ROPE.

Lewis looks down at the aperture's base, now held in flux by the rope straddling both worlds. He smiles, satisfied.

He grabs the rope bundle and slowly STEPS ACROSS THE THRESHOLD -- into the other universe.

Where once was a SHED **there is now a GAZEBO** --

Lewis ducks down behind it and shuts the device off. He straps the crossbow across his backpack and starts taking in the sight before him...

The YARD he's in looks very much like his own, apart from a few landscaping features. Same goes for the HOUSE: it has some cosmetic changes, but it's definitely the same building.

Lewis spots a CLOTHESLINE by the patio, and on it, WOMEN'S GARMENTS. His eyes glimmer with a sense of hope...

He hurries across the yard and finds a spot that lets him peek through the patio door unseen... But his vantage point doesn't reveal much more than a simple dining room table.

Unsatisfied, he creeps in closer when SOMEONE SUDDENLY ENTERS THE DINING ROOM! Lewis ducks! Waits. He risks another look and that's when he sees a WOMAN -- her back to him. Lewis's eyes widen at the sight of her, but she soon leaves the room.

LEWIS

Shit!

He gets up just in time to see the woman turn a corner and disappear down the hall... This is driving Lewis insane!

He dashes over to a WINDOW at the other end of the house, but this one is higher up. Luckily, it's right above a GARDEN HOSE REEL screwed to the house. Lewis climbs it, quiet as he can, then peeks inside the house through partially closed curtains, revealing the MASTER BEDROOM.

And then... SHE walks in. Elise. Identical. Beautiful.

Lewis is frozen. He watches on... Emotions flooding him.

ELISE goes about her business, unaware of his presence...

And then... HE walks in -- another Lewis.

He's identical to our Lewis, except for a mustache above his lip.

The man goes over to Elise and kisses her on the neck -- and the SIGHT hits Lewis like a punch to the gut. So much so that he LOSES HIS FOOTING on the hose reel!

He stumbles to the ground, making a hell of a NOISE!

THE MAN INSIDE (**from now on referred to as Lew2**) hears this.

LEW2

What the...

He looks out the window -- sees a hooded stranger.

ELISE (O.S.)

What is it?

LEW2

(darts out of the room)

There's somebody out there!

ELISE

What?!

LEW2 (O.S.)

Stay in the house!

LEWIS hurries across the yard, disappearing behind the gazebo just as LEW2 exits the house -- holding a baseball bat. The man scans the yard quick -- sees no one in sight.

MEANWHILE, LEWIS quietly takes the device out of his bag...

LEW2 suddenly notices a patch of CRUMPLED DAFFODILS in a flower bed close to the gazebo.

LEWIS has now got an aperture up and running. He scrambles to load a ROPE-ARROW into his crossbow.

MEANWHILE, Lew2 walks toward the trampled flower bed...

He suddenly hears the crossbow's CLICK as it FIRES. He hurries to go look behind the gazebo --

But all he finds is a short STRAND OF ROPE on the ground.

BACK IN HIS OWN WORLD -- Lewis catches his breath. Relieved he escaped, but also... *excited about having seen Elise*.

INT. LEWIS'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lewis's CELL is on the counter; his MOM is on speakerphone.

MOTHER (V.O)

How are you holding up sweetie?

LEWIS

You know how it is... I mean... You went through it with dad.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Are you eating?

LEWIS

Yes, mom -- I'm eating.

He's pouring hot water into a "Cup O' Soup".

MOTHER (V.O.)

How are you keeping busy?

LEWIS

I'm uh... I find myself looking at a lot of pictures of her.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. VARIOUS - MONTAGE

Lewis's PHONECALL WITH HIS MOM is heard in **V.O.** throughout --

SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY: Lewis is on his bike, spying on Elise from across the street. She gets out of her car and gets art supplies from the backseat.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Does it help?

LEWIS (V.O.)

A bit -- I think. I don't know. I just want to see her.

MOTHER (V.O.)

I understand. When your father died I used to look at photo albums every night before I went to bed... I was trying to get myself to dream about him. And often, it would work.

LEW2'S BACKYARD - NIGHT: Lewis spies on the house... He sees Elise and Lew2 go into the bedroom and draw the curtains. They start kissing, then move to the bed, out of sight...

MOTHER (V.O.)

The dreams weren't perfect -- you know how dreams are... But at least he was there.

CITY PARK - DAY: Elise jogs down a park path. She stops to drink at a water fountain, not fully aware of the man sitting on a bench 10 feet away: it's Lewis -- incognito.

MOTHER (V.O.)

But after a while I came to realize that the mornings that I woke up after having dreamt about him, I often felt... sad.

LEW2'S BACKYARD - NIGHT: Elise and Lew2 are having a romantic supper on the patio. **BEHIND THE GAZEBO**, Lewis spies on them with an active aperture by his side -- if ever he should need to escape...

MOTHER (V.O.)

The dreams made me miss him even more... So I took the decision to stop. And I put the albums away.

OVER ON THE PATIO, unaware -- the happy couple...

LEW2

And... here's desert!

Lew2 lifts up a napkin, revealing a pie.

ELISE

Is that sugar pie?

LEW2

Yep!

ELISE

Yes!

She goes to cut a piece --

LEW2

Yeah, but look closer...
Ah shit, it sank!

Lew2 reaches into the pie and takes out a RING, which he sucks clean before KNEELING in front of Elise.

ELISE

What? Are you serious? I've been bugging you to do this for twelve years! Why now?

LEW2

I just... I guess I ran out ways to tell you how much I love you.

ELISE grabs him and kisses him. Then offers up her hand.

LEWIS can't bare to see this... He crawls over **BACK INTO HIS WORLD**, then lifelessly reels in his arrow-rope.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Honey... what I'm trying to say is...
you need to let her go...

(pauses)

For your sake.

LEW2'S KITCHEN - NIGHT: Lew2 looks at Elise through the kitchen window; she's OUTSIDE, grinning at the sight of the ring on her finger. LEW2 opens a bottle of wine -- spills some by accident -- sending a bit dripping onto his shoe.

LEW2

Dammit...

MOTHER (V.O.)

It's going to be the hardest thing
you'll ever have to do... but you
need to do it. You need to move on.

IN HIS WORLD, LEWIS shoves the device into his backpack.

End of MONTAGE -- CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - MORNING

FADE IN ON: Leafless trees... Winter is on its way.

INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lewis takes Elise's clothes out of her dresser...
He reluctantly PACKS THEM into boxes marked "Goodwill".

INT. LEWIS'S CAR - DAY

Elise's BOXES are on the backseat. LEWIS parks his car in front of the GOODWILL STORE. He stops the motor when his gaze catches a store SIGN reading "Every Little Thing Counts". He stares at it for a **long beat**...

EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAY

Lewis pulls into his driveway. He exits his car and retrieves the BOXES from the back seat. He couldn't do it.

FADE OUT...

INT. LIQUOR STORE - NIGHT

FADE IN ON: Valentine's Day decorations. LEWIS is at the checkout, paying for GIN and a 30-PACK of Bud. The clerk hands him a bowl of heart-shaped candy.

CLERK

On the house...

LEWIS

No thanks.

INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lewis walks in with his liquor. The HOUSE is a complete mess: empty CUP 'O SOUP containers... an overflowing GARBAGE BIN... BEER CANS everywhere -- he's given up. We FADE OUT...

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA [AIR DUCT JOB] - DAY

FADE IN ON: "Sept. 3rd", written on a whiteboard FOOD MENU.

Nearby, the AIR VENT GUYS finish eating their lunch at one of the many POPULATED tables in the space. LEWIS is among them.

DWIGHT

Four more hours, bitches. And then it's T-G-I-Fuck! Time to go out and find some pussy!

LEWIS

(to himself)

Jesus...

DWIGHT

What? You too good to get your dick wet, Markham?

Lewis picks up his stuff and starts walking away.

DWIGHT

Maybe that's what you need.

Lewis stops.

DWIGHT

You heard me. Maybe that'll get rid of your mopey fuckin' attitude.

Lewis turns. DARTS back over to him --

DWIGHT

Oh what, you're gonna --

Lewis KICKS him off his chair! The other guys GET UP in an uproar, but Lewis already has Dwight by the collar. He lands one good PUNCH on him before the guys manage to restrain him.

INT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAY

DIRTY DISHES on the dining table... and among them, an empty "Unemployment Benefits" form.

MEANWHILE, IN THE BEDROOM --

Lewis is taking Elise's CLOTHES out of the GOODWILL BOXES and putting them BACK INTO HER DRESSER... He doesn't look well.

FADE OUT...

EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

FADE IN ON: two COSTUMED KIDS arriving at Lewis's front door. The place bares no Halloween decorations, but the kids still ring the doorbell. IN THE STREET, their parents know better --

HALLOWEEN DAD

I don't think they're giving out candy over there, hon!

HALLOWEEN KID

They might! The lights are on!

INSIDE THE HOUSE --

The lights are on -- but nobody's in sight.

IN THE GARAGE --

SMOKE pours out of the car's exhaust and into the room... Lewis lies in the FRONT SEAT, windows down, eyes closed -- breathing in the fumes...

Suddenly, the MOTOR stops. Lewis opens his eyes, confused.

He checks the DASHBOARD: no more GAS.

MOMENTS LATER -- Lewis walks to his workbench, picks up a red GAS CAN. He shakes it. It's empty.

LATER -- Lewis sits on the floor... In front of him is the EMPTY GAS CAN, as well as his LAWN MOWER. He inserts a rubber tube into the mower's tank, then brings it to his lips...

He starts sucking... but nothing seems to happen. Irritated, he sucks again -- much HARDER this time...

Gasoline suddenly SHOOTs into his throat! Lewis spits it out and coughs hard. Meanwhile, the GAS KEEPS SPURTING out of the tube. Lewis tries to salvage what he can but the liquid soon runs out... It's a pathetic sight.

Lewis sits there, head down -- staring into space... He eventually notices something on the floor by the house door.

It's small, white, rectangular -- wedged close to the door's threshold. LEWIS crawls over to it and picks it up.

It's the missing "Blue #2" Rummy tile.

Lewis stares at it. And with each passing second, the SADNESS that was in his eyes transforms into a STRANGE RESOLVE...

SECONDS LATER -- Lewis retrieves his BACKPACK. Opens it.

And we SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

FADE IN ON an ARROW-ROPE on the GARAGE floor next to LEW2'S VAN. Next to it, an APERTURE projected by the DEVICE.

From there, we TRAVEL through the ajar house door... into the LIVING ROOM... down the HALL... and into the BEDROOM, where we find LEWIS -- staring down at...

ELISE. Sleeping peacefully... Next to Lew2.

And then... LEWIS shifts his gaze onto him.

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - DAY

Lew2 pulls his van into the driveway and into --

THE GARAGE -- where he TEXTS Elise before exiting the van:

"Took the afternoon off. Work was slow. See U tonite! xxxx".

INT. LEW2'S BATHROOM - DAY

Lew2 steps out of the shower, dries himself off.

INT. LEW2'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lew2 puts on a tee-shirt. He walks to the bedroom window and winds it closed. Unknown to him, LEWIS sneaks behind him...

He's got a PILLOWCASE over his head -- with eye-holes cut out. He creeps quietly toward Lew2 holding a STUN GUN...

Lew2 turns to go about his business when he sees him.

LEW2
What the fuck?!

Lewis freezes -- then RUSHES HIM! But Lew2 acts quicker:

He grabs an ALARM-CLOCK from the dresser and SMASHES it across his attacker's head!

A bold move -- but Lewis still manages to LUNGE FORWARD and JAB the man in the ribs with his stun gun!

LEW2 seizes up and TOPPLES OVER. He hits his head on the nightstand before crumbling to the ground -- unconscious.

Lewis POKES him with his foot to make sure he's out... No response. He takes off his makeshift mask -- heart pounding.

He sits Lew2 up against the bed and OPENS THE MAN'S MOUTH, then whips out a bottle of PRESCRIPTION SLEEPING PILLS from his pockets. He takes some out, splits them open, and dumps their powder underneath Lew2's tongue...

As Lewis waits for the powder to dissolve, his gaze falls onto his doppelganger's left hand; his WEDDING RING.

He almost forgot! He takes off his own ring. Looks at it... Probably for the last time. Then slips Lew2's ring off.

MOMENTS LATER --

Lewis is at the dresser, putting on some of LEW2'S CLOTHES. He also grabs the man's keys, wallet and phone.

