

BRAVEN

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FADE IN

EXT. DEEP WOODS - DAY

Endless snow tipped spruce trees spread over ageless mountains. Silence a sweet serenade to this pristine wilderness.

Snow CRUNCHES slowly under boots, a man creeps through the trees. Thick beard hides what seems to be a handsome face. His eyes scan the terrain, can't tell if he's hiding from danger or looking for it.

SPOTS a beautiful WHITE BUCK with majestic antlers. Just by looking at it we know it's appearance is extremely rare. The deer looks over to the man. Doesn't flinch, as if seeing him as a creature of the forest.

The animal's ears perk up. Soon we hear CHOPPER BLADES cutting the sky.

DISTANT VOICE (O.S.)

Braven!

Deer bounds off and disappears in the thick. The man turns toward the voice.

EXT. LUMBER WORKSIGHT - A MOMENT LATER

He stomps onto a logging work site.

CHOPPER OVERHEAD:

A group of loggers finishing up lunch. A worker approaches, by the looks of him it's been a long day.

WORKER

Chopper's fueled.

The man picks up his big ass HUSKY 240 CHAINSAW. The chainsaw completes the man. This is JOE BRAVEN, small town grit, perfectly bred to be a logger, four generations to be exact.

JOE

(to the men)

Break's over boys.

MONTAGE OF WORK:

Joe's chainsaw roars through a monster tree sending sawdust like falling snow. The mammoth tree CRACKS at the base. Falls lazily to the earth.

Joe and a few other TIMBER FALLERS buck branches under a hovering HELICOPTER 200 feet overhead.

Metallic wire and hook descend from the helicopter. Joe grabs the line and wraps it around the trunk. Quickly grabs the second line and secures a second tree.

JOE (CONT'D)
 (screams over the
 helicopter blades)
 Go! Go!

The workers scatter like waterbugs as the chopper airlifts the behemoths from its standing brothers. Large branches snap overhead falling like killer rain. Joe just clears the fall zone.

We see the chopper flying high over the canopy dangling the 3,000 lbs of logs high over head. From this elevation we can see the vastness of the forest making the massive logs look no bigger than toothpicks.

Joe pulls his walkie.

JOE (CONT'D)
 Coming your way. Get the choker
 dogs ready.

EXT. LOADING SITE - A MOMENT LATER

The helicopter hovers over a logging road. A truck waits for more logs to arrive.

Logs are laid down. A man rushes out, pulling the choker off the logs. Coils the rope and the helicopter is off again.

BACK TO JOE:

Helicopter drops the line again. This time another worker rushes to fasten the line. Clips it quick then steps back waving the chopper to go.

Helicopter lifts the logs to the sky. The line slips the clip releasing the logs with a violent whip.

The line WHIZZES just past the worker's head nearly taking it off, but he's still in the fall zone. Joe sprints out yelling for him to move. Everything's happening so quick the man is frozen.

A log falling overhead. Joe spear tackles him just in time from being crushed! The other tree falls right next to them.

Joe gets up. Man squirms from pain in his ribs. Joe probably broke one, but better his rib smashed by Joe than his head by the falling logs.

Other workers come to assist helping the man up.

EXT. WOODS - LATER THAT DAY

Joe's chainsaw back to work ripping through the base of a tree.

Intuition has him kill the motor. Joe takes note of the sky. He studies the thick clouds moving in.

EXT. LOGGING ROAD - DAY

Joe walks the loading site. A metal claw clutches logs and cranes it to the logging truck.

Approaches the driver window.

WESTON behind the wheel, looks like he lives in that truck, too bad they don't come with showers. Joe sees him thumbing through a HUSTLER MAGAZINE.

Joe rips the magazine from his hands and WHOPS him over the head with it.

WESTON

Ah shit. What Joe, I'm on break.

JOE

Storm's coming in.

WESTON

I haven't heard anything on the radio.

JOE

Been a long day. Why don't you stay in town for the night, take the load in the morning?

WESTON

I'll be alright. Wanna get back by tomorrow night. Got some things I need to tie up at home.

Joe looks to the sky again.

JOE

You got chains?

WESTON

Yeah I got 'em.

JOE

You get caught, chain up before you
hit the S-Curves.

WESTON

What is this orientation? I got it.

Weston turns the ignition. Diesel BARKS to life sending black
smoke from the muffler.

WESTON (CONT'D)

Besides if the pass gets shitty
I'll just trudge over and bunk at
the cabin.

JOE

If you head back now you should
make it, so stay the fuck away from
my cabin.

Weston smiles at his joke, happy to get a rise out of the
boss. Reaches for his magazine. Joe walks off with it leaving
Weston with nothing but the memory of naked tits.

A helicopter touches down in the landing area. Joe pulls the
passenger door and jumps in. Throws on the head gear.

Other men load up in the back.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Joe grabs the day's manifest. Looks it over.

JOE

Good work today Phil.

Phil is steady and reliable, he and his UH-1 HUEY CHOPPER
both Vietnam vets, they can handle the pressures of HELI-
LOGGING.

PHIL

Thank you boss.

Joe goes over paperwork as Phil takes them up.

EXT. WILDERNESS - A WHILE LATER

The helicopter floats them over the eternal sea of tree tops and blanketed mountains. Sunset glows orange off the white mountains.

EXT. BRAVEN MILL - DAY

Helicopter lands in a lumber yard marked by a handcrafted sign: BRAVEN LUMBER. Wood weathered by rough seasons.

The men spill out.

PHIL

Say hello to your old man. We miss him out here.

Joe nods his promise to give the message. Steps out.

EXT. BRAVEN MILL - A MOMENT LATER

Joe approaches his '97 GMC SUBURBAN looking over a stack of envelopes. Just like his truck, Joe has the right amount of miles on him.

Joe tosses Weston's Hustler in an outdoor garbage can. Opens the door and tosses the envelopes in the passenger.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - EVENING

Joe drives the LOGGER ROAD. Shrines of MAKESHIFT CROSSES and WILTING FLOWERS decorate sharp corners, a reminder that these roads will kill you.

Passes a sign: LEAVING MALAKWA COUNTY.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE - DUSK

GMC pulls up to the house. Joe steps out from the car, throws his tool belt over his shoulder.

BIRDS CHIRP in the nearby trees. He looks up as if the woods speak to him. Spots something we've yet to see. Packs a snowball. Bullets it toward the trees.

It explodes in a cloud of powder startling Charlotte clinging to the branches. The innocence in her smile doesn't hide the fact she knows not to be climbing up that high.

CHARLOTTE

Daddy!

Her agile body and veteran climbing hands have her down in a blink. Rushes to her daddy with a big hug closing the gap of five days between them.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

How did you know I was up there?

JOE

(gestures to the birds)
They told me.

CHARLOTTE

No. They just started chirping because I was too close to the nest.

Joe wraps his arms around his little girl scooping her up. A sideblinding SNOW BALL powders off the side of his face. Joe looks over.

Sees a sexy grin. It's his wife STEPHANIE. She's backwoods beautiful. No need for makeup or perfect nails, as a matter of fact those things wouldn't suit her at all.

STEPHANIE

They tell you that was coming?

Joe drops the giggling Charlotte and charges for Stephanie.

JOE

Don't move.

STEPHANIE

No, I got soup on the stove and I'm gonna be late for work.

Joe packs snow in his hands. Stephanie runs for her life. Snow ball explodes on the house door as she slams it behind her.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Stephanie rushes last touches over the soup. She's got on a BOW SHOP SHIRT with INSTRUCTOR written over the left breast.

Joe clunks in with Charlotte on his back. Joe always the predator wraps his arms around Stephanie. Buries lips to her neck.

JOE
You miss me?

Sexy eyes play back, she loves it.

STEPHANIE
A little.

CHARLOTTE
(always the instigator)
Momma missed you daddy.

Joe's hands wander flirtatiously, groping a thing or two. He pulls Charlotte down.

JOE
Where's dad?

Stephanie's face says she's not touching that one.

CHARLOTTE
We're putting up Christmas lights!

STEPHANIE
Don't get me started. He's in the garage, you're gonna have to deal with that one.

She turns off the stove.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Dinner's done. Go get your dad.

She heads off.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Oh, can you fix the sight on my compound while I get the rest of my stuff?

JOE
(squeezes her ass)
I can take care of more than that.

She looks at him like he's promising what he can't deliver.

STEPHANIE
If you're even up when I get back I'll consider that foreplay.

He pulls her in again but she fights him off. Joe turns to stir the soup. Pulls the ladle for a taste.

Joe pulls the refrigerator open. Grabs two beers. Walks to the garage door.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Joe steps in. The garage is torn to shit. Boxes sprawled and contents scattered. Joe's father, LINDEN, rummages through boxes like a dog looking for a lost bone.

Linden is the memory of a great man. Heavy creases on his face and gray whiskers says he's put a life's worth of hard work in less years than most.

JOE

Dad?

Linden looks over like a deer in headlights. There's little life in Linden's face, like he's lost or something.

JOE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Linden looks over the mess.

JOE (CONT'D)

The Christmas lights are right here.

We see the box on a shelf, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS marked in black.

In a subtle instant Linden snaps back. Walks over.

JOE (CONT'D)

You alright?

LINDEN

Yeah, I'm living with my son who can't organize shit, why wouldn't I be alright?

Joe hands him a beer. Linden inspects the bottle suspiciously. Takes a swig. The taste completely goes against everything Linden knows as beer.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

What the hell is this?

JOE

It's a porter.

LINDEN

It tastes like a shit milkshake.

JOE
Then don't drink it.

Joe snags Stephanie's COMPOUND BOW from the wall and turns back inside.

JOE (CONT'D)
Dinner's ready.

Linden stands alone.

LINDEN
I can't get a Bud Light around here anymore.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

TV on. Charlotte watches close as Bear Grylls gives her life lessons as she eats her soup.