EXT. LEW2'S GARAGE - DAY

Lewis drags his double's duct-taped body out of the house and into the adjacent garage, where he proceeds to put him in the back of the van.

INT/EXT. VAN - DAY

Lewis drives... He takes a turn down a gravel road, which leads to a familiar sight: a JUNKYARD full of SEMI-TRUCKS.

EXT. TRUCK JUNKYARD - DAY

Lewis opens the van's back doors, revealing Lew2 inside, still unconscious. Next to him is a folded up lounge chair.

INT. SEMI TRAILER - DAY

The space is roughly 30' x 8', dusty, lit only by a few holes in the roof. It's as good a holding cell as any.

LEWIS finishes securing Lew2 to the aluminum lounge chair with a generous amount of duct tape. He shoves a RAG into his mouth, then slips a HOOD over his HEAD -- making it bob forward unintentionally.

Lewis goes to prop it back up when he notices something DOWN LEW2'S BACK. He pushes Lew2 forward to get a better look.

LEWIS

What? No, no, no, no, no...

He quickly frees Lew2 from the chair. Lifts up his shirt.

LEWIS

Aw Christ...

It's a TATTOO -- about the size of a man's hand, located on Lew2's shoulderblade. It depicts a WIZARD BATTLING A DRAGON.

LEWIS

Aw Jesus...

(gets up; paces)

Aw Jesus... Shit!

He glances over at his unconscious prisoner. Considers his options at high speed. Then...

A SERIES OF SHOTS --

- Lewis RIPS all the TAPE off of Lew2.
- He takes all of Lew2's CLOTHES off.
- Lays him flat on the lounge chair.
- Then CHECKS every inch of his BODY for significant MARKS.

LEWIS stands back up. Satisfied but nervous.

LEWIS

Okay... Okay... Fuck.

He whips out his iPhone and TAKES A PICTURE of the TATTOO.

EXT. TOWN STREET - DAY

LEWIS steps out the van and walks into... a TATTOO SHOP.

INT. TATTOO SHOP - DAY

We hear BUZZING over the sound of HEAVY METAL MUSIC. LEWIS is lying on his stomach on a padded table. He's getting a tattoo done by a skinny METALHEAD.

Lewis cringes, smushed up against the table's face-hole.

LEWIS
How long did you say this was going
to take?

METALHEAD
About three hours.

LEWIS
Jesus...

BY THE CASH REGISTER, another employee --

BLOND DUDE
We can split it up into different
sessions if you want?

LEWIS
No... This needs to be done now.

LATER -- Lewis stands in front of a wall-mirror, shirtless.
The METALHEAD joins him, holding a HAND-HELD MIRROR --

METALHEAD
You ready?

LEWIS
Please, can we hurry?

The metalhead holds up the mirror... Lewis LOOKS:

LEWIS
(nervous)
Is this a joke?

The TATTOO is awful. It's the same as Lew2's, but the thing
looks like a CHILD'S DRAWING instead of an epic scene!

METALHEAD
What's the matter?

LEWIS
You kidding me? It looks like crap!

BLOND DUDE
No, man! I think it's kinda rad.
Like, you ironically enjoy wizards
and stuff.

LEWIS
Shut up. Alright, just... shut your
yap for a second.

METALHEAD

Look, I admit, I had a little trouble with the faces, okay?

LEWIS

A little?!

He looks back in the MIRROR: it'll never fly.

LEWIS

Shit! Alright, uh...

(panic hits him)

Alright, just... Just take it off.

Get rid of it!

METALHEAD

What?

LEWIS

Take it off! With the goddamn laser removal or whatever you call it!

METALHEAD

We don't do that here.

BLOND DUDE

There's a place down in Smithburgh that does it, but you can't go there right now.

LEWIS

Why the hell not?

METALHEAD

You have to let your skin heal first. Five weeks at least.

LEWIS

Five weeks! I don't believe this...

He puts his shirt back on. It stings.

LEWIS

Argh! Christ!

METALHEAD

(holds up a tube of cream)

You gotta put some ointment on there first.

Lewis heads for the exit. Mad as hell.

BLOND DUDE

Whoa hey! Dude where are you going?

He walks OUT THE DOOR --

LEWIS

Fuck!

The METALHEAD walks out too -- still holding the CREAM.

METALHEAD

Dude if you don't pay up, we're gonna have to call the pigs.

Lewis STARES HIM DOWN. Holds back the urge to scream.

He walks up to him. Takes out his wallet. And slams a wad of bills onto the guy's chest.

LEWIS swipes the TUBE OF CREAM from the guy's hands --

LEWIS

I'm keeping this.

A defiant yet laughable gesture.

INT/EXT. VAN - LATER

LEWIS sits behind the wheel, engine off, mind reeling...

He suddenly SNAPS.

He furiously starts banging on the wheel, OVER & OVER & OVER! He would've kept on going if it weren't for Lew2's CELLPHONE interrupting his moment of distress.

Lewis catches his breath, checks the phone. It's a TEXT MESSAGE from Elise reading: "Hey baby!"

Lewis smiles at the sight of it.

HE TYPES: "Hi. What's up?"

SHE ANSWERS: "Week was hell (...) You mind making supper?"

Lewis thinks about that... Likes the idea.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - DAY

Lewis walks out of the van holding GROCERY BAGS. He looks over at the HOUSE -- *a sense that all of this is his now...*

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - DAY

Lewis puts the groceries on the dining room table, then starts LOOKING AROUND THE HOUSE...

The layout of the place is pretty similar to his old house; the main difference being the furniture and decor.

IN THE LIVING ROOM, Lewis finds a PHOTO of Elise and Lew2 at the beach. They look happy.

IN THE BEDROOM, Lewis browses through Lew2 & Elise's clothes. His gaze falls onto a gym bag on Lew2's side of the closet... He looks inside -- pulls out a pair of BOXING GLOVES.

He snickers.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

ELISE pulls her car into the driveway - back from work...

INSIDE, SECONDS LATER --

ELISE
(walks in)
Hey baby!

She spots a FONDUE KIT set up on the table.

ELISE
Hon? You in the kitchen?

He is. And nervous.

LEWIS
Yeah, I'm here.

She walks in and immediately stops. Eyes wide.

ELISE
Oh my God... You got rid of him!

LEWIS
What?

She goes to him, smiling.

ELISE
You got rid of Woolly Willy!

She strokes his UPPER LIP with her thumb. LEWIS is frozen; excited but also terrified.

ELISE
It's so smooth...

LEWIS
Do you like it?

ELISE

Are you serious? How long have I
been trying to get you to shave it
off?

LEWIS

A long time I suppose.

She takes a step back, looks him over. Smiles.

ELISE

I love it.

She grabs him by the face and plants a KISS right on his
lips. LEWIS's heart stops. *It's actually working!* He's about
to put his arms around her when she RECOILS --

ELISE

Oh my gosh, it's like I'm kissing a
stranger!

He tries hard not to react to that.

ELISE

So what's with the big setup back
there, are we actually eating fondue?

LEWIS

Yeah.

ELISE

I didn't even know we had a fondue
set.

LEWIS

I bought one.

ELISE

Wow. Okay, well... I'm gonna take a
quick shower, and then...

(enthusiastic)

I guess we're having fondue!

She kisses him again and exits the room, leaving Lewis
standing there -- 100% happy. *This is what it's all about.*

INT. LEW2'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lewis & Elise eat supper... Well, Elise eats; Lewis enjoys
just LOOKING AT HER... She notices him staring --

ELISE

What is it?

LEWIS

What?

ELISE

You're looking at me funny.
What's wrong?

LEWIS

I'm not looking at you funny!

ELISE

Do I have something on my face?

LEWIS

No, no...

ELISE

Well... what is it?

LEWIS

You were just...
(*beat; shy*)
You looked pretty, that's all.

ELISE is taken aback.

LEWIS

What?

ELISE

Mister Markham, are you trying to
get into my pants?

LEWIS

(*tries to be charming*)
I'm just telling it like it is.

ELISE

Is that so? Well, you just keep
laying on the compliments like that
and who knows... You might just --
(*clears her throat*)
'Scuse me. I was saying... You
might just get lucky.

Lewis just remembered -- his tattoo! He stands up:

LEWIS

I'm uh... gonna get some more
bread. You want some?

He leaves into the kitchen --

ELISE (O.S.)
Uh, sure. Thanks.

-- where he stews for a second...

ELISE (O.S.)
Oh hey, did you see the alarm-
clock? It's not on my nightstand.

LEWIS
It uh... stopped working for some
reason. I threw it out, is that okay?

ELISE (O.S.)
Yeah, I guess. I always use the
alarm on my phone anyway.

Lewis comes back with the bread.

ELISE clears her throat again.

LEWIS
You alright?

ELISE
I dunno I feel like...

LEWIS
You think you might be getting a
cold or something?

ELISE
I mean, the kids at school are
always sick but...

She stops -- INHALES... She sounds WHEEZY.

ELISE
You hear that? It's almost like...
(looks at her food)
You made all this yourself, right?

LEWIS
Yeah, of course.

Elise touches her chest -- a worried look.

ELISE
What about the dipping sauce?

LEWIS
Well, not the sauce, no.

ELISE
What's in it?

LEWIS
I dunno...

ELISE
What do you mean "you don't know" --
you didn't check?

LEWIS
I, I don't...

ELISE
Well go! Go check!

He darts into the KITCHEN, looks around for the sauce...
Finally finds it in the fridge...

LEWIS
It says: "tomatoes, vegetable oil,
mango puree, garlic"...

ELISE (O.S.)
Mango?! Jesus Christ, Lew!

Lewis hurries back to ELISE; she's now standing, hands on the
table, STRAINING TO BREATHE -- her face red.

LEWIS
Oh my god!

ELISE
Go -- get my purse!

LEWIS
Where is it?!

ELISE
Bedroom!

Lewis hurries down the hall and into the BEDROOM. He spots
Elise's PURSE. Grabs it quick. Comes running back --

LEWIS
Holy shit!

ELISE is sitting on the floor, gasping for air -- face
swollen. She grabs the purse and empties it on the floor.
Lewis watches HELPLESSLY as Elise finds her EpiPen and
injects herself in the leg.

ELISE
(gasping)
Call an ambulance!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Elise is asleep in a hospital bed -- an I.V. in her arm.
Lewis holds her hand, nervous as hell.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lewis exits Elise's room when he comes across a NURSE.

NURSE
Is she still asleep?

LEWIS
Yeah. How serious is this thing?

NURSE
Luckily, you gave your wife an
epinephrine shot before you got
here.

LEWIS
She did, yeah. But if she hadn't?

NURSE
With this type of allergy,
respiratory failure can happen
alarmingly quick. And without air...

LEWIS
Jesus...

NURSE
She's going to be fine, mister
Markham. We just need to keep an
eye on her for a little while. The
important thing here is that you
acted fast and knew what to do.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Elise gets dressed... She notices Lewis staring into space.

ELISE
What's going on with you?

LEWIS
Nothing...

ELISE

You made a mistake, Lew, that's all. Heck, I've only had this allergy for, what... five years now? I mean it's still kinda new. We just have to, you know... read the labels more carefully next time.

LEWIS

(beat)

You could have died.

ELISE

Yeah, but I didn't, so... you know... cheer up.

Lewis sighs... Tries to fake a smile.

INT. LEW2'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lewis writes long lines of TEXT on a PAD OF PAPER...

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lewis QUIETLY exits the house, PAD in his hand.

INT/EXT. SEMI TRAILER - NIGHT

Lew2 can't talk, see, nor move. But he sure as hell can HEAR the oncoming vehicle. He WRIGGLES in his duct-tape prison and TRIES TO SCREAM for help beneath his mouth-gag.

OUTSIDE -- LEWIS steps out of the VAN wearing his pillowcase disguise... He unlocks the TRAILER DOORS and climbs inside --

Where LEW2 shimmies and wails, hoping for help.

LEWIS

That won't do you any good.

(walks over to him)

I'm gonna take out your gag now.

'Cause we need to talk...

He lifts up Lew2's HOOD a bit. Grabs the TAPE over his mouth.

LEWIS

Just so you know, you're in the middle of nowhere, alright? Nobody's around here, nobody can hear you, so... I don't care if you scream or whatever. But it won't do you any good is what I'm saying...

(pauses)

(more)

LEWIS (cont'd)

Alright -- I'm gonna rip it out in
one go... Ready?