Joe and Linden sit in the silence.

INT. WESTON'S LOGGING TRUCK - NIGHT

Weston chugs along the highway. Exit coming up. Weston takes it.

EXT. EXIT - CONTINUOUS

Weston's rig turns up a quiet road.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Weston pulls the truck to a stop. HALLETT (28) stands ready to receive him. Hallett's a cocky little fuck, not the logging type. He's looking for easier money.

Weston steps out.

HALLETT
You ready motherfucker?

Weston rolls his eyes, can't stand this little prick, but he's looking to make easy money too.

Hallett shakes a SPRAY PAINT CAN. Weston grabs a small chainsaw and pulls an axe from it's mount.

CUT TO:

INT. JOE BRAVEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The room not typical for a little girl. Camo gear in the closet, a snake skin tethered bow mounts her wall next to a BEAR GRYLLS poster.

Joe's asleep on Charlotte's bed. He somehow holds one end of a paracord bracelet that Charlotte finishes braiding. She looks at her sleeping father.

CHARLOTTE

Daddy?

Charlotte pats his cheeks to possibly stir him.

JOE

(answers with eyes still
closed)

Yeah baby?

CHARLOTTE

You're asleep again.

JOE

No. I was just thinking about how
much I love you.

CHARLOTTE

You were snoring and your beard was
shaking.

She's crawls up in his face now. He looks at her through squinty eyes and a smile. He stirs up.

JOE

You calling me a liar?

He gives her a little tickle.

CHARLOTTE

I'm not lying.

His tickles getting more aggressive.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You always fall asleep.

It's an all out tickle attack at this point. Charlotte's struggling and laughter only fuel him.

This is obviously their favorite part of the night routine. Joe finally settles.

JOE
Time for bed sweetie.

CHARLOTTE
No you didn't even read the story.

She pouts with irresistible eyes. He can't say no. Grabs the book. Speed reads the thing.

JOE
The forest animals play hide and seek. Bethany the Bear hides in her cave, falls asleep. They can't find her, blah, blah, blah, winter turns to spring she comes out of the cave and crowned the best hide and seek champion to ever live.

Charlotte moans but there's no fighting bedtime.

JOE (CONT'D)
Love you baby.

Joe kisses her.

CHARLOTTE
I finished grandpa's bracelet. Can I give it to him?

JOE
He's probably asleep already. Just like you should be. We'll give it to him tomorrow, okay?

She moans her disappointment. Kisses her forehead.

JOE (CONT'D)
Love you baby.

Joe walks out.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Joe walks into the TV room. TV on but no Linden. He walks through the house to a closed bedroom door.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

JOE
Dad?

He CREAKS the door open. Bed made, no one inside.

EXT. GYPSIES - NIGHT

A single STREETLIGHT, ten years past it's prime, spills a nearly useless light over a bar and it's gravel parking lot. Static neon crackles the name GYPSIES.

Linden walks the gravel and makes his way inside.

INT. GYPSIES - CONTINUOUS

It's a working man's joint, the type where the owner checks the calluses on your hand not the ID in your pocket.

Linden walks in, eyes scanning the bar looking for something. Whatever he's looking for he spots it by the pool tables. He makes his way over.

Bartender notices Linden. It's clear something about Linden's presence means trouble, bartender dials his cell.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe's cell rings.

JOE

Hello?

Joe listens to the bartender. Kills the call with heavy thumb.

JOE (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Fuck!

Joe dials Stephanie.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)

I'm almost home, Romeo.

JOE

Dad's in trouble, Charlotte's at home. I'm heading to Gypsies.

STEPHANIE

I'm just around the corner.

JOE

I gotta go, I'll call you soon.

Grabs his keys and rushes out of the house.

INT. GYPSIES - SAME TIME

A BUSTY BRUNETTE in her prime at 31, sits on a stool talking with a friend. Linden grabs her arm.

LINDEN
Cara, let's go.

Brunette jerks her arm away.

BRUNETTE
Get off me.

Her BLONDE HAired FRIEND comes to her aid.

BLONDIE
(to Linden)
What are you doing?

LINDEN
(to the Brunette)
Get your shit, we're leaving.

Guys at the pool table take notice. One of them, KRIS, stomps over aggressively, beer bottle in hand.

KRIS
Julez, you know this guy?

LINDEN
Walk away tough guy. I'm just here to take my wife home.

BRUNETTE
Your wife?

BLONDIE
Leave him alone Kris, he's obviously crazy.

Kris gestures to the door with his beer bottle.

KRIS
(to Linden)
You need to go, now.

Linden snatches the bottle and SMASHES it on Kris's head! Linden throws a punch on one of Kris's friends for good measure.

EXT. GYPSIES - SAME TIME

Joe pulls up. Sees a tussle through the window. Bursts from the car.

INT. GYPSIES - CONTINUOUS

Joe sees Kris holding Linden in a choke hold. Face turning red.

Joe bolts in a lineman rush without a second thought. Throws his forearms up and HOCKEY CHECKS someone in the back of his neck. Instant whiplash!

In one fluid motion Joe BACK FISTS the closest guy in the face and snatches another by the hair kneeing him in the teeth.

Kris releases Linden and grabs a pool stick. Joe turns just in time to see it swinging overhead.

Joe defends, the stick SNAPS over his forearm.

A BOTTLE shatters over Joe slicing his forehead and dousing him with beer.

Joe turns and SLAMS a wet head butt. The impact devastating, smeared blood and broken nose drops the guy hard.

Linden punches a guy in the gut then slams his head over the bar.

A DART stabs Joe in the back. He reaches for it but can't quite get it. Dude comes after him. Joe finally pulls the dart. Dude swings. Joe slips the punch and sticks the dart in the man's bicep. Finishes him with a punch to the chin.

Joe turns. See Kris hoist up a bar stool and SLAMS it with devastating force on Linden's head.

Joe rushes him with a MONSTER BLOW. Kris falls unconscious. Joe drops on him and pounds Kris with heavy hands again and again.

A couple patrons pull Joe off stopping the fight. Joe pulls himself free looking over the damage in the bar.

Sees Linden on the floor.

EXT. GYPSIES - CONTINUOUS

Joe carries Linden out the front door. BLUE AND RED LIGHTS skip across his face. The crowd silent not wanting to prod a loose lion.

SHERIFF CAL steps out of a squad car. He's older. Uniform grown tighter over the years.

Sheriff looks over Gypsies, it's torn to shit, Joe the obvious culprit.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Joe in the waiting room with Sheriff Cal. Sheriff on his cell.

SHERIFF CAL
(in the phone)
Alright, thanks Harris.

Kills the call.

SHERIFF CAL (CONT'D)
(to Joe)
Guy you got into it with is in the middle of a two year probation for agg. assault, no one is pressing charges. But we have a problem here Joe.

JOE
Yeah I know.

SHERIFF CAL
It fucking kills me to see your dad like this. But if anything happens again I have to arrest him.

Stephanie rushes over with Charlotte in tow. Stephanie struggles to hide the panic in her face.

JOE
Okay. Thanks Cal.

SHERIFF CAL
See you Steph.

Sheriff Cal leaves.

STEPHANIE
(to Charlotte)
Why don't you go in and check on
grandpa?

Charlotte goes in the hospital room where Linden is. They can see him inside from the hallway.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
(to Joe)
What the hell happened, everything
okay?

JOE
Yeah, they just finished stitching
him up.

Joe pours some coffee, BLACK. Takes a sip, tastes like shit.
DOCTOR EDWARD comes out.

DOCTOR
Hey Joe. Stephanie.

Stephanie grins her greeting.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(to Joe)
Because it was a head injury, I
went ahead and ordered a brain
scan.

STEPHANIE
How do they look?

DOCTOR
The results look fine, but I have
some concerns.

JOE
What concerns? You just said the
scan looks good.

DOCTOR
His episodes are becoming more
frequent but this is the first time
it's been violent.

JOE
It's my fault I should've been
watching him.

DOCTOR

It's not that simple. We're only beginning to understand the long term effects of severe concussions like the one your dad sustained after that helicopter crash. Hell we didn't even think he would survive Joe, and getting hit on the head like this isn't making it any better. Is he alone when the two of you are at work?

STEPHANIE

We changed my schedule around so I can be with him when Joe's gone, but once and a while something comes up.

DOCTOR

Let me see if I can get another neurologist to do some more scans and...

JOE

(cuts him off)

Ed, we've been doing scans for the last year and a half. Another neurologist isn't going to tell us something we don't know.

DOCTOR

Joe, violent outbursts are an indicator of a deteriorating mental state and there's no way of knowing what will trigger another lapse in his mental stability, loud noises, flashing lights, it could be anything.

STEPHANIE

So are you saying we need to watch him closer?

DOCTOR

I'm saying, I think you need to look at a more supervised approach.

JOE

I'm not putting my dad in a home.

DOCTOR

It doesn't have to be that. There are care facilities with great programs, therapies we can try, even in-home nurses...

JOE

You think my dad's gonna just sit around and play lab rat? No.

DOCTOR

I'm just saying think about it.

Joe looks in the room. Charlotte sitting on Linden's lap.

JOE

Is he ready to go?

Doctor exhales defeat.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A MOMENT LATER

Joe and Stephanie step into Linden's room. Charlotte showing off the bracelet she made him.

LINDEN

You did a great job. I taught my son Joey to make these once.

Joe's eyebrows tighten, not used to hearing Linden speak like that.

STEPHANIE

(to Charlotte)

Come on, we got to get you in bed.

Charlotte kisses Linden and heads out with Stephanie.

Joe looking at his father. Linden looks up. Joe can see Linden's mind is in a different place.

LINDEN

Donny's little girl right? She looks just like him.

JOE

It's Charlotte dad. Your granddaughter.