LEW2 nods... Lewis pulls the tape off his mouth, exposing a
balled up RAG. Lew2 spits it out -- and instantly:

LEW2

Help! Help!!! Somebody help!!!

LEWIS

What did I just say?

LEW2

Help!!! Somebody!!!

LEWIS

You're in the middle of nowhere.
You're just wasting your energy.

LEW2

Help!!!!!!

LEWIS

Alright -- have it your way..

He shoves the RAG back in his mouth. Starts taping it up.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I'll be back tomorrow. Maybe then
we can talk like rational adults..

LEW2 panics and protests.

LEWIS

...No?

The captive PLEADS through his gag.

LEWIS

So... you'll be quiet? We can talk?

Lew2 NODS.

LEWIS

Okay. Alright.

He takes the tape and gag off again.

LEW2

What do you want with me?
Who are you?!

LEWIS

Well... I'm the guy holding you here,
and, you are going to answer a few
questions for me.

LEW2

What questions?

LEWIS

Just... questions. Easy-peasy.

He whips out the NOTEPAD and a PEN.

LEWIS

I've got a whole list here, but,
the faster we finish, the faster
you can get out of here.

LEW2

Get this thing off my face first.

LEWIS

What?

LEW2

Come on, you do something for me, I
do something for you.

LEWIS

(beat; considers it)
Alright -- whatever.

He pulls the hood off the man's head --

LEW2 scans all around: a trailer - a chair - duct tape.
He frowns at the sight of his CAPTOR wearing a pillowcase.

LEWIS

Alright, I took your hood off, now
let's get going. First question;
(starts reading)
Where did you go to school?

LEW2

(reluctantly)
Oakdale High.

Lewis writes it down.

LEWIS

Did you have any pets growing up?

LEW2

Why the hell do you wanna know that?

LEWIS

Just answer.

LEW2

I had a cat named Tiger.

LEWIS

When's your wedding anniversary?

LEW2

August 29...

(it dawns on him)

Wait a minute, are you... Are you trying to figure out my passwords? Is this what all this is about; identity theft?

Nothing from Lewis.

LEW2

Look, buddy, you want my passwords, you want my personal shit? Fine! Go ahead, write this down: my social security is 235-998-002, my PIN number is 19735. What else? What else, uh... My bank account, yeah, that's 750 --

LEWIS

Wait, wait...

(scrambles to write)

"Bank" is... You said what, "750"...?

LEW2

750-0224.

(beat)

Are we done here?

LEWIS

No. But this is good.

He drops his pen. Picks it back up. He's out of his element.

LEWIS

Alright, let's keep going...

(flips a page)

Where did you first meet your wife?

Nothing from Lew2, who just studies him.

LEWIS

Come on, I've got a lot more here -- where did you first meet your wife?

LEW2

You got what you need. This isn't gonna help you.

LEWIS

Look, if you keep this up, we're gonna be here for a while.

Nothing from Lew2.

LEWIS

Alright, look... Let's skip a few here, okay?

(flips through pages)

Ah, here we go -- "What are your wife's allergies"?

LEW2

Why are you so interested in my wife?

LEWIS

Could you please just answer.

LEW2

No. Where is she?

LEWIS

She's fine.

LEW2

Where is she, I wanna talk to her.

LEWIS

It's the middle of the night --

LEW2

Where is she?!

LEWIS

She's home. Sleeping.

LEW2

If you did anything to her...

LEWIS

Goddammit I said she's fine!
You're just gonna have to believe me on that one.

LEW2

No... No, you know what, go fuck yourself! I'm not answering any more questions.

LEWIS

(beat)

I don't see that you have much of a choice here.

LEW2

Yeah? And what're you gonna do about it?

LEWIS

What?

LEW2

Come on, man. You're clearly not used to this kind of thing.

Lewis freezes. His short PAUSE speaks volumes.

LEWIS

Now, look here you sonofabitch, you're gonna answer these questions or else I'm --

LEW2

No.

Lewis steams under his hood...

LEWIS

Don't make me hurt you.

LEW2

(snickers)

Come on...

Lewis leans in, hesitates... then BACKHANDS HIM across jaw! It hurt for sure -- but LEW2 just starts chuckling...

LEW2

Really?

Lewis can't believe this guy. He RAISES his fist --

LEW2

That's it? That's your whole plan here?! You're gonna hit me?

No choice... Lewis punches him straight in the face!

LEW2

(laughs)

Is that all you've got? I've taken harder hits than that at the gym -- and by smaller guys than you.

LEWIS EXITS THE TRAILER -- making LEW2 laugh even more.

OUTSIDE, Lewis takes off his hood, pissed off. He wipes his sweat-covered face -- tries to think of what to do...

LEW2 (O.S.)
Come on asshole, it's over!

Lewis looks over at the VAN. *He gets an idea...*

INSIDE THE TRAILER --

LEW2
You hear me?! Just let me go... and then you can run back home and all this'll be over with!

LEWIS climbs back into the trailer... He's holding a small SCISSOR-JACK and an L-shaped TIRE-IRON. He walks over to Lew2. Gets down on one knee in front of him.

LEWIS
Now, I don't wanna do this, but I will. I'm warning you.

He puts the sharp end of the TIRE-IRON onto Lew2's hand. Lifts up the JACK -- but Lew2 doesn't flinch.

LEWIS
I'm serious.

LEW2 tries to peek inside Lewis's hood through the eye-holes.

LEWIS
(*averts his gaze*)
Goddammit! It's just a bunch of stupid questions! Just fucking...

He pushes down hard on the IRON -- draws blood.

LEWIS
... answer them!

LEW2 holds back the pain. GLANCES DOWN at his hand. And then... his EXPRESSION changes. He saw something...

LEW2
Is that...

It's been on LEWIS'S HAND all this time --

LEW2
Where'd you get that ring?

Lewis FREEZES.

LEW2

What the fuck're you doing with --

Panicked -- Lewis SLAMS THE JACK ONTO THE TIRE-IRON!
Driving it through Lew2's hand!

LEW2

Aaaaaaaaargh!!!

Lewis darts up -- paces. *He can't believe he just did that!*

LEW2

Fuuuuck!!!

LEWIS

I'm sorry!

LEW2

Fuuuuck!!! You fucking piece of
shit -- I'm gonna kill you when I
get out of here, I promise you!

Lewis TURNS AWAY -- catches his breath...

He notices the sun rising -- checks his phone: 5:30 AM.

LEWIS

Shit.

He walks back to Lew2. Grabs the GAG and HOOD off the floor.

LEW2

What're you doing? Hey!

Lewis shoves the gag into Lew2's mouth then slips the hood
back over his head. Lew2 wriggles to no avail.

LEWIS

I'll be back tomorrow.

He walks to the exit while LEW2 shouts beneath his gag.

LEWIS

(turns; angry)

And you will give me what I want.
It's your only way out of here.

He climbs down outside and SHUTS THE DOORS, then removes his
pillowcase hood... revealing a sweaty, nervous face.

INT. LEW2'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lewis slips into a tee-shirt, hiding his UGLY TATOO.
He SNEAKS into bed... But the motion wakes up Elise.

ELISE
Mmm... What time is it?

LEWIS
Six.

She turns around and SPOONS HIM; her front to his BACK.

ELISE
Where were you?

LEWIS
Watching TV... I couldn't sleep.

ELISE
Are you wearing a tee-shirt?

LEWIS
Uh... yeah.

She slides her HAND under his shirt. He freezes.

ELISE
Since when do you wear a shirt to bed?

LEWIS
I was just cold that's all.

He moves her hand away and turns onto his back.

ELISE
Pff! give you five minutes tops
before you throw that thing across
the room.

LEWIS
(beat)
Can we just go to sleep?

ELISE
(shrugs)
Okay, dummy.

"Dummy" -- what are the odds? Lewis's heart almost stops!

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - DAY

Elise puts on a jacket, looks outside: it's RAINING HARD.

ELISE
 Hey Lew can you grab my umbrella?
 I think it's in the garage.

Lewis goes check... Comes back with it.

LEWIS
 Be careful on the road.

ELISE
 Uh huh.

LEWIS
 It's really coming down.

ELISE
 It's just rain. Relax. It's not
 even freezing out.

LEWIS
 Lizzie -- I'm serious.

She stops what she's doing. Looks at him, bugged eyed.

ELISE
 Did you just call me "Lizzie".

LEWIS
 Uh... yeah...?

ELISE
Why? You've never called me that
 before.

LEWIS
 I... I mean... Haven't I?

ELISE
 No. And don't start.
 I don't like it.
(picks up her stuff)
 Alright, I gotta go.

Lewis stays quiet as she walks out the door.

ELISE
 By the way, you've got a little bit
 of blood on the back of your shirt.
(walks to her car)
 Be sure to soak it with peroxide
 before throwing it in the wash.

Lewis pulls on his collar to check; seems his tattoo has been
 bleeding through his shirt.

LEWIS

Shit.

INT. LEW2'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lewis takes off his shirt and tosses it aside. It lands on an IRONING BOARD near the closet.

LEWIS grabs his LAPTOP off the dresser, starts TYPING:
"how to get rid of tattoo quick"

He scrolls through search results... Clicks on a MESSAGE BOARD... We get SNIPPETS of some answers on the page:

- "cut it off with a steak knife"
- "use foundation make-up"
- "tattoos are for losers"

Lewis rolls his eyes -- keeps scrolling...

One last comment states: "burn it off, ha ha ha!"

Lewis sighs. He slams the LAPTOP closed. He stewes there for a minute, trying to think...

He finally goes get his shirt back when... A dark thought.

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - DAY

Lewis, SHIRTLESS, paces nervously... He holds an ICE-PACK up against his tattoo with one hand -- and with the other, downs WHISKEY like it was water.

He FINISHES THE BOTTLE and chucks it aside -- then removes the ICE-PACK. His skin is RED from the cold.

He starts PUNCHING THE AIR -- pumping himself up --
LOOKING at something in front of him...

IT'S A STEAM IRON. Piping hot, tied to the BACKREST of a rocking chair. Lewis STARES IT DOWN for a beat and then...
Marches over to the it -- determined.

He carefully sits on the chair's edge and grabs the armrests with both hands. NERVOUS as all hell, he LINES UP his tattoo with the IRON... Takes a deep breath... And...

LEANS BACK ONTO IT!

LEWIS

FUUUUUUCKKKKK !!!!

He holds it there for TWO WHOLE SECONDS -- in total agony! Breathing in the FUMES of his own COOKING SKIN until finally, he JERKS FORWARD, ripping the burnt skin off his back!

LEWIS (CONT'D)
AAAAAAAARGHHH!!!!!!!

THAT hurt even more than the initial burn. Lewis suddenly turns PALE... And he FALLS OFF THE CHAIR. Unconscious.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - SUNSET

ELISE pulls her car into the driveway -- back from work.

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - THIS MOMENT

Lewis is still UNCONSCIOUS... But the sound of Elise CLOSING HER CAR DOOR jolts him awake. He gets his bearings and GETS UP in a hurry. He's in PAIN but can't let that stop him.

He quickly rips the STEAM IRON off the chair and BOLTS back into the house with it.

INT. HOUSE - SECONDS LATER

Elise walks in just as Lewis disappears into the BEDROOM.

ELISE
Lew? You in here?

LEWIS (O.S.)
I'm in the bedroom.

She takes her jacket off... Leaves down the hall...

ELISE
Have you been cooking?

She walks INTO THE BEDROOM --

ELISE
... It smells like burnt meatloaf
all over the place.

She sees Lewis sitting on the bed, shirtless -- facing her -- applying cream to his back.

ELISE (CONT'D)
What's going on?

LEWIS
I uh... had a little --

ELISE

What're you putting on your back.

She starts heading for him --

LEWIS

(gestures to stop her)

Wait, wait -- stop.

ELISE

What?

LEWIS

Just... you have to promise you won't freak out.

ELISE

What? What're you talking about?

LEWIS

I wanted to do a bit of cleaning up before you got here and I uh... had somewhat of an accident.

He GLANCES over at the corner of the room, where the IRONING BOARD lies toppled onto its side along with clothes, and the IRON itself. Elise sees all this -- starts to worry --

ELISE

What? What happened?

LEWIS

It really looks worse than it is.

ELISE

Show me!

LEWIS

Okay, okay...

He pivots -- slowly -- revealing the gross BURN MARK on his back, which covers about 90% of his tattoo.

ELISE

Holy shit, Lew!

She immediately goes to him.

ELISE (CONT'D)

Oh my god... Oh my god it looks awful, does it hurt?

LEWIS

A bit, yeah. It's not that bad,
really.

ELISE

How did this even happen?

LEWIS

I'm a goddamn moron, that's how.

ELISE

Lew, don't say that.

She suddenly catches a whiff of Lewis's breath.

ELISE

You smell like booze. Have you been
drinking?

LEWIS

What?

ELISE

Oof! Yeah, you stink. My God, were
you drunk, is this how this
happened?

LEWIS

What? No, geez! Yeah, okay I had a
little bit to drink but --

ELISE

In the middle of the day?

LEWIS

Look, this isn't how this happened
alright!

ELISE

Okay, fine... How then?

Lewis sighs, then goes into story mode.

LEWIS

I had my shirt off... I was ironing...
It's dumb -- I know... Anyway, I left
to go the bathroom, then I came
back and... then I tripped on
something...

ELISE

Oh Jesus, was it one of my shoes?

LEWIS

No, no -- I don't think so. Anyway I ended up over there -- face first on the floor.

ELISE

What?

LEWIS

Yeah.

ELISE

You landed on your stomach -- right next to the ironing board?

LEWIS

Yeah. Then the iron fell on me when I was trying to get back up.

ELISE

How the hell did it fall so flat onto your back?

LEWIS

What? I dunno -- I... I must've pulled on the cord and sent the thing falling onto my back, what's the difference how it happened exactly?

Elise is at a loss for words.

LEWIS

It hurt like hell, you know!

ELISE

I know, I know, I'm sorry baby, I'm just -- I was just curious.

Lewis nods... Lets it fly.

ELISE

It looks horrible... I feel like we should go to the hospital and --

LEWIS

No, that's alright, I called the "Medical Help Line" or whatever you call it and they said to put this on and just keep an eye on it.

Lewis hands her a tube of cream.

ELISE

You sure?

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Yeah. Like I said it looks worse than it is... Do you mind putting some on me?

ELISE

Yeah, of course.

She starts applying cream on his back.

LEWIS

Ow, ow -- careful.

ELISE

Sorry, sorry...

(beat)

Oh my gosh, Lew, your tattoo...
It's completely messed up.

And in Lewis's eyes... SATISFACTION; *problem solved*.

A quiet beat, then --

LEWIS

Honey?

ELISE

Hmm?

LEWIS

...I love you.

The way he said it; *that wasn't your every day "I love you"*.

ELISE

(stops what she's doing)

I love you too.

Lewis slowly turns to her. Looks into her eyes...

Then kisses her.

A real kiss. Tender. Charged with emotion.

ELISE

...You taste awful.

She smiles -- then kisses him back.

NEXT THING WE KNOW --

They're taking each other's clothes off, kissing, tumbling onto the bed. The fall hurts Lewis --

LEWIS
Ow! Fuck!

ELISE
You okay? We can stop...

LEWIS
No! No I'm fine!

He's all smiles -- *he hasn't done this for over a year!*

LEWIS
God, you're beautiful.

She smiles. And they go back at it...

INT. LEW2'S BEDROOM - LATER

Lewis is at the closet, carefully slipping into a shirt. ELISE is still under the sheets -- deep in thought.

LEWIS
(notices)
You alright?

ELISE
What?

LEWIS
I dunno, you look... preoccupied.

ELISE
No... No, it's nothing.

LEWIS
You sure?

ELISE
Yeah.

He scans her; *she's clearly got something on her mind...*

But she evades him --

ELISE
How about you go start up supper?
I'll take a quick shower.

LEWIS
(beat)
Okay. Sure.

He exits -- leaving Elise thinking...

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A clear night. All the lights are off in the house.

INT. LEW2'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lewis sneaks out of bed, careful not to wake Elise. He picks up his clothes and starts to leave...

ELISE (O.S.)
(groggy)
What're you doing?

LEWIS
(stops short)
Nothing. I can't sleep that's all.

ELISE
Okay...

LEWIS
Sleep tight.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lewis climbs into his van and QUIETLY CLOSES HIS DOOR...

INSIDE THE HOUSE --

Elise is nevertheless woken up by the van STARTING UP. She listens as the van pulls out of the driveway...

EXT. TRUCK JUNKYARD - NIGHT

Moonlight shines over the many truck carcasses in the yard.

EXT. SEMI TRAILER - NIGHT

Lewis opens the TRAILER DOORS and CLIMBS INSIDE. He wears his pillowcase mask and carries a plastic SHOPPING BAG.

LEW2, head down, doesn't react at all to his presence.

LEWIS
Hey!
(waits; nothing)
Hey!

LEW2 wakes up with a start.

LEWIS

It's me.

(walks over)

You lost a lot of blood. I think you might've passed out.

Lewis kneels in front of him. He pulls PEROXIDE and BANDAGES out of the plastic bag.

LEWIS

I'm gonna fix up your hand.

Lew2 protests.

LEWIS

This is probably gonna sting.

He pours peroxide on the WOUND. Lew2 grumbles.

LEWIS

I told you.

LATER, LEW2'S HAND NOW BANDAGED...

Lewis removes his CAPTIVE'S HOOD, revealing the man's pale, sunken-eyed face. He takes out his MOUTH GAG too...

LEWIS

Look, I think we started off on the wrong foot yesterday.

He pulls out a WATER BOTTLE from his bag. Offers it.

Lew2 nods reluctantly.

LEWIS

Good.

He brings it to Lew2's lips -- who drinks it in no time.

LEWIS

Before we get into this again, you have to understand that what we're doing here -- it has nothing to do with your wife. Alright? I meant what I said last night; she's safe. She's at home, she's okay, and I have no intention of hurting her. That's the god-honest truth.

(beat)

Do you believe me?

Strangely... he does.

LEWIS
 Good. Now let's get this over with.
(whips out his pad, reads)
 What's your wife's favorite meal?

LEW2
(beat)
 Dog shit.

LEWIS
 What?

LEW2
Dog shit.

He gives him the best "fuck you" smile you've ever seen.

LEWIS
 Goddammit...

He paces -- overwhelmed.

LEW2
 Where did you get those shoes?

LEWIS
 What?!

LEW2
 Those shoes. Where'd you get 'em?

LEWIS
 Who gives a shit about shoes?

LEW2
 There's a red stain there. On the
 left one.

Lewis glances down -- sees it.

LEWIS
 So?

LEW2
 What is it? How'd it get there?

LEWIS
 What? I don't know.

LEW2
 You don't know?

LEWIS doesn't like where this is going.

LEWIS

Alright enough about the stupid shoes.

LEW2

No.

LEWIS

Jesus Christ...

LEW2

Who the hell are you?

LEWIS

That's not important right now. Alright? What is important is you getting out of here.

LEW2

Your voice...

LEWIS

Hey! Did you hear what I said? The only way you're ever leaving this place is if you start cooperating with me!

He holds up the PAD full of questions up to Lew2's face --

LEWIS

This. This is your way out of this whole mess!

LEW2 just stares at him. His mind racing.

LEW2

I know you... I'm sure I do.

LEWIS

You don't. Now that's enough -- we've got a lot of work to do.

LEW2

Why're you doing this?

LEWIS

I said that's enough.

LEW2

My shoes, my clothes... My ring?

Lewis GRABS him by the collar.

LEWIS

Hey!

LEW2

I even bet that's my van out there too.

LEWIS

Listen to me you son of a bitch I don't want to hurt you again but I will!

(gets up in his face)

Do you understand me?!

LEW2 stares him IN THE EYES through the holes in his mask. And then... the impossible starts dawning on him --

LEW2

What... the hell...

Suddenly -- a NOISE OUTSIDE startles them both. Lewis listens quick; hears movement. Lew2 sees his chance --

LEW2

Heeeeeeeelp! Hey! Help!

Lewis shoves the RAG back in his mouth and hurries OUTSIDE (his hood still on). He immediately spots a MOUNTAIN BIKE on the ground a few feet away -- a six-pack of BEER next to it.

LEWIS

Hello? I know you're out here...

(starts looking around)

Look, I don't know what you saw or anything but...

(walks alongside the trailer)

I'm not gonna hurt you. I swear. Just come on out here and we can talk about this.

Lewis suddenly hears WALKING on the opposite side of the trailer. He bends down; sees someone HEADING TOWARD THE BIKE.

Lewis DARTS OFF in the same direction!

He gets there just before the bike's owner -- TOMMY, a scruffy 16-year-old -- who STOPS SHORT at the sight of Lewis.

TOMMY

Shit!

LEWIS

No, no, no, no, relax, alright, relax. I'm not gonna hurt you.

TOMMY

Look mister, I didn't see anything,
I swear. Okay? Please, I just wanna
get out of here.

LEWIS

Of course, yeah, of course. Look,
you can go, but... whatever you
think you saw --

TOMMY

I didn't, I swear. I didn't see
anything.

LEWIS

Good. That's... that's good.

The kid stares over at his BIKE, which is right between him
and Lewis. He doesn't dare go over to it.

TOMMY

So... are we good? Can I go now?

LEWIS

Yeah, uh... look --

TOMMY

I'm not gonna tell anybody. Okay?
You don't have to worry about that.
Please. I didn't even see your face!

LEWIS

(beat)

Alright, look. How about, just to
make sure about all of this... how
about I just --

He reaches into his back pocket...

TOMMY

Whoa-whoa-whoa, hey!

LEWIS

It's a wallet! It's just my wallet.
Relax. Relax...

The kid watches nervously as Lewis pulls BILLS out it.

LEWIS

Here, that's... two hundred bucks.
Okay? Not a bad pay day, right?

He slowly walks to the bike and drops the money next to it.

LEWIS

This is... just to make sure we
have an understanding. Alright?

TOMMY

Okay.

LEWIS

Yeah?

TOMMY

Yeah.

LEWIS

Good.

Lewis backs away, giving the teen a wide berth...

TOMMY cautiously walks over and gets onto his bike. He shoves
the money into his pockets and goes to leave.

LEWIS

Hey -- we good?

The kid nods and pedals off quick. Lewis watches him until
he's out of sight... then climbs into the **TRAILER**...

He picks up a ROLL OF TAPE and starts securing Lew2's GAG
with it. His captive WIGGLES in protest.

LEWIS

I have to move you.

He slips the hood over Lew2's head then WALKS BACK OUTSIDE to
the VAN. He takes his pillowcase, wipes sweat from his face.

LEWIS

Shit...

He goes to open the van doors when he hears a familiar SOUND.

KA-CLICK -- like a camera taking a picture.

Lewis turns to see TOMMY about 50 feet away -- taking a
snapshot of him with his phone.

LEWIS

What?!

The kid quickly pedals off.

LEWIS

Fuck!

He slams the van doors shut. Rushes over to the front.

INT/EXT. VAN / GRAVEL ROAD - NIGHT

Tommy EXITS THE JUNKYARD like a bat out of hell! His bike SKIDS onto the GRAVEL ROAD just as Lewis's VAN appears in the distance behind him, headlights glaring.

TOMMY sees the lights. Pedals FASTER! But the VAN soon matches his speed.

LEWIS gets the van PARALLEL to him on the DRIVER'S SIDE.

LEWIS
I thought we had a deal?!!

TOMMY just pedals.

LEWIS
Hey!

TOMMY
Fuck you, psycho!

LEWIS
Kid, come on, don't do this! Just gimme your phone!

No go. And to make matters worse, Lewis sees the MAIN ROAD up ahead -- getting closer; cars -- civilization. *Not good.*

He gently STEERS the van to the left, SQUEEZING Tommy between the vehicle and the DITCH next to him.

TOMMY
What're you crazy?!

LEWIS
Your phone!

TOMMY
No!

LEWIS
Give me your goddamn phone!!!

Still getting closer to the intersection... *LEWIS knows he can't let the kid get to it.*

LEWIS
Kid!!!

TOMMY just pedals faster -- giving it all he's got.

LEWIS

Fuck.

Lewis speeds up. Gets next to TOMMY again.

The MAIN ROAD is close now. *TOMMY knows he's home free...*

TOMMY

(cocky)

See you in jail, asshole!

Lewis's mind races. He's fucked. He makes a snap decision --

-- and THRUSTS OPEN HIS DOOR, SLAMMING IT onto the bike!
The VIOLENT HIT sends Tommy CRASHING down into the DITCH.

Lewis brings the van to a screeching stop -- panicked.

MOMENTS LATER, Lewis comes running down THE DITCH.