Linden nestles on the hospital bed and tunes out the world, only the TV exists.

Joe looks to the hallway. Doctor Edwards standing outside the door only a reminder things are changing even if he doesn't want to see it.

JOE (CONT'D)
(to Linden)
Let's get you home dad.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Weston drives the BRAVEN MILL LOGGING TRUCK. Hallett sitting shotgun. CANADA/US BORDER coming into view.

Brakes SQUEAL as the rig comes to a stop. A BORDER AGENT makes his way over. Hallett doesn't pay the agent any mind, his concern lies with the leashed K-9 awaiting orders.

INT. WESTON'S LOGGING TRUCK - SAME TIME

Agent outside the window. Weston rolls it down. This particular agent looks like a hardass, agent of the month type, prides himself on busting idiots at the border.

Weston hands the papers over. Hardass looks them over. Notices Hallett's trance with the K-9. Weston reaches for the papers, but the agent holds.

BORDER AGENT
You gentlemen mind a random check?

WESTON
No. I mean we're a little behind schedule, but yeah, whatever you need.

EXT. TRANSPORT TRUCK - NIGHT

Another agent holds fast to the leash. The K-9 goes to work sniffing around the truck.

INT. TRANSPORT TRUCK - SAME TIME

Hallett watches through the side mirror. This damn dog is on a mission, if there's anything here this dog's gonna find it. The suspense is killing Weston.

WESTON
That dog's been out there awhile.

HALLETT

Unless that dog is fucking bionic,
it ain't finding shit.

Dog BARKS alerting the agent's attention. Weston and Hallett got guilty eyes but hold it together.

EXT. TRANSPORT TRUCK - SAME TIME

Dog barks at a busted up Pinto in the next lane. Someone's holding.

INT. TRANSPORT TRUCK - SAME TIME

Agent hands the papers back. Weston CLUNKS the gear to first. Drives through.

Hallett over the wall excited.

HALLETT

You see that shit! I told you this
would work. We're in, we got the
route.

Weston cracks half a smile keeping eyes on the road.

HALLETT (CONT'D)

You stick with me and you gettin'
paid bitch!

INT. JOE'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Joe's cleaning up the garage. I say cleaning but he just sort of tossing shit into boxes to get it off the ground.

Stops for a second. Pulls the box marked Christmas Lights. Opens it looking inside.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - LATER THAT NIGHT

A snow flurry BLASTS the densely wooded landscape as if in a pissed off snow globe. Road has thinned out allowing little wiggle room for the big rig.

INT. LOGGING TRUCK - SAME TIME

Weston can hardly see through the windshield. Hallett still on the high of their accomplishment.

HALLETT

How often do you make the drive up north again?

Weston keeps his focus. Every foot of road is earned in this weather.

WESTON

Every two weeks.

HALLETT

Can you do more?

Weston responding but his real focus is on the worsening conditions.

WESTON

I don't know.

HALLETT

You know any other drivers that make this trip?

WESTON

I'm not telling anyone about this shit.

HALLETT

Why not? That's how you branch out, move up. There's no one else you trust?

WESTON

Can you shut the fuck up for a minute? We're pushin' over 80,000 pounds on this road and I can barely see a goddamn thing.

HALLETT

(mumbles under his breath)
I'm just saying, you gotta think bigger my friend.

Sign outside warning of sharp S-CURVES ahead.

WESTON

Hold on.

They hit the S-Curves. Truck reels to and for. Hallett clutches the arm rest beginning to feel the riggers of the trucker's life. Weston's eyes locked on the road.

They come up to a sharp turn. Weston turns the wheel accordingly but the truck doesn't turn.

WESTON (CONT'D)

Shit!

Weston HITS the brakes stressing the balance of this heavy load. The truck CREAKS as it tries to stay grounded.

Weston JERKS the wheel to try and regain control. The left side lifts from the road. The logs too heavy and flips the rig sideways off the road.

One of the chains holding the logs SNAPS dumping the lumber over the untouched snow.

Hallett and Weston crawl from out the cab. Weston looks over the damage.

HALLETT

What the fuck is wrong with you?!
All you had to do is drive the
goddamn truck!

They look over the mess of logs on the side of the road.

WESTON

I'm supposed to have this load to
the mill tomorrow.

HALLETT

We got bigger problems.

Hallett in a panic grabs his cell. Dials a number but there's no reception.

Tries again as if his life depends on it, probably does. He hangs up, thoughts racing.

HALLETT (CONT'D)

We gotta get the shit out of here
before somebody finds the truck.

The fire catches a leak in the fuel line. Fire rises by the cab.

Weston quickly scrambles to the window. Snatches a LARGE DUFFLE BAG dumping his clothes and stuff. Tosses the bag out.

Pulls an axe from it's mounted position.

Weston climbs up the overturned rig onto the remaining logs still up there. Locates a log with an ORANGE X spray painted on it. Boots the log above it sending it rolling off the rig.

HALLETT (CONT'D)

Come on!

WESTON

You shut the fuck up!

Weston stands over his log. With a veteran swing busts into it. FLAME BURSTS behind him. Weston falls over.

Gets up cautious of another blow. A few more swings pops a chunk loose --

We see a section of hollowed out log. Weston throws the top off exposing several 500mg bricks of HEROIN.

The flame hits the fuel line increasing the size of the fire. This thing is seconds from blowing!

Weston desperately throws the drugs off the truck. Hallett stuffs the drugs in the duffle. Weston jumps from the rig. Hallett grabs the bag and the men bolt from the truck.

PABOOM! The cab explodes sending the men to the ground.

Hallett looks back, can't believe the night has brought him to this. His face says he has no clue what to do next.

Weston takes note of the MALAKWA COUNTY SIGN. Looks through the woods trying to orient himself from the road.

WESTON (CONT'D)

There's a place not far from here.
A cabin less than a half a mile
away. We can stash the stuff there.

Hallett nods his approval. Weston gets up. Grabs his axe from the snow.

Weston wanders the mess of lumber until finding another log marked with an ORANGE X. Hoists up the axe, SLAMS it down.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - NIGHT

Hallett and Weston lug the large duffle bag to a CABIN IN THE WOODS. Even behind a curtain of angry snow it's something to be admired.

In the back, padlocked cellar doors lead to a basement. Weston SLAMS the lock popping it off.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Hallett pulls the hood from off his head and unzips his coat. Tries to use his phone again, NO RECEPTION. Hallett brimming with anxiety.

Weston looking for a place to stash the drugs.

HALLETT

You sure the stuff is good here?

WESTON

The owner is too busy with other
shit to be fucking around up here.

Weston looks up. There's some unused storage space on a ledge
under the ceiling.

Weston grabs a step stool. Steps up. SNOW COVERED BOOTS leave
cold powder on the step.

Pulls a duck decoy down. Makes room by cramming the other
stuff to the sides.

Hallett hands the bag up. Weston places it over head. Makes
sure it's secure then steps down.

HALLETT

Let's go.

They move out.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - NIGHT

Hallett and Weston huff out of the woods by the tipped rig.

EXT. TIPPED LOGGING TRUCK - A WHILE LATER

Hallett and Weston huddled in the cold. Foil blanket over
their shoulders.

Flashing yellow lights of a SNOW PLOW approaching. The light
reflects off their faces. We then see the sign:

ENTERING MALAKWA COUNTY.

INT. JOE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BAP. BAP. BAP. Stephanie woken to the thumping of a hammer.
BAP. BAP. She rolls over to look at the digital clock.

4:16.

GUTTER THUMPS from the roof. Stephanie throws the blanket
back.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joe on a ladder tosses DAMP LEAVES from the gutter. Pulls his drill and pushes a gutter screw securing a new hanger.

Stephanie comes out wrapped in his coat. She sees the trail of black leaves in the white snow. Sees a half strand of Christmas lights up.

STEPHANIE

What are you doing?

Joe continues. Breath evaporating in the chill. He's consumed in his work. Doesn't even notice her.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Joe, it's 4 in the morning and it's freezing out here.

It's clear tonight's labor isn't about finishing a job, it's about dealing with whatever is on his mind.

JOE

I'll be done in a minute. Go back inside.

She holds. Concern on her face says she's not leaving without answers. He looks down the gutter to the downspout. Sees something at the edge of the roof that he can't ignore.

Moves up the ladder until standing on the roof. Sees the gutter corners separating. Tries to hand tighten the screw.

Stephanie comes up the ladder joining him up there.

STEPHANIE

Joe?

Downspout POPS free.

JOE

(to himself)
Goddamnit.

He pulls the drill from his tool belt. Stephanie on him. Pulls him to look at her.

STEPHANIE

Joe, stop it. Look at me. What's going on?

He looks. Steam huffs from her lips. She looks at this man among men but tonight sees a son at a loss for his father.

He tries to look away but she calms him with hands to the face, forcing him to look into her eyes.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Hey, talk to me.

Any man would cave in those eyes.

JOE
I don't know what to do.

Steamed breath clouds his face.

JOE (CONT'D)
Strongest man I ever knew, could
build anything with his bare hands
but now what, more tests,
nurses...?

He struggles with the thought.

JOE (CONT'D)
...I won't put my dad in a home.

He mulls over the memory of the hospital.

JOE (CONT'D)
I saw it in his eyes. He didn't
even recognize her. I don't want
Charlotte seeing him like that.

STEPHANIE
It's going to be okay. We're a
family and we'll make it work, no
matter what we have to do, but we
have to do something.

His eyes stay with her. They're hypnotic, calming. His racing thoughts slow, finally sees her for the first time tonight.

He nods, knows she's right.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
This doesn't have to be our
decision alone. We really should be
talking to dad about this. That way
any change that comes won't feel so
sudden.

It's clear he doesn't like it but her confidence and voice lull him to loving submission.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Maybe take him to the cabin
tomorrow, he loves it there. Get
the conversation started of what to
do next.