He looks around nervously -- finally spots Tommy lying on his back in the mud. He goes to him.

LEWIS

Kid?

Tommy slowly opens his eyes -- completely dazed.

LEWIS quickly searches his pockets. Finds the phone.

TOMMY

(slurred, scared)

I'm gonna die...

LEWIS

No. You're not -- you're fine,
you'll be fine.

(scans him quick)

You're just... knocked out a little
bit, that's all.

TOMMY

My head hurts...

Lewis reluctantly checks the kid's head. It all seems fine until he touches the back of it...

He checks his hand: blood. Lots of it.

LEWIS

Shit...

TOMMY

I don't wanna die...

LEWIS
You're not...

Lewis's mind boils -- *what the hell is he supposed to do?!*

TOMMY
Help me.

Lewis tears up...

LEWIS
I can't.

TOMMY
What...?

Lewis gets up. Paces.

TOMMY
Mister... please.

Lewis stands there. Mind & heart racing. Staring at the kid.
And then... *an idea*.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

Lewis drives as fast as he can down a boulevard. Next to him is TOMMY, slipping in and out of consciousness.

LEWIS
Hey. Wake up! Kid! Wake up!
(slaps his shoulder)
You gotta stay awake.

Tommy opens his eyes, looks outside. He sees a ROAD SIGN pass him by indicating THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL.

TOMMY
(slurred)
You passed it.

LEWIS
That's not where we're going.

MOMENTS LATER, THE VAN STOPS AT A RED LIGHT --

Meanwhile, Lewis spreads open a CITY MAP, and over it, a TRANSPARENT CELLOPHANE annotated with black marker. It shows ALTERNATE routes and landmarks; one of which is a HOSPITAL.

The light up ahead turns green. Lewis floors it.

EXT. CAR DEALERSHIP - NIGHT

Lewis drives onto the BACKLOT of a car dealership closed for the night. He hides the van next to a large Winnebago.

LEWIS
(checks his map)
This should be it.
(to Tommy)
Stay here.

Lewis exits the van... Sets up the device... Opens an aperture.
He runs back to get TOMMY -- who is fading in & out big time.

LEWIS
Come on, we're almost there.

He takes him in his arms and carries him to the aperture.

That's when Tommy sees the GLOWING APERTURE, and through it, a HOSPITAL URGENT CARE ENTRANCE some 30 feet away...

Lewis carries Tommy into the OTHER UNIVERSE and sits him down against the hospital wall.

LEWIS
I'll be right back.

He goes get his crossbow on the other side, comes back over, shuts the device off and shoves it in his backpack.

He turns back to go to Tommy but the latter is FACE-FIRST on the concrete -- eyes wide open.

LEWIS
No...

He goes to him. Props him up --

LEWIS
Come on, kid. Wake up. Wake up...

But it's all too clear... He's dead.

LEWIS
No...

A TAXI suddenly pulls over by the entrance, forcing Lewis to leave to avoid being seen. He runs off behind the building..

EXT. HOSPITAL (LOADING DOCKS) - CONTINUOUS

Lewis runs onto the hospital backlot and hides behind a dumpster. He lets his backpack slip off his shoulders with a heavy sigh...

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - MORNING

Lewis packs his lunch... ELISE stares at him from the other end of the room as she sips coffee.

ELISE
You look tired.

LEWIS
Yeah.

ELISE
You should've come back to bed.

LEWIS
I didn't want to wake you. I was just restless, you know? Tossing and turning all night.

A deadly beat.

ELISE
All night?

LEWIS
Yeah.
(walks to the door)
Alright, well, I'm off...

Elise stays there, wondering why Lewis is lying to her...

EXT. FIX'R UPP'R GARAGE - DAY

Lewis steps out of his van carrying a BOOK in a plastic bag. He walks into a GARAGE where a MECHANIC works on a car.

MECHANIC
Hey uh, boss?

And the person who answers him is LEWIS.

LEWIS
Yeah -- what's up?

MECHANIC
What should I do with this?

Lewis joins the man under the raised vehicle...

MECHANIC

It's rusted around the bolts, but I mean... the plate's still good.

Lewis tries not to look like a deer in the headlights.

LEWIS

Well, how would you fix it?

MECHANIC

I guess... I could bolt right through it? Secure it from inside the trunk. Save the guy a few bucks.

LEWIS

(smiles)

See. You don't need me.

LATER, AT THE FRONT DESK --

Lewis gets behind the cash register. He makes sure no one is looking, then slips a BOOK out of his bag. The title reads: "The Knucklehead's Guide to Auto Mechanics".

LATER STILL --

Lewis hands car keys back to a CUSTOMER.

LEWIS

Thanks again. Call us if anything.

The CUSTOMER leaves. Lewis goes back to reading his book in secret when the MECHANIC comes into the room, startling him.

MECHANIC

Hey boss?

Lewis hides the book quick, KNOCKING things off his desk in the process.

LEWIS

What?

MECHANIC

Can I pop out early?

Lewis picks stuff up as he talks...

LEWIS

Did you finish the Greysons' car?

MECHANIC

Yep.

Lewis doesn't answer -- something has got his attention...

MECHANIC

So...?

LEWIS

What? Oh -- yeah, sure.

MECHANIC (O.S.)

Thanks.

Lewis is holding two framed PHOTOS: one of Lew2 on a fishing trip, and one of Lew2 & Elise on vacation.

He puts them back on the desk... Thinking...

INT. LEW2'S LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

Elise is grading papers when Lewis comes into the room.

LEWIS

Hey hon, where do we keep the photo albums?

ELISE

Um, in that green box thing...
...just above the mini-fridge.

She makes a face like "*why doesn't he know this?*" --

ELISE

In the garage.

LEWIS

Of course -- yes! How could I forget that -- thanks!

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Lewis finishes clearing the workbench in front of him. He then pulls a PHOTO ALBUM from a Rubbermaid box containing about half a dozen of them. He starts flipping through, and RIGHT AWAY, something seems weird to him...

The album contains your average PHOTOS: vacations, parties... But there are POST-IT NOTES all over the place. They specify EVENTS, LOCATIONS, PEOPLE -- it's incredibly descriptive.

Lewis grabs ANOTHER ALBUM. Checks it... It's THE SAME.

We see a PHOTO of Elise and Lew2 AT A COUNTY FAIR accompanied by a NOTE reading: "our first kiss was in the Ferris wheel".

Lewis can't believe his luck!

LEWIS

...Okay.

He flips back to the first page and SETTLES IN...

MUCH LATER -- NIGHT HAS FALLEN --

Elise walks in -- sees Lewis with the scattered albums.

ELISE

You still in here?

LEWIS

What? Oh, yeah -- what time is it?

ELISE

It's late hon. You should come to bed.

LEWIS

Okay -- I'll join you in a bit.

He avidly goes back to the photos...

ELISE

(snickers)

You are really enjoying those albums aren't you?

LEWIS

Yeah. Yeah I am...

(turns to her)

It's like a full-on trip down memory lane, you know? And these notes, it's like...

(catches himself)

I mean... it was a good idea for us to do that! I think more people should do that! You know?

ELISE

(awkward beat)

Yeah... It really helps bring everything to life.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dead of night. All the lights in the house are out.

INT. LEW2'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Elise is asleep. Lewis is next to her, wide-eyed. He quietly sneaks out of bed and picks up his clothes, then leaves...

And Elise OPENS HER EYES.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lewis gets into his van and drives off. SECONDS LATER... Elise runs out of the house, gets into her car, and follows him.

INT. ELISE'S CAR - NIGHT - SERIES OF SHOTS

Elise FOLLOWS THE VAN from a distance:

- Through TOWN STREETS...
- Down the HIGHWAY...
- And finally down a GRAVEL ROAD...

... Where she sees the van TURN OFF onto a dirt path, next to a busted up SIGN for an old junkyard.

INT. SEMI TRAILER - NIGHT

Lewis, mask on, pulls LEW2'S HOOD off.

The latter insults him through his GAG, but Lewis pays him no mind. He spins his chair around and starts DRAGGING HIM toward the trailer doors -- chair and all.

LEWIS

You know what I realized?

He drags him to the TRAILER'S EDGE then climbs down **OUTSIDE**.

LEWIS

I don't need you.

He grabs the chair by the legs and YANKS. Sending it crashing to the ground. The impact hits LEW2 hard -- winding him.

He looks on as Lewis SETS UP THE DEVICE next to a mangled semi-truck. He sees the shimmering aperture DART UP from the device's base-plate, SLICING OFF a bent exhaust pipe hanging off the truck.

LEW2

(through his gag)

What the fuck...

His puzzlement is cut short by the sight of Lewis walking toward him with a stun gun.

LEWIS

Time for you to go.

LEW2 recoils -- and notices he now has more range of movement; it seems the fall broke off the chair's left arm...

And just as Lewis bends down to stun him, Lew2 WHACKS HIM ACROSS THE FACE -- a violent mix of FIST and ALUMINUM.

The impact TEARS OPEN the front of Lewis's HOOD and sends him crashing into a truck cab. He turns to confront Lew2 again when he realizes his FACE is now exposed.

LEW2 can't believe it -- it's HIM.

Lewis RIPS OFF his mask -- *no use keeping it on!* -- then RUSHES OVER to Lew2 and quickly STUNS him in the leg.

The man goes completely stiff, giving LEWIS just enough time to CUT HIM LOOSE from the chair and TAPE UP his limbs again.

ELSEWHERE IN THE JUNKYARD --

ELISE sneaks through rows of rusty trucks, stopping to peek around every corner...

BACK BY THE TRAILER --

Lewis drags Lew2 to the APERTURE, held in flux by a rope-arrow. He hauls him across to the other universe, into a FOREST CLEARING -- just as the stun begins wearing off.

He chucks his old WALLET and KEYS on the ground next to Lew2.

LEW2

(spits his gag out)

Wait! What the fuck's going on here? Who the hell are you? I mean you're... me, but... How the hell is this possible?

LEWIS

You're free to go.

(points)

Your house is ten miles that way.

LEW2

Free to go?!

He looks around in a panic: an empty CLEARING... a SHIMMERING SCREEN... a junkyard ON THE OTHER SIDE...

LEW2

What the fuck is that thing?

Where am I?!

LEWIS

Hell.

LEW2

What?

LEWIS

My old life... Without her.

(beat)

I'm going now.

He turns toward the aperture --

LEW2

What do you mean "without her"?
 Hey! What do you mean?! Goddammit,
 answer me! Where is she?! Hey!

MEANWHILE --

ELISE is still on the move. She suddenly hears VOICES.
 She heads in that direction...

LEW2

What've you done to her? You rat-
 fucker piece of shit you told me
 she was safe!

LEWIS

Don't worry. I'll keep her safe.

He crosses back into the JUNKYARD, where, unknown to him,
 ELISE has got eyes on him -- hidden behind a stack of crushed
 cars. She's got a side-view, partially obstructed -- but she
 clearly sees the APERTURE -- and LEWIS stepping out of it.

Lewis puts his foot up to the device's BUTTON --

LEWIS

(to Lew2)

Goodbye.

LEW2

No! No wait!

-- then clicks it.

The APERTURE disappears, cutting the rope that straddled it --
 and leaving Lew2 ALONE IN THE OTHER WORLD, freaked out.

BACK IN THE JUNKYARD --

Elise watches wide eyed as Lewis packs up the device...
 She stays there, mind reeling. And then it hits her --

She's gotta go!

ELISE

Shit!

She quickly sneaks away.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - NIGHT

Elise's CAR is parked on the SHOULDER some two hundred feet from the junkyard ENTRANCE. She COMES RUNNING over to it and GETS IN, completely winded.

OUT IN THE JUNKYARD --

Lewis is already BEHIND THE WHEEL of his van -- and he's heading for the exit...

MEANWHILE --

Elise DRIVES LIKE MAD down the gravel road! She soon reaches the INTERSECTION, where she doesn't even stop to make the turn -- almost SKIDDING OFF THE ROAD in the process.

ELISE

Whoa, whoa, whoa -- shit!

Shaken -- she steadies the car -- then FLOORS IT.

BACK BY THE JUNKYARD --

Lewis pulls out of the exit. He notices a thick CLOUD OF DUST all along the gravel road...

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Elise darts into the house -- down the HALLWAY and into --

THE ATTIC.

A lightbulb turns on. ELISE climbs up into the room and heads straight for a HOME VENTILATION UNIT. She goes around the back of it to a VENT GRILL...