He nods accepting the idea as a good one. She looks in his eyes. Sees how difficult this is for him.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Come here.

She kisses him. She then sits him down denting the snow. She fits comfortably in his lap.

Pulls his arms around her like a blanket. The dawn freezing but they're warm as a summer's evening.

EXT. PIECE OF SHIT MOTEL - NIGHT

The night stubborn as it tries to hold morning's light at bay. The snow plow drops Weston and Hallett off at motel in the middle of nowhere. No cars in the parking lot because no one is stupid enough to stay there.

PRE-LAP:

HALLETT (V.O.)

Slight hiccup...

INT. BATHROOM, LOFTON'S HOME - SAME TIME

Lofton on the shitter, boxers around his ankles and wife beater on his chest.

LOFTON

Goddamnit!

By the sweat on his forehead we can't tell if he's pissed at the call or the hot shits from bad Thai food last night.

Lofton is a portly little man, completely unassuming, see him on the street you wouldn't blink an eye.

INT. PIECE OF SHIT MOTEL - SAME TIME

Hallett and Weston in the lobby, looks like a place out of a horror movie.

HALLETT

...I don't have it. We're in some Bates Motel in Malakwa County, but it's all good, we stashed it. I just need someone to come pick us up and we'll get it back.

INTERCUT:

INT. LOFTON'S BATHROOM

Bathroom steaming up.

LOFTON

You begged me for this. I negotiated a 12 million dollar run because you promised me a clean route from Canada. How do I know you and Hillbilly Jeb didn't set this whole thing up to fuck me?!

(Lofton looks to the shower)

Enough with the fucking steam already!

We didn't notice but there's a naked woman with all the right curves in the shower.

HALLETT

I'm telling you it's not a problem. I'm gonna call my friend Pete...

LOFTON

You're not going to do a goddamn thing but tell me exactly where you are! I'm calling Kassen.

HALLETT

(from the phone)

There's no need for all that I just need a car...

Lofton cuts the call. The woman comes out of the shower, disgusted look on her face as she grabs a towel.

LOFTON

I'm sorry, am I fucking disturbing you?!

CUT TO:

EXT. 5 POINT CAFE - NIGHT

A MAN walks past a GREEN NEON LIGHT on the front window that says: WE CHEAT TOURISTS-N-DRUNKS SINCE 1929.

INT. 5 POINT CAFE - NIGHT

Shitty Security camera above the front door.

CAMERA POV: Black and white video over the diner. Only a couple patrons inside.

There's a skinny man, RANDAL, in the last booth. Randal is small time hustle with big time problems.

The man across the table has Randal on edge. This is KASSEN. Kassen is hardened, but not from a life on the streets but from a soldier's life overseas.

Kassen closes the blinds shutting out the growing glow of morning.

RANDAL

So anyway you can tell Lofton sorry for this, but I got guys on it, good guys, and I guarantee it'll be handled.

Kassen's phone rings. Answers hearing a toilet flush.

LOFTON

(from the phone)

I need you to wrap up whatever you're doing and head up to Blue Mountain. Hallett got through the border but he's gonna fuck this thing up.

Kassen reaches up and twists the BULB from the hanging fixture robbing the booth of light. Randal unsure of what's going on.

CAMERA POV: We lose visibility of the back booth.

LOFTON (CONT'D)

(from the phone)

I need this route to remain open.

Kassen lights a cigarette. Waitress arrives putting a plate of eggs, bacon and pancakes in front of Randal

WAITRESS

You can't smoke that in here.

KASSEN
 (in the phone)
 And your cousin?

WAITRESS
 Sir?

RANDAL
 (to the waitress)
 We'll be out of here in a second.

INT. LOFTON'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Lofton now in a robe. Holds the phone like there's nothing more serious than the answer he's about to give.

LOFTON
 A route that can consistently bring
 in 12 million says no one's family.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen sees the last patron leave a tip and walk out. The floor is empty except for them and the cook in the back.

RANDAL
 (to Kassen)
 Dude what are you doing?

WAITRESS
 (to Kassen)
 Come on, this isn't 1980's or
 whatever, you need to put out your
 cigarette.

LOFTON
 (from the phone)
 If Hallett fucks this thing up, you
 take care of it.

WAITRESS
 Put it out dickhead!

Kassen hangs up. The cook coming out from the back.

RANDAL
 (to Kassen)
 Come on man just put it out, you're
 making a big fucking scene over
 here.

Kassen takes a long drag. Looks to the waitress with a sinister smile, smoke filtering through his grin.

He sticks the cigarette in the stack of pancakes like a birthday candle.

SNATCHES the back of Randal's head. Waitress shrieks. Kassen forces Randal's eye within an inch of the cigarette's burning cherry. Randal whimpering to the God of Skinny Punks.

Whispers in Randal's ear.

KASSEN

(to Randal)

Have the money by next week, or
I'll make things extremely
unpleasant for you.

RANDAL

I will, I promise, I promise.

Kassen SLAMS Randal's head into the plate crushing out the cigarette.

Kassen bashes his head again and again until Randal's breakfast is just a mess of crumbs, ash and blood soaked eggs.

Kassen pulls the plate and breaks it over Randal's head. Does the same with the glass salt shakers sending shattered glass everywhere, he's clearing the table on this poor guy!

Kassen pulls the NAPKIN DISPENSER and CLUBS him over and over.

Randal's had it, barely breathing. Kassen tosses the dispenser down.

Looks to the waitress, she's too afraid to run. He pulls out his wallet to settle the bill. Tosses two BENJAMIN'S on the table. Grabs a cloth napkin and wipes his face.

Holds his finger to his mouth gesturing her silence with a charming grin and childish SHHHHH.

KASSEN

(to waitress)

Our little secret.

Kassen puts the napkin over his head, it covers enough to conceal his face. Steps past the waitress

Waitress in shock, but the money enticing. She cautiously reaches for the bills. Randal gasps for air. She jumps back with a yelp.

CAMERA POV: Kassen walks out of the diner, face hidden from view, they'll never ID him, and no one's saying shit.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, JOE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Eggs boiling on the stove. Joe grinds coffee. Pulls two thermoses. Stephanie helps get things ready.

Charlotte sits at the table, hair adorably messy. Linden comes in. Charlotte jumps to give him a hug.

CHARLOTTE
Morning grandpa.

JOE
Hey dad. Get some breakfast. I'm taking us to the cabin today.

CHARLOTTE
I want to go!

JOE
No, me and grandpa haven't been up there alone for a while.

Linden can't refuse Charlotte's pleading face.

LINDEN
Let her come.
(to Charlotte)
You been hunting with your dad and probably picked up all his bad habits. Go get your rifle.

STEPHANIE
No it's okay. I don't work today so she can help me with some things around here. You guys go ahead.

Charlotte moans her disapproval.

JOE
(to Charlotte)
Knock it off.

Charlotte wells up. Runs off. Linden ready to object.

JOE (CONT'D)
(to Linden)
Hurry up. I'm almost finished loading everything up.

INT. JOE'S GMC - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Joe tosses a bag in the back seat. He and Linden load up.

Joe starts the car. Linden pulls his medication bottle from his pocket. Pops one dry mouth as Joe drives them off.

CUT TO:

EXT. PIECE OF SHIT MOTEL - DAY

Hallett and Weston step out of the motel, still looking like shit from the night before. Kassen waits by a TOYOTA TUNDRA, 4X4 strong.

Kassen's right hand GENTRY, steps out of an SUV pulling a trailer strapped with two ATV's. Gentry is a special kind of badass, body count over a hundred as a military sniper.

Kassen and Gentry are military perfect for the task at hand. Perfectly warm coats with the right amount of give, boots ready for stomping. Hallett halts by Kassen.

Kassen takes note of Hallett's NIKE SHOES, obviously a poor choice considering the terrain. The sight of them gets under his skin. Hallett looks at the stuff they brought.

HALLETT

You get off on this shit don't you
Kassen? Get to wear your G.I. Joe
Tundra gear.

KASSEN

(to Hallett)
You go with him.
(to Weston)
You're with me.

Hallett follows Gentry to the other vehicle. Pops open the passenger door.

INT. GENTRY'S SUV - CONTINUOUS

Hallett steps in. FOUR GUYS in the back. CLAY and ESSINGTON in WHITEOUT camo, RIDLEY and LUISI in traditional. The back seats removed so it looks like the interior of a MILITARY HUMVEE.

Gentry twists the ignition. SUV pulls out behind Kassen.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Joe's GMC trudges the path until hitting a clearing. Sun shine illuminates their destination -- the HUNTING CABIN.

In the daylight it's clear the cabin was crafted with a master's touch. The detail and precision unparalleled, a lost art in today's society.

A shallow river frozen behind the cabin completes the visual of this outdoorsman's paradise. They pull to a stop.

INT. CABIN - A MOMENT LATER

Linden steps in. He has a ritual of checking windows, locks, and water hoses.

Joe thuds a case of beer on the counter. Joe looks over the cabin. Animal heads and vintage trapping equipment, this place is incredible.

Joe cracks two beers. Watches Linden do his thing, but clearly Joe's distracted by the conversation he doesn't want to have.

JOE

Hey dad grab a beer.

Linden too deep in his ritual to be slowed.

JOE (CONT'D)

Dad?

LINDEN

Go upstairs and check the windows would you?

JOE

Yeah, in a minute, I want to ask you something.

Linden already moved on to the kitchen. Joe follows him.

JOE (CONT'D)

You know the bar the other night?

Linden checking the gas lines to the stove.

JOE (CONT'D)

Police report said you thought that girl was mom.

LINDEN

I thought you were checking the windows upstairs?

JOE

Do you even remember the fight at the bar?

LINDEN

I got stitches in my fucking head of course I remember.

Linden walks back to the main area.

JOE

What about the hospital?

Linden was busy before, but now he's clearly evading this conversation. Heads for the stairs.

JOE (CONT'D)

Charlotte was on your lap and you looked at her like you didn't know who she was.

Linden stops, offended.

LINDEN

Bullshit.

Joe doesn't respond, not wanting to argue facts.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

You think it's funny to fuck with your old man?

Linden looks at Joe suspiciously.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

What is this?

Linden's eyes prying.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

I've been saying for months we need to come up here but suddenly you wake me up and we jump in the car for an innocent father son outing? Why we up here Joe?

JOE

Doctors think you need a different kind of supervision dad.

LINDEN

Supervision? So what, you're my supervisor now, that it? First of all you don't have shit that I didn't give you.

JOE

Come on dad, you thought some girl at Gypsies was mom.

LINDEN

I gave you the mill, taught you how to put food on that table.

JOE

We just need to talk about options dad, we can't have what happened last night happen again.

Linden looks at Joe suspicious.

LINDEN

You're gonna put me in a home aren't you?

JOE

We're not putting you in a home, but we need to talk about what else we can do.

LINDEN

I'm standing like a man on my own two feet and you're gonna stick me with the droolers and a guy who fucks coat hangers?

There's no calming him, Joe just waits out the storm.

LINDEN (CONT'D)

How you gonna pay for this nursing home?

JOE

Dad...

LINDEN

(cuts him off)

You're running the mill into the fucking ground, you can't afford to put me in a home.

Linden looks around the cabin gaining his own clarity. Linden pushes Joe like a schoolyard bully.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
You're selling the cabin aren't
you, you ungrateful prick?

JOE
What the fuck dad?

LINDEN
Get out.

Linden pushes him again.

JOE
Dad listen, I wouldn't sell...

LINDEN
(cuts him off)
Get in the car and drive away. I'd
rather die in these woods with half
a brain than look at the man you've
become.

Joe steps out.

Adrenaline yet to leave Linden. Pulls his medication bottle
from his pocket. The sight of it pisses him off. Throws the
bottle against the wall spreading the pills across the floor.

INT. JOE'S GMC - SAME TIME

Joe plops down on the driver seat. Puts the keys in the
ignition.

Looks out to the forest through the windshield. The calm of
the woods seeps in calming his breathing.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT - NIGHT

Linden stomps down the dim lit stairwell. Hits the basement
floor and flips the switch. The old bulb cracks weak light in
the basement.

Linden walks past the step stool and straight to a metal
door.

INT. WATER ROOM, BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Checks the gas control valve then the air intake. Frees it
from dust.

Walks out of the water room. Heads for the stairs when he notices...

The DUCK DECOY on the ground. Eyebrows tighten as he realizes it's out of place.

Linden walks over and picks it up. Looks up at the ledge where it's supposed to be. A TINY PUDDLE on the ledge from melted snow.

A single drop falls to the floor. A puddle there as well. Linden looks around the basement. Nothing appears to be missing.

Linden grabs the step stool and gets on. Reaches up moving some things around. Pulls the duffle bag. Opens it.

Pulls out a brick of heroin. It takes a second, but Linden knows what it is.

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Joe steps out of the GMC about to head back in the cabin when he notices faint boot prints in the snow. He follows them until he sees...

THE BROKEN LOCK.

Joe opens the door and heads into the basement.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Joe stomps the wooden stairs.

JOE
The lock's busted.

He sees the blocks of HEROIN sprawled on the ground.

LINDEN
Heroin.

JOE
How do you know?

LINDEN
In Vietnam, my friends were
snorting this stuff before they put
seat belts in cars.

Joe catches a scent.

JOE
You smell that?

Joe heads for the pile. Grabs one. Sniffs it.

JOE (CONT'D)
Red Cedar.

LINDEN
Should we turn it in?

JOE
Police will probably want it
untouched. Let's go.

EXT. CABIN - A MOMENT LATER

Joe and Linden march to the car.

JOE
Grab the rifle in the back and
bring it up.

Linden reaches in the back for the rifle case. Sleeping bag
MOVES! Linden pulls it back.

Reveals Charlotte! They both scream.

Joe quickly comes around. Sees her.

CHARLOTTE
Hi daddy.

Oh shit!

JOE
Girl, what the hell are you doing?

He scoops her up and scans the woods for prying eyes.

JOE (CONT'D)
(to Linden)
We're getting out of here.

INT. KASSEN'S TRUCK - DAY

Kassen drives Weston down the road. They approach the cabin
switchback. Kassen sees the GMC TIRE TRACKS in the snow. Hits
the brakes.

Weston sees the tire tracks as well.

WESTON

Oh shit.

EXT. KASSEN'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Kassen and Weston step out. Gentry approaches.

Hallett stomps over.

WESTON

(to Hallett)

Joe's in there man, he's fucking in there!

HALLETT

You said the stuff would be safe here. If even a single brick is missing...

Kassen cuts him off.

KASSEN

(to Weston)

Are there any other roads out of here?

WESTON

No. There's a ravine back that way and the Blue Mountain Bluffs. Bunch of ATV trails but only way out by vehicle is this one.

KASSEN

(to Gentry)

Secure the road a hundred and fifty yards out. Luisi you stay with me and Gentry. Clay, you take the east side of the road while Essington and Ridley take the west. If he's up here he found our cargo. He'll be headed this way. Let's neutralize the situation and bring him in to talk. Let's see who we're dealing with.

Gentry pushes the passenger seat forward. Slides out a case, military grade. Unbuckles the latches.

It's a big ass sniper rifle, newest prototype. I would tell you which one but it's still a classified model, probably killed Bin Laden or something.

Kassen looking over the scenic layout as his men fasten their radio earpieces.

WESTON

(to Kassen)

Hey man, I know this guy. Let me go talk to him. We don't need all the fireworks.

HALLETT

I still don't know why we're pussy-footin' around with all this cloak and dagger shit, we just need to go in there and get our stuff.

GENTRY

Anyone who didn't royally fuck up in the last 24 hours, raise your hand.

Kassen turns with dagger eyes on Hallett. All the men raise their hands, Hallett and Weston the obvious fuck-ups.

KASSEN

Both of you do as you're told and be glad you're alive.

(to his men)

Let's go.

The men trudge out without another word spoken, they know their respective roles. Hallett watches Kassen's men spread out into the woods.

HALLETT

(to Kassen)

What the fuck am I supposed to do?

No response provides his answer... Nothing.

INT. GMC SUBURBAN - DAY

Joe loads up in the suburban. Charlotte ushered in the back by Linden.

Joe fires the engine.

JOE

(to Charlotte)

Stay down.

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry dad.

JOE
You're in big trouble.

Joe backs the GMC out.

INT. WOODS SURROUNDING THE CABIN ROAD - DAY

A DEER nuzzles its nose in the snow scavenging any food it can find.

A regal creature, constantly alert to every twitch in the forest. Leans back down searching for food among the snow.

The sound of PACKING SNOW catches its attention.

Clay trudges with precision through the trees. His white snow suit and slow steps make him nearly invisible in the open forest.

The deer notices. Moves through the trees to safer ground. We follow this graceful animal. Its every move smooth and fluid.

The deer finds its way on the road. Turns to see...

EXT. JOE'S GMC - DAY

The GMC driving up.

EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME

Gentry in sniper position. Eyes on scope.

GENTRY
(in head com)
Got eyes on the driver. Almost in range.

Gentry engages the bullet.

GENTRY (CONT'D)
(in head com)
And looks like there's another male sitting shotgun.

EXT. WOODS SURROUNDING THE CABIN ROAD - SAME TIME

Essington and Ridley rush to get in position.

INT. JOE'S GMC - SAME TIME

Joe slows the car. The deer standing alert to Joe's incoming vehicle. Joe stops the vehicle.

Joe and Linden study the woods surrounding them. They see nothing but know something isn't right.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Dials his scope.

GENTRY
(in head com)
Not quite in range.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe scanning the area.

The DEER snaps attention away from Joe's GMC looking down the road. Something is out there!

Joe CRANKS the gear into reverse. Peels backwards!

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry still has scope on Joe.

GENTRY (CONT'D)
(over head com)
No shot.

KASSEN
(in the radio)
Essington, Ridley, are you in
position?

Kassen's radio picks up responses.

ESSINGTON'S VOICE
Negative.

RIDLEY'S VOICE
Negative.

Kassen watches Joe disappear toward the cabin. Gentry pulls up his rifle.

INT. GMC SUBURBAN (MOVING) - SAME TIME

Joe looking over his shoulder has time to asses the woods. Linden has a sharp eye as well.

Joe continues to peel in reverse whipping past trees.

Spins the wheel. The GMC flips around and heads fast toward the cabin.

INT. GMC SUBURBAN - A MOMENT LATER

Joe CRUSHES the brake and whips to a parallel park next to the cabin.

JOE
Inside, now.

Linden leads Charlotte out. Truck positioned perfectly to keep Charlotte from being seen. They rush to the cabin doors.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

They enter. Joe goes straight for the blinds.

CHARLOTTE
What's going on?

JOE
(to Linden)
Shooter in the woods.

LINDEN
There's two. Tried to flank us on both sides.

JOE
We gotta get Charlotte out of here.

LINDEN
Ham radio in the basement.

JOE
You good to shoot?

LINDEN
Only fleas off a dog's ass.

Linden takes the rifle up the stairs.

Joe turns to Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE
Daddy?

JOE
It's okay baby. Grandpa and I gotta
take care of a few things.

CHARLOTTE
I can help.

Joe opens a door under the staircase, pulls the string
SPARKING a hanging light bulb.

This closet space has been converted to Charlotte's little
nook. A tiny mattress and book shelf.

JOE
You can help by staying out of
sight okay?