OUTSIDE --

Lewis pulls the van into the driveway.

INSIDE --

Elise hears him. She quickly pulls the grill off. We don't see what's inside the vent, but Elise sure does. Her REACTION is tough to read though: Relief? Confusion?

Either way -- no time to waste -- she puts the grill back on!

OUTSIDE --

Lewis makes his way to the house when Elise's CAR catches his attention. He walks over to get a better look... Touches her windshield with his fingers... Her windows are covered in grey dust.

IN THE BEDROOM --

Elise quickly slips into her pyjamas. She takes her balled up clothes off the floor, HESITATES as to where they should go.

She suddenly HEARS Lewis come near.

IN THE HALLWAY --

Lewis steps lightly up to the door. He enters the room as quietly as he can... And finds his wife asleep in bed.

Lewis watches her for a beat.

ELISE, her back to him, tries to CALM HER BREATHING -- hoping he doesn't notice.

And then... Lewis GOES ABOUT HIS BUSINESS, quietly slipping out of his clothes.

Relief washes over Elise...

EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - DAWN

Lew2 steps out of a taxi, looking like shit. He stares at the HOUSE in front of him, perplex; it almost looks like his.

INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lew2 walks into the space, soaking in every little detail.

He sees something on the dresser... Picks it up. It's a COMMEMORATIVE BOOKMARK showing a photo of ELISE along with the words "In Loving Memory..."

LEW2

What?

His mind starts racing... He begins to UNDERSTAND...

INT. LEW2'S DINING ROOM - MORNING

Elise sips coffee while flipping through a recipe book. Lewis comes kiss her on the neck, dressed for work.

LEWIS

See you tonight.

ELISE

Yep.

He's about to walk out the door --

ELISE

Oh hey, I'm gonna make some desert later on -- probably bake a pie.

LEWIS

Sounds good.

ELISE

Great.

(beat)

You know what, how about I make the engagement pie?

LEWIS

The what?

ELISE

The pie you proposed with? You had the ring in there.

LEWIS

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, of course!

ELISE

What kind... wow, I'm drawing a total blank here, what kind was it?

LEWIS

Uh... I believe it was...

He thinks hard -- and WE CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - LEW2's BACKYARD:

We've seen this before: Lewis is hiding behind the GAZEBO, spying on Elise. She's about to be proposed to by Lew2.

LEW2

And... here's desert!

Lew2 lifts up a napkin, revealing a pie.

ELISE

Is that sugar pie?

LEW2

Yep!

ELISE

Yes!

She goes to cut a piece --

LEWIS (V.O.)
Sugar pie...

BACK IN THE PRESENT:

LEWIS
Yeah. It was sugar pie.

ELISE
Sugar, that's right! How could I even forget that. It's your favorite kind of pie.

LEWIS
Well, it's... I mean it's definitely in my top three.

They exchange an awkward smile.

LEWIS
Alright, well, I gotta go...
Love you!

ELISE
Love you too.

Elise peaks out the window to look at Lewis get in his van, all the while REMEMBERING...

FLASHBACK - LEW2'S BACKYARD:

BEHIND THE GAZEBO... Lewis CROSSES BACK into his world and shuts the device off. The APERTURE disappears, but we REMAIN HERE -- with Elise and Lew2.

ELISE
I can't believe you made this --
you hate sugar pie!

LEW2
Yeah, but you love it... And I love you. So there.

Elise smiles.

BACK IN THE PRESENT:

Elise watches the van leave down the street... And then... She starts SEARCHING THE HOUSE --

SHORT MONTAGE:

- * Rummaging through the GARAGE: cabinets; plastic bins...
- * Looking all over the ATTIC...

- * Emptying out the GUEST ROOM CLOSET...
- * Looking OUTSIDE: under the PATIO; behind the GAZEBO...

But ultimately... Nothing.

ELISE

Dammit...

Elise is sweaty, her hair is a mess: she's clearly been at this for hours now. She trudges back across the YARD when something catches her eye: the HOME COMPOST BIN.

It's definitely large enough...

ELISE's eyes light up. She hurries over to it. Topples it over -- frantically empties it out with her bare hands.

But alas --

ELISE

Shit.

Elise looks down at the mess, discouraged...

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - DAY

Elise washes her hands in the garage sink... She looks around for a towel when her gaze falls to THE FLOOR.

Right there -- in the middle of the room: the DRAIN COVER.

Elise goes to it. Strains to move it aside --

ELISE

Argh... Come on.

Got it. She PEAKS inside. Shoves her arm in the hole until...

She pulls out LEWIS'S BACKPACK --- then OPENS IT...

She takes the DEVICE out and inspects it from all angles... She then puts it down and proceeds to set it up; PULLING IT APART into two half-cubes. Then, WITHOUT MUCH HESITATION, she clicks the main BUTTON, producing an APERTURE.

But the GLOWING SCREEN doesn't phase her at all... She puts her hand up to it... Feels its solidity.

She then searches Lewis's bag. Finds the ROPE, CROSSBOW, and Lewis's STUN GUN. She tosses all of it aside and keeps searching. Clearly, she's not finding what she's looking for.

IN THE ATTIC, MOMENTS LATER --

Elise removes the VENT GRILL, revealing a GYM BAG hidden inside the VENTILATION UNIT. And out it... she pulls out...

ANOTHER DEVICE.

It's VERY SIMILAR to Lewis's in its shape and size; the only major differences are the BUTTON and DIGITAL DISPLAY.

But Elise isn't interested in her DEVICE. She pulls SOMETHING ELSE from the bag: a strange looking GLOVE. She slips it onto her hand; it's long, up to her ELBOW, thin around her hand but CHUNKY along her arm; sporting some kind of POWER PACK.

MINUTES LATER, ELISE WALKS BACK INTO THE GARAGE --

-- wearing the chunky GLOVE... She goes up to the DEVICE, which is still projecting an APERTURE showing the interior of LEWIS'S GARAGE on the other side.

Elise clicks a BUTTON on her forearm, making SENSORS on the glove's FINGERTIPS light up one by one.

She puts her hand up to the aperture... and PUSHES FORWARD.

ENERGY ripples all around her hand, but ultimately...

ELISE

Come on...

She isn't getting through. A red LED on the GLOVE lights up.

ELISE

Shit.

She tries again, but... No go.

She slips the glove off when the SOUND of a vehicle PULLING INTO THE DRIVEWAY catches her attention. She turns to listen.

MEANWHILE, unknown to her... **IN LEWIS'S UNIVERSE --**

LEW2 walks back from the CURB holding an empty garbage bin. He passes by the garage's SIDE WINDOW when he SEES something:

LEW2

What the...

He's staring right at the floating APERTURE.

LEW2

Elise!

(knocks on the window)

Elise!!!

But in the OTHER UNIVERSE --

Elise doesn't see him. She goes peek out the FRONT WINDOW only to see LEWIS step out of his van. He's home early!

ELISE

Shit!

MEANWHILE --

Lew2 darts around to the front of the garage! He opens the door and hurries inside --

He gets up to the floating aperture just as Elise goes to shut the device off. And then she sees him!

ELISE

Oh my God!

LEW2 says something unintelligible through the aperture.

ELISE

I have to go! I'm sorry! I love you!

She shuts the device off. Quickly hides her GLOVE.

LEWIS (O.S.)

Hon? You in the house?

OUT IN THE KITCHEN --

Lewis waits for an answer. But... nothing. He goes to the fridge, where he pulls out an EMPTY six-pack of beer.

He grumbles and walks out of the room -- sees ELISE in the backyard through the PATIO DOOR.

LEWIS

(steps outside)

Hey. What's going on here?

She's raking up some SPILT COMPOST.

ELISE

I knocked over the stupid compost.

LEWIS

Need any help?

ELISE

Nah.

(smiles)

I'm good.

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Lewis walks in and heads for a mini-fridge. He reaches down for a beer when he spots the DRAIN COVER in the middle of the floor. It's on crooked.

Just a bit. BUT JUST ENOUGH.

Lewis checks that no one is watching then marches over to it. He moves the COVER aside, revealing his BACKPACK.

It's OPENED. And inside it, the DEVICE is still on.

Lewis checks his watch -- thinks...

MOMENTS LATER --

Lewis pops his head out the PATIO DOOR:

LEWIS

Hey hon, I gotta go back to the shop. Jeff crashed the stupid billing system again.

ELISE

Oh? Okay.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - DAY

Lewis pulls the van out of the driveway...

MEANWHILE, IN THE GARAGE --

Elise walks to the DRAIN COVER. Moves it aside...

ELISE

Shit.

It's empty.

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - SUNSET

The TV is ON. There's a TEAPOT on the coffee table...

LEWIS walks in from outside. Sees ELISE on the couch.

LEWIS

Hey.

ELISE

Hey you.

(sips some tea)

Did you manage to get it going again?

LEWIS

Huh? Oh -- yeah. Yeah, it's uh,
it's running great now.

ELISE

Good.

She picks up the TV remote --

ELISE

"Wheel of Fortune" just started.

Lewis just nods -- seems ill at ease.

ELISE

You gonna watch it with me or not?

LEWIS

What? Oh, yeah, sure.

He goes sit next to her.

LEWIS

Sorry I was gone for so long...
I decided since I was already there
I might as well get some filing
done, you know? Parts orders and
all that, and --

ELISE

Shh, the first puzzle's starting.

LEWIS

Oh. Yeah -- sorry.

Lewis tries to watch TV. Feels uneasy...

LEWIS

Is that tea?

ELISE

Mmm hmm.

Lewis pours himself a cup. Takes a sip.

ELISE

(at the TV)
"Cupid's Arrow"!

The TV reveals the PUZZLE to be just that.

Lewis takes ANOTHER SIP... He makes a "sour" face.

LEWIS
What kind of tea is this?

A beat... And we SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Lewis is on the floor, TIED UP TO A WORKBENCH POST. He awakens to the sight of ELISE on a chair in front of him.

LEWIS
What's...?
(realizes he's tied up)
Why am I... Did you drug me?!

ELISE
Yeah.

LEWIS
Why would you do that?

What a stupid question...

ELISE
Where's the machine?

LEWIS
What machine?

ELISE
Come on, let's not do this.
I saw it. You know I saw it.
(pauses)
Where'd you hide it?

LEWIS
Look, honey... that "machine"...
it's... it's not some... I mean...
it doesn't really do anything, it
just --

Elise pulls out her OWN DEVICE. Lewis stops cold.

He STARES at it -- bug eyed -- mind racing...

LEWIS
That's not...

ELISE
No. It's mine. Well... I stole it,
but that's beside the point.

LEWIS
Wait...
(it's a bitch to process)
What? So that means...

ELISE
 It means I'm not "from here".
 (beat)
 Just like you.

Lewis tries to CONNECT THE DOTS... Elise lets him.
 She changes her tone...

ELISE
 (empathetic)
 ...How did she die?

That fills in all the blanks.

LEWIS
 (beat)
 Car accident.

There's an unspoken bond here. Grief.

LEWIS
 You?

ELISE
 ...Cancer.

There's an emotional charge in the air... But ultimately --

ELISE
 Look, can we just get this over
 with?
 (pauses)
 I'd like to go get my husband back.

Lewis seems to consider it... but then --

LEWIS
 He's not really your husband
 though, is he.

She wasn't expecting that.

ELISE
 Are you serious right now?
 (beat)
You of all people...

LEWIS
 He's not.

ELISE
 I've been here for five years, do
 you understand that? I have put
time and effort -- and I...
 (more)

ELISE (cont'd)

Jesus Christ, I've sacrificed everything; friends, family... My whole life had to be built back up from scratch!

(pauses)

This is my life now. And he is my husband.

LEWIS

(beat)

He's no more your husband than I am.

What the hell did he mean by that?

LEWIS

Think about it. You and me, we... We've gone through the same things. We understand what it's like.

ELISE

Jesus...

LEWIS

It's the perfect situation. No more lying, no more pretending --

ELISE

Did you not hear what I said just a second ago?

LEWIS

Yeah, I did, but --

ELISE

No! No. Here's what's going to happen: you are going to tell me where that machine is, or else... you're gonna die here.

She PICKS UP HER DEVICE and leaves -- shuts the light off as she exits -- leaving LEWIS sitting in the dark.

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - DAY

Elise walks in holding her work bag. Lewis looks tired.

ELISE

I'm off.

(pauses)

Anything you want to tell me?

Nothing from Lewis.

ELISE

Fine.

She picks up a roll of DUCT TAPE.