CHARLOTTE
But I want to...

He shuts the door leaving her objections in the closet.

Joe muscles over the REFRIGERATOR shielding Charlotte's
location. Pushes a heavy wooden table and lifts it vertical
against the fridge.

With Charlotte safe inside, Joe hurries down the stairs.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT – CONTINUOUS

Joe rushes through the basement. Rummages through the junk
looking for something.

INT. UPPER BEDROOM, CABIN – SAME TIME

Linden posts up comfortably in the upper room, rifle scope to
the road.

EXT. CABIN – DAY

Kassen turns to Gentry.

KASSEN
Cut all communication.

Gentry posts up for a long shot.

SCOPE POV: Spots the CABIN GENERATOR. It feeds electricity
to the house by way of a POWER LINE the size of a fat finger.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT – DAY

Joe finds an old 1951 HAM RADIO. It's dusty and out of date. Plugs it in. Cranks the volume and looks for a frequency.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry narrows his aim on the line.

POP.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT – SAME TIME

Lights go out over Joe.

INT. CLOSET – SAME TIME

Bulb goes out over Charlotte.

INT. UPPER BEDROOM, CABIN – SAME TIME

Linden looks to the lifeless lights.

LINDEN
(to himself)
Here we go.

BACK TO JOE:

Basement dimly lit by natural light. Joe locates an old car battery.

Rips the back of the HAM RADIO and hooks up the battery. Faded bulbs come alive.

EXT. CABIN – DAY

Kassen pulls a duffle bag from the SUV. Pulls out a couple high tech devices.

One is the newest model of RADIO SCANNER, and the other is a TRANSMITTER, THALES LOGO lets us know this is military exclusive.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT – SAME TIME

Joe turns a dial locks on a signal.

JOE
Mayday. Mayday.

Twists dial gently trying to increase reception.

EXT. CABIN – DAY

Kassen's SCANNER digitally passes over all frequencies.

Catches Joe's frequency. Scanner shows digital FREQUENCY NUMBER on the screen.

Kassen dials it in to the TRANSMITTER.

JOE'S VOICE
(over the radio)
Mayday. Mayday...

Joe's transmission weak, nearly inaudible. Kassen pulls out a FREQUENCY JAMMER. SLAMS the button.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT – SAME TIME

Joe in active transmission.

JOE
...This is Joe Braven transmitting
for immediate assistance. My
location is...

Joe's HAM RADIO squeals!

The signal is jammed. He turns the dial again trying to gain another signal. Radio continues to SQUEAL.

Joe slams the radio in frustration.

EXT. CABIN ROAD – DAY

Hallett waiting impatient.

HALLETT
Why are we just standing around?

Kassen ignores him. Keeps eyes on the cabin. Turns to Weston

KASSEN
You know this man?

Weston looks over. Knows he's about to be asked to do something he doesn't want to.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Joe makes it up the stairs. Enters the room. Linden holding his aim.

JOE
How many out there?

LINDEN
I don't know yet.

Linden deep in the scope.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
Someone's coming.

Joe looks through binoculars. Sees Weston. Joe seethes seeing the face of the man that brought this to him. Calms himself with a breath.

JOE
They want to talk.

He thinks for a moment, wheels turning. He turns to leave.

LINDEN
What the fuck you doing? We're holding a big payday for these bastards, they don't want to talk. They're gonna to size you up, see what hand you're playing then as soon as you drop your guard they'll put a bullet in all three of us.

JOE
I need to get Charlotte out. If there's even a chance to do that without putting her in danger then I need to try.

Joe heads downstairs and to the basement.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Joe looks over Weston's duffle bag of heroine. Grabs two smaller duffle bags of his own and tosses them to the ground.

INT. CABIN, MAIN FLOOR - A MOMENT LATER

Joe has the Weston's duffle bag over his shoulder. Linden looking from the balcony.

LINDEN
Sure you know what you're doing?

JOE
If this goes bad you get Charlotte
out of here.

Joe opens the front door and heads out.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - A MOMENT LATER

Joe thumps down the steps. Weston approaching.

WESTON
I'm sorry Joe, I never...

Joe grabs Weston's coat by the shoulder and shoves him back around. Joe's moving on to bigger fish but doesn't want anyone on his back.

Joe's eyes alert to the woods ready for an ambush. He stares right at...

EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME

Essington looking at Joe through his rifle scope.

EXT. KASSEN'S TRUCK - A MOMENT LATER

Joe pushes Weston. Weston looking like a shamed child joins Kassen, Gentry and Luisi. Joe stops 15 feet from them. Everyone silent. It's an uneven standoff but Joe isn't running.

KASSEN
Joe Braven. Pardon the intrusion
but I'll keep this exchange as
civil as possible.

JOE
No civility in taking out my power?

KASSEN
I wanted to make sure this
conversation stays between us.

Weston next to Kassen, can feel Joe's glare on him, won't make eye contact. Joe tosses the bag to the snow.

Kassen turns to Hallett whose behind them, gives him the nod to check the haul. Hallett steps forward and unzips the bag, does a quick count.

HALLETT

Where's the other half?

Gentry pulls his pistol readies a kill shot inches from Joe's head.

JOE

If you shoot me my guys will burn
the other half.

Kassen gestures Gentry to hold. Gentry lowers his pistol.

JOE (CONT'D)

Clear off my property and meet me
in town at R.J.'s Pancake House in
an hour. I'll bring the rest and
you'll never see me again.

HALLETT

No, fuck that! We came for my score
and I'm not leaving until I get it.
Now get your bumpkin ass back in
there and bring it out.

Hallett pulls his boy toy of a pistol.

HALLETT (CONT'D)

Or else I'm gonna...

Kassen pulls a dagger from his hip and POUNDS it straight to Hallett's sternum! It happened so fast Hallett gasps for air before realizing he needs it.

Joe watches Hallett fall to the ground.

KASSEN

(to Joe)

I'm sorry, you were saying
something about going to town?

Joe quiet. Warm blood puddles with melting snow under Hallett. Weston fidgets worried, what's he gotten himself into?

KASSEN (CONT'D)

I don't want to go to town Joe.
City boy like me probably isn't
welcome in a place like that. I
might run into people I don't want
to see like Stephanie and...

(MORE)

KASSEN (CONT'D)
(to Weston)
What's her name again? Charlotte?

Joe shoots dagger eyes at Weston, he sold him out. If looks could kill Weston is dying a torturous death. Weston head heavy, can't look up.

Kassen pulls his side arm. Plugs a bullet straight to Weston's temple. POP!

Weston falls in front of Joe. He's startled for only a second. Joe hardens his resolve.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
I don't know how many men you got
in there, and I don't care.

Joe looks at Kassen with a gaze that could penetrate metal but Kassen is steel, with that menacing grin.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
I didn't come here to kill good
people. I just want to go home.

Joe listens carefully, eyes on Kassen but cautious of Gentry as well.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
Why don't you just get the rest of
the stuff and we'll be on our way.
Could you do that for me Joe,
please?

Joe nods the confirmation Kassen wants. He steps back slowly. If there was a noose around his neck it just got tighter.

Kassen watches as Joe stretches the distance between them.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
(in the radio)
Essington, get me eyes on the cabin
in case he tries to run.

EXT. CABIN ROAD - A MOMENT LATER

Joe walks cautiously toward the cabin. Eyes aware of all surroundings.

Looks up at the upstairs window.

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM - SAME TIME

Linden scanning the forest around them watching for an attack on Joe.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Joe steps in. Linden comes down the stairs.

JOE

They're gonna try and squeeze us in. Grab whatever we got, ammo, knives, whatever you can find. We don't have much time.

Joe opens the pantry. Where normal people have food they have Coleman lamps and MRE's.

Linden rummages through a drawer pulling out two boxes of ammunition. Linden takes his ammo and heads back upstairs.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Gentry joins Clay. He nestles into position prepping his gun and ammo.

INT. BACK ROOM - SAME TIME

Joe opens a closet. Snatches a leather LONG BOW CASE. Pulls it out gently. It's beautiful.

GRABS a quiver and pulls out the FOUR HOMEMADE ARROWS.

Pulls a pair of CARHARTT COVERALLS. Grabs a shirt from one of the drawers.

Strips the bed of it's blankets. Rips pillows gathering a pile of stuffing. A BUCK HEAD mounted behind him.

Pulls the BUCK HEAD from the wall.

Rips DUCT TAPE. He's constructing something but it's unclear as to what it is.

EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME

Essington creeps around the trees keeping an eye on the cabin.

Finds a tree with acceptable range to the back of the cabin. Mounts the camera. Checks monitor. Camera image appears.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Joe stomps down the stairs. Grabs another duffle bag and tosses it on the floor.

Kicks the metal end off of a couple shovels. Finds a MILITARY HAND SHOVEL, tosses it on the pile.

Opens a massive tool drawer exposing metal tools of every kind.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Linden on the balcony. Joe approaches with the duffle bag over his back. He's got the bow and arrows in one hand, another duffle in the other.

JOE

There's a sniper on your 10. Wait for my signal, and find him.

Linden turns back for the room.

Joe walks to the front door. The door has sort of a rustic European look to it with a medieval slide window. Joe slides the little window open.

His eyes look careful over the wilderness. Nothing but nature stirs. Joe opens the front door tossing the duffle bag out.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Gentry and Clay hold their position patiently. Ridley and Essington the same. Kassen sees Joe toss the bag on the porch. Kassen turns to Luisi.

KASSEN

Luisi, grab the bag.

EXT. GENTRY'S LOCATION - SAME TIME

Gentry listening over head com.

KASSEN'S VOICE

Once the bag is secure take out Joe, and anyone else inside.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Joe opens the door under the stairs. Charlotte waiting with a flashlight.

JOE

We're gonna get you out of here,
but I need your help.

Charlotte bounds out, ready to do her part.

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM, CABIN - A MOMENT LATER

Linden steady on his scope. Sees Luisi approaching the cabin.

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Luisi approaches the cabin. He moves cautious to the porch. He steps foot on the porch.

Hears THUMP, from the other side of the door. He steps even more careful.

Luisi approaches the duffle. He reaches down and grabs the bag. THUMP!

Luisi should head back, but curiosity has him move to the slide window on the door. Looking in as he gets closer sees no movement inside. He's almost close enough to peer directly in...

THUMP! The door shakes. Luisi startled steps back. Turns down the porch.

INT. UPSTAIRS WINDOW - SAME TIME

Linden sees Luisi emerge. Linden's confused.

BACK TO LUISI:

Luisi's curiosity gets him, he looks back to the door again...

THROUGH THE PEEP WINDOW DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE CABIN WE SEE...

Joe standing with long bow drawn. The 100-pound draw strains the muscles in his arms as he holds aim with a deep breath. Joe exhales the shot.

Arrow ZIPS through the cabin and through the peep window. The arrow PLUNGES DEEP through Luisi's temple popping out the other side.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen looks through binoculars seeing Luisi drop heavy to the ground.

INT. UPSTAIRS WINDOW - SAME TIME

I guess that's the sign he's been waiting for because Linden shifts his focus to the snow in the distance. Looks hard until finally sees slight movement.

...CRACK!

BACK TO GENTRY'S LOCATION:

CRIMSON RED sprays the snow next to Gentry. Clay writhes in pain! He's taken a bullet over his rifle through the trap muscle of his shooting arm.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

An ATV ROARS out from behind the cabin heading straight for the woods. LARGE DUFFLE BAG on his back.

KASSEN
(in radio)
He's making a run for it.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry adjusts his aim for Joe on the ATV. About to pull the trigger when...

A bullet nearly takes Gentry's head off.

BACK TO LINDEN:

Linden's on Gentry's location.

LINDEN
Welcome to my woods boys.

EXT. KASSEN'S LOCATION - SAME TIME

Kassen watches as the ATV gains distance. Aims his pistol at the top window.

POP! POP! POP!

Ridley and Essington send bullets up from the left and right side of the cabin.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM – SAME TIME

Linden pulls away from the barrage of bullets just missing him.

Looks at his masterpiece cabin catching damage from gun fire.

LINDEN
Goddamit!

BACK TO GENTRY:

He's safe from Linden's bullets.

KASSEN'S VOICE
(over radio)
Take out the ATV.

Gentry gets up. Takes deadly aim.

FIRES!

Shot hits Joe's back. The ATV veers COLLIDING to a tree. Gentry hits him with more bullets.

Joe isn't moving. All's quiet.

Gentry gets up protected by Essington's cover. Gentry approaches the ATV.

Joe hunched over. Something looks off. Gentry pulls the hoody revealing...

A BUCK HEAD.

Gentry unzips the duffle, nothing but blankets. Gentry pissed he's been had.

GENTRY
(in head com)
It's a decoy.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen immediately scans the woods. Hears the faint sound of a motor.

Pulls BINOCULARS.

BINOCULAR POV:

Sees Joe on an ATV and the large duffle bag on his back.

KASSEN
(in the radio)
He's got the drugs.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry posts up for a shot. Cabin and woods make it impossible to get a shot from that distance.

GENTRY
(in head com)
No shot.

Gentry rushes back approaching the ATV's. Kassen heading to them as well. Pulls his radio.

KASSEN
(in the radio to Essington
and Ridley)
No one leaves that cabin.

Kassen and Gentry jump on the ATV's and head after Joe.

INT. UPPER BEDROOM – SAME TIME

Linden sees Kassen and Gentry riding out. Aims. Terrible angle.

Bullets come flying again. Linden forced to duck away and stand witness to the desecration of his pride and joy.

INT. CABIN, MAIN FLOOR – A MOMENT LATER

Rushes down stairs. Finds a window that has a better view as Kassen and Gentry speed off.

Linden fires.

POP. POP.

Bullets sink into protective trees saving Kassen and Gentry.

Ridley and Essington make adjustments to Linden's location. FIRE at the window.

BACK TO LINDEN:

Glass shatters and Linden tucks back in. It kills him to see his cabin taking such a beating.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - A MOMENT LATER

Kassen and Gentry looking for Joe.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN ROAD - DAY

Joe slices through snow and mud.

The area is magazine perfect. Thick brush and timeless mountains.

Takes a deliberate turn off the road into the woods. He's an EXTREME SPORTS pro on the ATV whipping past trees.

He unzips his coveralls.

Charlotte tucked tight inside. She comes out hair flailing in the wind.

She frees herself and holds to her dad.

Joe hooks around a sharp corner and up a thin path heavily covered with foliage.

Stops the ATV at the base of a steep rock wall.

Joe helps Charlotte down. Hands her his phone.

JOE

You remember where the deer stand is right?

CHARLOTTE

Yes daddy.

JOE

Their ATV's can't make it through here so you'll be fine. You should be able to hit a cell tower from the deer stand. Call your mom and tell her where you are. Have her call the police to come and help us okay?

She nods a determined yes, ready to do her part.

CHARLOTTE

Got it.

JOE

That's my girl.

She jumps down and heads off. He watches her for as long as the urgency will allow.

Soon he revs the ATV and heads out.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Joe stops the ATV close to an old OAK TREE next to the road. Pulls the backpack off and digs in.

Rips the top off a bag of charcoal.

There's a hole at the base of the tree. Pours charcoal inside.

SQUEEZES a stream of lighter fluid and strikes a box match to light the internal pile.

EXT. CABIN ROAD - DAY

Kassen's eyes scanning the trees looking for signs of Joe.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Joe pours charcoal into another tree. Lighter fluid. Match. HAMMERS the throttle.

EXT. CABIN ROAD - SAME TIME

Kassen hears Joe's ATV. Adjusts his course and takes off after him.

EXT. ROCK WALL - DAY

Charlotte climbing the wall until she reaches the top.

A whole new area of woods opens up. She heads in looking for the deer stand.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - DAY

Joe moving strong on his ATV.

Kassen sees him in the distance. He and Gentry push to catch up.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - SAME TIME

Charlotte spots the desired tree. Looks up. A CAMO DEER STAND rests midway up the tree.

She clutches a branch and begins to climb up.

She reaches the deer stand. It's more like a seat attached to the tree. She sits. Pulls the phone.

Dials but, NO RECEPTION! She tries again. Nothing.

She scans the woods. Sees the perfect tree near the ledge of BLUE MOUNTAIN. Has an idea.

She rustles down from the deer stand and heads to higher ground.

EXT. BLUE MOUNTAIN - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Charlotte crawls up the steep ascent. No ATV's can make this climb.

She reaches the tree.

Charlotte maneuvers up the branches skillfully and without fear. Any other kid would cringe at these heights, but not Charlotte.

Checks the phone again...

ONE BAR!

She dials in the scenic heights.

EXT. JOE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Stephanie frantic looking around for Charlotte. Calling out to the woods for her, but no answer.

Cell RINGS.

STEPHANIE

(answers)

Joe, I can't find Charlotte.

INTERCUT:

EXT. TALL TREE, DEEP WOODS - SAME TIME

Charlotte high as a cell tower.

CHARLOTTE

Mom.

STEPHANIE

Charlotte? I've been looking all over for you, why do you have dad's phone...?

CHARLOTTE

Mom! I'm at the cabin, there are men shooting at us.

Charlotte's voice begins to cut out.

STEPHANIE

Men shooting what at the cabin?

CHARLOTTE

(through sparse reception)
Call the police, I'll be at the deer stand on Blue Mountain...

Stephanie tries to make out what Charlotte is saying but only silence.

STEPHANIE

I'm losing you, did you say deer stand?

Phone cuts off.

BACK TO CHARLOTTE:

Charlotte tries to call back. Lost the bar! She looks up, needs to get to higher ground.

Charlotte stuffs the phone in her pocket. Climbs higher. Branches thinner less forgiving.

Her balance unstable. Pulls the cell phone out. It SLIPS through her fingers and free falls.

BREAKS on a rock below.

BACK TO STEPHANIE:

Stephanie quickly tries to reconnect. Straight to voice mail. Tries again. Same result.

Stephanie thinks for a minute. Dials another number.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Sheriff Cal sips his coffee, his underpaid and over yappy DEPUTY sits across.

DEPUTY

...So the damn thing explodes hot oil all over the place, turkey practically blown to shit because my stupid cousin never took the gizzard bag out before deep frying the fucking thing. I'm telling you...

PHONE RINGS. Sheriff relieved for the distraction, anything to shut this guy up.

SHERIFF

(answers)
Sheriff Ossler.

INTERCUT:

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Stephanie walks in the front door.

STEPHANIE

Cal? This is Stephanie Braven. Joe's up at Blue Mountain and it sounds like they're in some sort of trouble. Charlotte sounded a little scared on the phone.

SHERIFF

Trouble? Is Linden up there?

STEPHANIE

Yes, sounded like Charlotte said men are shooting? I don't know. She lost reception and I can't get through. I think Joe needs help.

She's still walking through the house.

SHERIFF

Okay, we'll check it out.

STEPHANIE

I'm heading up there now.

SHERIFF
 Don't do that Steph, you sit tight.
 We'll handle it.

Hangs up.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
 (to the deputy)
 Possible shots fired at the
 Braven's cabin.

DEPUTY
 Yeah, couple local kids shooting
 beer cans off a fence post.

SHERIFF
 We're going.

Sheriff pulls his radio.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
 (into the radio)
 This is Ossler. I'm taking deputy
 Harris up to Blue Mountain to
 respond to a call about hunters in
 the woods.