LEWIS

Hey, wait...

ELISE

What?

LEWIS

What if I... you know... have to pee or whatever.

She looks to the floor... Takes a smart-ass tone:

ELISE

Well... there's a drain right there.

(beat)

You know how to use that.

She goes to stick tape over his mouth.

LEWIS

There's no need for that.

ELISE

Yeah right.

LEWIS

You think I'm gonna scream for help? How's that gonna help me, really? The only thing it'll do is get you in trouble.

(pauses)

Don't get me wrong I'd much rather not be tied up in here, but ultimately... I don't have anywhere else I want to be except here -- with you.

He means every word of it. Elise snickers.

LEWIS

What's so funny?

ELISE

How you could think that you and me could actually work -- even after all this.

LEWIS

We'll get through it... It's just like anything else.

Elise can't believe this guy...

The HOUSE PHONE starts ringing in the distance.

SECONDS LATER, IN THE DINING ROOM --

ELISE

(picks up phone)

Hello? (...) I'm afraid he's
indisposed at the moment. Maybe I
can help you? (...) Yes, I'm his wife.

INT. BANK - DAY

A BANK TELLER (woman, 30s) hands Elise a DRIVER'S LICENCE --

TELLER

I'm afraid your husband left this
here yesterday.

ELISE

Thank you. I swear... he'd forget his
own head if it weren't screwed on!

TELLER

Mine's the same way.

ELISE

Right?

(smiles)

Look, uh... I'm only asking because
I didn't get a chance to talk to
him this morning but, was he
opening up a new account, or...

TELLER

I'm sorry... I can't disclose that
information, even if you are
married.

ELISE

That's okay, I completely
understand.

Elise catches a glimpse of an employee opening the BANK VAULT
behind the tellers. A thought enters her mind...

ELISE

Say, does the bank offer safety
deposit boxes?

The TELLER smiles --

TELLER

We do... But you might want to talk
to your husband about it first.

She winks -- confirming it: *Lewis has a box in the vault.*

ELISE
Gotcha. Thank you very much!

Elise walks back to the exit, taking in as much of the room's details as she can...

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The light in the GARAGE suddenly turns on --

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - THIS MOMENT

Lewis WAKES UP to the sight of Elise rummaging around.

LEWIS
What's going on?

ELISE
You know... you weren't very smart.
When I first got here... And I
realized I didn't know anything
about... well, anything really... you
know what I did?

She talks as she searches. LEWIS just listens.

ELISE
I sent him out to the hardware
store while I cleaned out the
gutters. I set up the ladder and
everything... And then when he came
home... He found me on the ground,
"unconscious". We went to the
hospital... passed a scan... blah blah
blah...

She opens a cabinet -- grabs a CROWBAR.

ELISE
They couldn't find anything wrong
with me, of course. But in the end,
all I had to tell the doctor was
that I was having trouble
remembering things and then... there
you go... prognosis partial amnesia.

Lewis can't help but admire her.

LEWIS
That's why you had all those notes
on the photos.

She grabs a HAMMER on the PEG-BOARD above the workbench Lewis is tied to.

LEWIS

What're you doing with all this?

Nothing from her. She cuts off a piece of TAPE, goes to him.

LEWIS

What're you doing, I thought we
agreed we didn't need --

She sticks it over his mouth. LEWIS mumbles in protest.

ELISE

I can't take any chances tonight...

She goes to leave -- takes HIS LICENCE out of her pockets:

ELISE

Oh, by the way... You forgot this.
(tosses it to him)
...At the bank.

Elise gives him a "fuck you" smile -- and leaves.

Lewis's eyes widen in a panic! He STRUGGLES against his bonds as he hears Elise DRIVE OFF outside.

Lewis KEEPS STRUGGLING when he notices that by KNOCKING HARD into the WORKBENCH, it makes the TOOLS on the PEG-BOARD above it SHAKE as well. That's his way out of here!

And so, Lewis KNOCKS his back HARD INTO THE WORKBENCH; which proves extremely painful given the burn on his shoulderblade.

He knocks again and again! Screaming under his TAPE!

The TOOLS above soon come FALLING ONTO THE WORKBENCH. And with a few more HITS, a CHISEL finally drops right next to him. He squirms around and quickly GRABS A HOLD OF IT.

EXT. BANK STREET - NIGHT

The bank is closed for the night. Elise gives the place a glance as she DRIVES PAST IT and INTO THE PARKING LOT of an adjacent business -- also closed.

She steps out of her car and sets up her DEVICE, relatively out of sight. She aims it TOWARD THE BANK and turns it on --

THROUGH IT, we see a DIFFERENT BUILDING: a tall APARTMENT COMPLEX. It's a little off-center but MOST OF IT intersects with the BANK. Elise nods -- *it'll do*.

She slips her GLOVE on and walks through the aperture...

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lewis hurries into the van and SCREECHES OFF!

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Elise tries the door to the MAIN ENTRANCE -- it's locked.

She pushes all of the buttons on the doorbell system.

ELISE

Come on, come on...

And eventually... the door buzzes unlocked.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

Lewis, white-knuckled, drives like a madman down a boulevard.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Elise walks across the LOBBY and into **THE STAIRWELL** --

-- where she quickly sets up her DEVICE on the ground near the FAR WALL. She slips her GLOVE on, as well as a SKI-MASK.

She generates an APERTURE and takes a look on the other side. We seem to be RIGHT BEHIND THE BANK TELLERS' COUNTERS. As for THE VAULT, it's still a good 15 feet away.

ELISE

Shit!

MEANWHILE, JUST OUTSIDE THE BANK --

Lewis brings his VAN to a screeching stop in front of the building. He exits the vehicle and hurries up to the MAIN DOORS to get a look inside the bank. It's DARK inside but something soon catches his gaze --

It's Elise's APERTURE -- just behind the tellers' counter.

LEWIS

What?!

He sees Elise as she reaches down to shut the device off --

AND IN THE OTHER WORLD -- she suddenly sees him too!

She quickly slams the device shut and shoves it in her bag, leaving Lewis out in the street --

LEWIS

Fuck!

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX (HALLWAY) - NIGHT

Elise exits the stairwell and immediately goes for the FIRST APARTMENT DOOR to her right. She gently tries the handle... It's unlocked. Good. She straightens her ski-mask -- takes a deep breath, and -- WALKS INSIDE...

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

She closes the door behind her, quietly as she can, but it's too late -- she's immediately spotted by a HUSKY DUDE (20's) playing video games in his living room. They lock eyes --

HUSKY DUDE
What the -- hey!

Elise DARTS DOWN THE CORRIDOR!

She comes face to face with the dude's MOM, sending the woman into a panic, SCREAMING as Elise runs to the far end of the corridor -- and into THE BATHROOM.

INSIDE, Elise quickly sets up her device.

HUSKY DUDE (O.S.)
Hey! What the fuck, man?! What the hell are you doing in here?!
(to his mom)
Ma! Stop screaming! Call the cops!

IN THE CORRIDOR, the dude RAMS THE DOOR with his shoulder --

HUSKY DUDE
You better hope they get here before I kick your ass!

INSIDE -- the APERTURE chops off a homemade clothesline as it appears, sending garments flying everywhere.

And THROUGH the SCREEN, we see the INSIDE OF THE BANK VAULT.

ELISE
Yes!

OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM, the dude gives it one final hit -- sending the door SWINGING OPEN!

TEENAGER
What the fuck...

He sees Elise on the OTHER SIDE as she closes the aperture!

INT. BANK VAULT - NIGHT

Elise walks up to a wall of SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES. There are about a hundred of them, but only about a DOZEN OR SO are big enough to hold Lewis's device.

She whips out the HAMMER and CROWBAR from her bag...

We see her through SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE as she starts prying the boxes open one by one. An ALARM blares out!

OUTSIDE THE BANK --

Lewis hears the alarm. He helplessly paces outside the building when he suddenly spots ELISE'S CAR in the PARKING LOT NEXT DOOR.

BACK IN THE VAULT --

Elise opens her SIXTH BOX and pulls out its contents. It's LEWIS'S BACKPACK! She checks inside it to be sure -- bingo!

MEANWHILE, IN THE PARKING LOT --

Lewis climbs inside Elise's car and hides in the backseat.

INT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The HUSKY DUDE paces, on the phone with 911.

HUSKY DUDE

I already told you he just ran in here and then he disappeared! He had this fucked up hologram machine or something! Are you gonna send some cops over here or what?!

It's then that Elise bursts out of the bathroom and RUNS BY HIM at full blast -- exiting the apartment!

HUSKY DUDE

(into phone)

What the hell?! He's here!!!

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - MOMENTS LATER

Elise comes running into the parking lot. She looks for a spot to set up her device when she suddenly stops herself.

MEANWHILE, IN THE OTHER WORLD --

Lewis waits anxiously, hidden in Elise's car...

BACK BY THE APARTMENT COMPLEX --

Elise CHANGES HER MIND. She takes her SKI-MASK off and walks out to the sidewalk where she FLAGS DOWN A TAXI... And gets in.

MEANWHILE --

Lewis is starting to wonder what's taking so long. He peeks out the back window to get a look at the bank when he suddenly hears POLICE SIRENS in the distance.

LEWIS

Shit...

NEXT THING WE KNOW --

Lewis gets into his van -- still in front of the bank. He peels off, just as the sirens get louder.

EXT. LEW3'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Elise steps out of the taxi in front of A VERSION OF LEWIS'S HOUSE THAT WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE (essentially her house, from her own universe).

She sneaks all the way to the BACKYARD where she ducks behind the toolshed and whips her DEVICE out of her bag.

MOMENTS LATER --

She's crossing back into Lew2's world BEHIND THE GAZEBO...

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Elise hurries up into the ATTIC where she quickly hides her GYM BAG in the VENTILATION SYSTEM.

SECONDS LATER, SHE'S DOWN IN THE GARAGE --

-- where she starts up an APERTURE using Lewis's DEVICE.

She suddenly notices something in the OTHER GARAGE -- it's a HANDWRITTEN MESSAGE on a big cardboard:

"Tie rope to arrow. Shoot it through. Walk across".

Elise smiles.

INT. LEWIS'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A noise WAKES LEW2 WITH A START! He quickly climbs OUT OF BED, grabbing a large kitchen knife from under his pillow.

He carefully opens his door, not knowing what to expect. He sneaks down his hallway -- knife in hand -- senses tuned.

And then, at the other end of the house -- he sees her!

LEW2
Elise?!

ELISE
Lewis!
(runs to him)
Lewis, oh my God!

LEW2
Oh my God, baby I thought I'd never
see you again! Are you okay?

ELISE
I'm fine. I'm fine -- let's just
get out of here.

LEW2
Wait... Where is he?

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lewis pulls his van into the driveway and RUNS INSIDE --

INT. LEW2'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

LEWIS
Elise?! Elise I know you're --

He turns around and comes face to face with LEW2 -- who
SUCKER PUNCHES HIM hard! Sending him crashing to the floor.

LEW2
Surprise, asshole.

Elise walks in just as Lew2 punches him again --

ELISE
Lew! That's enough.

LEW2
He fucking deserves it.

He PUNCHES him one last time -- breaking his nose.

ELISE
Stop! Let's just... let's just throw
him back where he belongs.

She tosses him a roll of duct tape.

MOMENTS LATER --

Lewis is tied up. He's being dragged by Lew2 into the GARAGE...
Where an active aperture leading into his world awaits.

Elise watches by the house door -- a sense that all of this
will soon be over...

LEWIS
(to Lew2)
Hey, Wait. Wait, wait, wait!

LEW2
What?

LEWIS
(serious; urgent)
That's not your wife.

LEW2
What?
(pauses)
What the hell did you say?

ELISE
What's going on?

LEWIS
(to Lew2)
She's not who you think she is.
She's been lying to you for five
years! Ask her about her machine.
She's got one just like mine.

LEW2
What?
(to Elise)
What the hell is he talking about?

Elise does her best to keep her cool.

ELISE
Nothing. He's lying, he's buying
for time or something. Just throw
him in there already.

LEWIS
She showed it to me -- told me
everything. Her husband died,
that's why she came here, she's not
your wife!

ELISE
Wow. Okay. I don't see what you're
trying to gain here, but...

LEWIS
Check in the attic.

LEW2

What?

LEWIS

I heard her go up there after she showed it to me. I bet you anything it's up there.

LEW2

You're fucking crazy.

LEWIS

Am I? With everything you've seen? Just go check. What've you got to lose? I'm not going anywhere!

He can tell he's got Lew2 thinking.

ELISE

Can we please just dump this psycho back where he belongs!

LEWIS

Five years ago -- the accident! The doctors couldn't find anything wrong could they?

LEW2

How do you know about that?

LEWIS

She faked the memory loss -- the whole thing! She told me! It was the only way she could take over --

ELISE

Alright goddammit, that's enough!
(to Lew2)
Lewis, look at me -- fuck this guy!

LEWIS

(to Lew2)
Check the attic! You've got nothing to lose.

Lew2 looks over at his wife...

ELISE

Really?

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE ATTIC --

Lew2 walks up the steps, followed by Elise.

ELISE

Honey, come on! What do you expect to find up here?

Lew2 keeps quiet -- looks around.

DOWN IN THE GARAGE --

Lewis listens carefully. Hears them walking around...

MEANWHILE --

ELISE

Baby please... can we just put an
end to all this? This is crazy.

Lew2 keeps looking around, but nothing seems out of place.

ELISE

Lew?

MEANWHILE --

Lewis listens -- his gaze TURNED UPWARDS.

LEWIS

(shouts)
Did you find it?

He waits... Suddenly spots an AIR VENT near the ceiling.

LEWIS

(to himself)
Air vent...
(shouts)
Check the ventilation!

BACK IN THE ATTIC --

Lew2 turns to look at Elise. She's giving off a weird vibe.

ELISE

Lew, come on don't play his game...

He goes to check the ventilation unit nonetheless.

ELISE

Lew come on -- please.

He undoes the screws to the ACCESS VENT. Elise is a few feet
away -- trying hard not to act nervous.

Lew2 finally takes the vent off and... there it is.

He pulls the GYM BAG out. Opens it. Sees the second DEVICE.

LEW2

What the hell's going on Elise?

ELISE

What do you mean? That's not mine!
Come on, he obviously put it there!

LEW2

In your gym bag?!

Elise is speechless. Lew2 pulls out the GLOVE.

LEW2

I saw you wear this!
(*mind racing*)
What the fuck...

Elise suddenly leaves down the stairs.

LEW2

Where're you going?

INT. LEW2'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Lew2 walks in holding the GYM BAG -- sees Elise dragging Lewis toward the aperture.

LEW2

What're you doing?

ELISE

Getting rid of him, goddammit!

LEWIS

Ask her to open it!

ELISE

Shut up! It's over!

LEWIS

(*to Lew2*)

Open it! Open it and look for
yourself! Jesus Christ your wife is
probably right there on the other
side!

Lewis wriggles out of Elise's grasp --

LEWIS

Do it! Just do it and you'll know
I'm telling the truth!

Elise suddenly PUNCHES LEWIS in the face!

ELISE

Shut up!

She goes to grab him again when --

LEW2

Stop.

ELISE

...What?

LEW2

Just... stop.

ELISE

Lewis...

LEW2

Is this...? I mean... Jesus Christ...

He's at his wits' end.

ELISE

I don't believe this! Lewis, this guy is clearly trying to --

LEW2

Shut up Elise! Just... shut up for a goddamn minute.

(he's about to snap)

I need to think about this.

It's all quiet for a beat, and then --

ELISE

(offended)

Right. Right, well... You take your time and think about it.

She picks up her BAG and starts to leave --

LEW2

What're you doing?

No answer. He runs after her out into the HOUSE --

LEW2

Elise!

He GRABS HER by the ARM -- SWINGS HER AROUND --

But she JABS him in the ribs with Lewis's STUN GUN -- sending him dropping to the floor!

MEANWHILE, IN THE GARAGE --

Lewis is working fast to get free of his bonds --

OUTSIDE --

ELISE runs across the front yard and DOWN THE STREET.

SECONDS LATER, Lew2 steps outside, shaking off the stun. He spots Elise in the distance -- and runs after her!

IN THE GARAGE --

Lewis is now free -- shoving his DEVICE into his backpack.

EXT. LEW2'S HOUSE - SECONDS LATER

Lewis runs outside, backpack in hand. He gets behind the wheel of the VAN -- drives it up to the street's edge.

LEWIS
(looks both ways)
Fuck, fuck, fuck --

He suddenly hears Lew2 shout in the distance --

LEW2 (O.S.)
Elise!

He speeds off in that direction!

MUCH FURTHER AWAY --

ELISE runs like mad! She cuts across yards -- never looking back. But LEW2 is always just a step behind her --

BACK IN THE VAN --

Lewis LOOKS ALL AROUND as he drives. He's got no idea where they are. He takes a random turn when he suddenly spots LEW2 passing him in the opposite direction!

LEWIS
Shit!

He quickly TURNS THE VAN AROUND to match him, driving through a neighbor's hedge in the process.

MEANWHILE -- the FOOT CHASE CONTINUES

Lew2 sees Elise run into a CITY PARK; sees her disappear behind the trees...

FURTHER DOWN THE STREET --

Lewis arrives just in time to see LEW2 as he too RUNS INTO --

THE PARK --

-- where Elise takes a SHARP TURN into a secluded WOODED AREA. She stops to look around, breathing hard -- *it'll do.*

She quickly takes her DEVICE out. Pulls it open.

BACK IN THE STREET --

Lewis jumps out of his van and RACES into the park on foot.

BACK TO ELISE --

-- as she slips her GLOVE on and goes to start up her DEVICE.

LEW2

Stop!

LEW2 comes running through the trees -- startling Elise.

He gets right up to her -- wild-eyed --

LEW2

We can end this -- you can go home.
Just help me to get my wife back!

She's scared. Lew2 tries to stay calm, but it's not working.

LEW2

Look, we'll go together, alright?
We'll go get her and then... And then
you can just stay there -- I don't
give a shit. That'll be the end of
it. Okay?

She stays silent. He SNAPS -- GRABS HER by the shoulders.

LEW2

Okay?

And then... her look says it all.

ELISE

...I can't.

WE CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS

• Elise ABDUCTS Elise2; she sneaks up on her outside her job and JABS HER WITH A HYPO.

• **LATER** -- Elise sets up the DEVICE in an alley. Next to her is Elise2, waking up from the drugs...

• Elise goes to drag **Elise2** through the APERTURE, but the latter grabs a BROKEN BEER BOTTLE and fights back! It's a quick & dirty struggle, ending with **Elise2** getting her THROAT SLIT with her own weapon.

WE CUT BACK TO:

THE PARK -- NOW

-- where Lew2's eyes FILL WITH TEARS.

LEW2

No...

ELISE

I'm sorry...

LEW2

You... No... no, no, no...

Suddenly --

LEWIS (O.S.)

Hey!

Lew2 turns --

And gets WHACKED IN THE FACE by Lewis's CROSSBOW!

The impact sends Lew2 and Elise TUMBLING TO THE GROUND -- the latter HITTING HER HEAD on a rocky outcropping.

Lew2 stands up quick and RUSHES Lewis -- disarming him.

A FIGHT ensues --

It's a short but VISCERAL brawl. Both men are equally matched, but in the END, LEW2's boxing background gets him the upper hand --

He SLAMS Lewis FACE FIRST into a tree! Then PUNCHES HIM in the back -- right where his TATTOO BURN is!

LEWIS

Aaaaargh!

The PAIN drops him to his knees; it looks like it's over... But then, Lewis SPINS AROUND and throws dirt in Lew2's eyes!

That's his chance! He gets up and kicks him in the balls! PUNCHES HIM in the head. Sends him CRASHING to the ground.

Lewis quickly GRABS HIS CROSSBOW and aims it at him...

LEWIS

It's over...

ELISE stands up -- shakes off the daze. Lewis turns to her:

LEWIS

(smiles; hopeful)

It's just you and me now.

Meanwhile, LEW2 notices ELISE'S DEVICE on the ground. It lies right between him and Lewis -- TOPPLED ONTO ITS SIDE.

LEW2

Hey asshole.

LEWIS turns -- suddenly realizes where he's standing...

LEWIS

No!

But it's too late -- LEW2 slams the device's BUTTON!

An APERTURE instantly appears -- parallel to the ground -- SLICING OFF Lewis's left foot at the ankle!

LEWIS

AAAAAAAAARRGHHH!!!!

He FALLS -- but the IMPACT makes him FIRE THE CROSSBOW -- Hitting Elise in the CHEST! She GASPS -- her lungs pierced.

LEWIS

No... Noooo!

She takes a few wobbly steps and then... TOPPLES TO THE GROUND -- landing with her face directly in front of Lewis's.

LEWIS

No... please... no...

(touches her cheek)

I'm so sorry, baby. I'm so sorry...

She stares right through him -- her body fighting to breathe.

LEWIS

I just wanted...

Just wanted to be with you again.

The light fades from her eyes... She's gone.

LEWIS

No...

He cries... ..

...The PAIN from his injury comes rushing back --
 ...He feels himself become weak --
 ...Sees Lew2 walking toward him --

...And he LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS.

EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT

LEWIS'S DEVICE projects an APERTURE -- held in flux by a rope-arrow. We see a PARK BIKE PATH on the other side.

LEW2 takes back his WEDDING RING from Lewis.

The LATTER slowly wakes up... He's completely out of it -- borderline delirious. He can only watch as his double DRAGS HIM ACROSS THE APERTURE back into his own world...

Once done, LEW2 walks back to the other side. He chucks Lewis's severed foot through the aperture, snapping the man out of his daze.

LEW2 goes to shut the device off when --

LEWIS
 (lucid)
 Wait.
 (beat; means it)
 I'm sorry...

LEW2 doesn't say a word. He shuts the device off.

He then picks up a large rock -- and SMASHES LEWIS'S device! He lets himself sit heavily on the ground -- next to Elise.

He starts to weep...

EXT. PARK BIKE PATH (IN LEWIS'S WORLD) - DAWN

At the end of a long bloody trail, we find LEWIS -- inert. We hold there... Is he dead? Two CYCLISTS coming down the path suddenly see him. They RUN TO HIM as we FADE OUT...

INT/EXT. VARIOUS - EPILOGUE MONTAGE

CEMETARY - DAY: Lew2 walks across an aperture using Elise's DEVICE and GLOVE. He walks through rows of gravestones until he finds the one he's looking for.

He stares down at it, tears in his eyes...

The GRAVE'S HEADER reads: "Markham".
 BELOW IT: "Lewis, beloved husband and **Elise, beloved wife**".

LEWIS'S BEDROOM - DAY: Lewis has a BANDAGED STUMP where his foot should be. He steadies himself with a CRUTCH as he goes about his business; taking ELISE'S CLOTHES out of her dresser and PUTTING THEM INTO CARDBOARD BOXES.

LEW2'S HOUSE - SUNSET: Lew2 walks in -- totally despondent. He's holding the gym bag containing Elise's device. He stares at empty space for a beat until... He SLAMS the BAG onto the floor -- picks it up -- and THROWS IT across the room -- sending it SMASHING ONTO THE WALL!

LEWIS'S FRONT PORCH - SUNSET: Lewis watches as a teenager puts the BOXES into the back of a delivery van branded with the "Goodwill" logo... Lewis watches the van disappear down the street -- imbued with a sense of finality...

LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT: Lew2 sits in the living room, downing liquor. He suddenly notices a BLINKING LIGHT inside the GYM BAG in the corner of the room...

He OPENS the bag and sees that the DEVICE is now missing its BACK PANEL, exposing a BLINKING RED SWITCH. Curious, Lew2 clicks it -- and the LIGHT TURNS GREEN.

Lew2 makes a face -- *what the hell does that mean?*

LEWIS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT: Lewis stares at something in his hand... It's the "Blue Number 2" tile. He gently puts it down in the RUMMY BOX where it belongs, then puts the game away on a shelf IN THE CLOSET. We HOLD THERE as Lewis walks off and CLOSES THE DOOR on us -- making the image go BLACK.

LEW2'S HOUSE - NIGHT: Bright light washes across Lew2's face in five-second intervals. He's sitting in front of ELISE'S DEVICE, pressing the MAIN BUTTON on & off...

Lew2 presses it -- the glow DISAPPEARS.

He presses it again -- and the glow REAPPEARS.

The CAMERA slowly PANS AROUND to reveal that with EACH CLICK, the DEVICE projects an aperture into a DIFFERENT world.

Click: a farmer's field...

Click: a trailer park...

Click: a suburban street...

Infinite possibilities...

And in LEW2's eyes... grows a strange RESOLVE.

THE END