VOICE OVER THE RADIO
 Roger that.

SHERIFF
 (to deputy)
 Let's go.

They head out.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Stephanie still standing there, deep in thought. She grabs her keys and heads for the door.

A second thought stops her. She heads back through the house.

Opens the door to Joe's man cave. Marches down the steps to a CLOSET DOOR.

Opens it.

There is no closet inside, just a large safe. She turns the dial until the lock releases.

Opens the heavy safe door to reveal...

All their favorite hunting rifle's and other dangerous equipment.

Stephanie reaches for a hand gun, GLOCK 17, sturdy, reliable.

About to leave when something in her tells her it isn't enough. She reaches for her weapon of choice. Her CAMO PRINT COMPOUND BOW.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Joe at another tree finishing another internal fire.

Jumps on his ATV and ROARS through the trees. A bullet hits a tree where Joe's head was. BARK CHIPS spread.

Kassen and Gentry have gained within shooting range.

Joe turns onto a path that has the highway visible in the distance.

Kassen can't let him get there! Fires again.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Barely missing Joe.

KASSEN

Shit.

Joe whips off the road back into the cover of the trees, out of sight.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - A MOMENT LATER

Joe flying in and out of trees near the edge of a mountain cliff.

Gentry SKIDS around a bend and is right on him. Pulls his side arm and FIRES.

Bullets WHIZZING past him. Joe hits a little hill going out of sight. Skids to a stop behind a cluster of trees.

Sheds the bag from his back and KILLS HIS ENGINE.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry SPINS back around. Sees the hill and flies down it. Gentry watches with a careful eye and ready gun.

Joe perfectly hidden behind a tree, careful not to move.
Gentry nears the tree.

Joe rolls out swinging a tree branch.

Gentry lifts his arm to deflect. The branch breaks in half surely SNAPPING Gentry's forearm throwing him and his pistol from the ATV.

Gentry gets up quickly. Gentry stares right at Joe, squeezes his forearm then JERKS it with a CRUNCH! Crazy bastard just set the bone without a flinch.

Gentry clutches a fist testing the effectiveness of his injured arm. Doesn't seem to bother him.

Gentry rushes Joe. Joe blocks but Gentry returns with a gut shot then hard right to the face.

Joe spits blood. Sizing Gentry up. Joe rushes with a sure strike. Gentry incredibly maneuvers out of the way and counters with a failed punch.

Joe POUNDS him with a ready fist. Gentry immediately rushes Joe in a wrestlers take down. Gentry goes for the universal kill with strong hands around Joe's throat.

Joe hears Kassen approaching in the distance. Sees a branch on the ground. Grabs it and swings for Gentry's head.

Gentry stops it mid swing with skillful hands holding Joe's swinging shoulder and forearm.

Joe fires a ghost left knocking Gentry to the ground with branch under his neck.

Joe mounts Gentry's back grabs the branch on either side of Gentry's neck and YANKS it up SNAPPING the branch in two.

It doesn't kill Gentry but damage to the throat leaves him gasping for air.

Joe gets up. Looks at Gentry's ATV, not too far from a sharp drop. Joe runs over. Kicks the gear lever to NEUTRAL, and pushes the ATV off the cliff. The ATV free falls down the side of the mountain.

Joe rushes over to his ATV. Looks back. Gentry has his pistol in hand. POP! POP!

Joe pulls his bag in front of him.

PING. PING. The metal tools and shovel heads shield him from the bullets.

Gentry's pistol CLICKS empty.

Joe slips the bag over his back again and jumps on his ATV.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - A MOMENT LATER

Joe speeding through the trees.

Kassen appears on a parallel path a little ways behind him. Crosses over onto the same path.

Kassen pushes bullets from the gun. Damn terrain makes it impossible to get a good shot off.

The cabin visible in the distance.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Linden hears Joe approaching. Looks until he sees him.

Linden unloads everything over the guys outside. They return fire.

BACK TO JOE:

Kassen fires his gun with extreme prejudice.

Joe tucks tight trying to avoid a deadly bullet.

Kassen lands a couple perfect shots on Joe. The bullets PING off the protective duffle bag. --- It's a Goddamn war over here!

Joe's engine ROARS as he heads directly for his truck parked in front of the cabin.

Stands on the ATV seat.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen pulls his ATV to a stop. Aims tight. Fires a marksman bullet.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe's ATV slams into the truck.

Newton's Second Law sends Joe like a catapult through the air. Kassen's hot bullet nails the GAS TANK.

PING.

The ATV explodes just as it slams into the truck.

The EXPLOSION blows the truck's GAS TANK for a nearly immediate second EXPLOSION.

BOOM!

INT. CABIN, MAIN FLOOR - SAME TIME

Joe shatters through the window.

The ferocity of the BOOM obliterates the other glass windows on this side of the cabin. Linden is thrown from his feet hitting the floor.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

The woods go silent except for the CRACKLE of fire. Nothing moves but rising smoke.

The sun battles through the misty smoke like heaven's light bursting through stubborn clouds.

The woods perfect and serene. Nature lives on, unfazed by the chaos of men.

The cabin unexpectedly peaceful though it's just received a dirty facelift. There's beauty among the madness.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Joe gets up slowly, stiff and bloody. Broken glass falls off as he removes the bag from his back without standing up.

Metallic tools CLANK as the bag hits the floor, they did their job. Joe looks up and sees Linden getting up.

JOE

Dad, stay down!

LINDEN'S POV: Linden's vision blurry. Ears hear only silence.

Joe sees Linden's eyes blank of recognition. Linden stands.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen sees a shadow stand through the smoke. Pulls his two side arms. Rising smoke obstructs a clear shot but Kassen fires anyway.

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Joe gets up and runs for Linden.

LINDEN POV: Distorted vision sees Joe coming.

Linden terrified as Joe runs toward him, bloodied and dirty. Bullets fly in the cabin all around.

Joe tackles Linden sending them both to the floor. Linden squirms trying to get away.

Bullets puncture the walls and shatter a framed picture sending it falling next to them.

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

The others follow Kassen's lead and OPEN FIRE on the cabin shooting blindly.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe holds Linden from the back with protective arms like a father to a child.

Linden's eyes pour with tears as he struggles to get free, crying as his brain tries to make sense of the chaos.

Joe whispers hoping something in his words or voice will bring him out of it.

JOE

You're Linden Braven. This is your cabin and I am your son. I got you.
You're Linden Braven...

Joe continues on word for word trying to sink the reality in Linden's head.

Joe sees the photo on the floor. Behind broken glass is a proud Linden with a 12 year old Joe over a fresh buck kill.

Joe pulls the photo from the frame. Puts it on Linden's chest.

JOE (CONT'D)

You're Linden Braven. This is your cabin and I am your son.

A tear drops from Joe's eye.

JOE (CONT'D)
I got you dad. I love you.

The bullets cease. Joe holds Linden among the cabin debris.

Linden looking at the photo like it's all he has left in the world. Linden's breathing settles, he looks up at Joe. He's back.

LINDEN
Son. I'm scared.

JOE
Me too pop. But we're gonna hold
down until help comes.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Gentry steps out of the woods, arm messed up but ready for
ass kicking.

KASSEN
You okay?

Gentry nods.

Kassen turns to the cabin, clearly working something through
in his head. Pulls a hand held monitor from the bag.

It shows the live feed from the camera. He rewinds the feed.

GENTRY
What is it?

KASSEN
Why would he run around trying to
get away with the drugs only to
come back?

Watches the screen, nothing but empty movement until finally
sees Joe. Stops the rewind.

Watches Joe come out of the cabin, duffle on his back.
Rewinds again.

Watches Joe come out of the cabin again. Rewinds once more.

Watches closer.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
There.

Rewinds. Sees a bulge from inside the coveralls. Watches with a sharper eye.

GENTRY
He's got something.

Watches again working the scenario in his head.

KASSEN
If he wasn't trying to get away
then this was an extraction
mission.

RIDLEY
Extract what? He's not military
trained, he's just a family man.

Kassen watches the feed again. Tight eyes for laser focus. It hits him.

KASSEN
Not what, who.

Gentry gets it.

GENTRY
His daughter.

KASSEN
He did all this to get her safely
to higher ground. She'll be trying
to establish communication.
(to Ridley)
Find that little girl bring her
back to me.

Ridley goes to the ATV.

GENTRY
(to Kassen)
What's the plan? If that little
girl makes a call then someone will
be coming up here soon.

Kassen weighs the threat against what they're there to do.

KASSEN
The drugs are still in the cabin.
We're going in.

GENTRY
We can't just walk in the front
door.

KASSEN
Then we make one.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Linden posted up by window again. Sees Ridley taking off.

LINDEN
One heading out.

Joe peeks out. He's tense. Looks at Linden with concern on his face.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
It's alright. Charlotte knows what she's doing. Helps on the way.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Joe in the pantry looking for more ammunition. Can't find anything.

JOE
How much ammo you got left.

LINDEN
I only got a few shots left.

Linden sees something outside.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
We got movement.

Joe looks.

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Gentry steps behind the TOOL SHED, out of sight from a straight bullet.

Kicks at the wall of the shed until his size 13's push right through.

He pulls at the wood making his own back door into the shed.

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

They are watching but can't see what's going on.

We hear the sound of a CHAIN SAW RUMBLE. Then hear the chain saw MAX OUT as it pushes through a tree.

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Gentry behind the chainsaw putting in work. A large tree about at TIMBER.

Base cracks, she's going.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Joe and Linden see the tree falling over them. They scramble as the tree falls over the cabin.

It hits the roof breaking a hole in it but the sturdy cabin won't crumble so easy.

JOE
We don't have much time.

INT. CABIN BASEMENT - A MOMENT LATER

Joe stomps heavy down to the basement. Turns to the contents in the basement.

Throws a sheet over the drugs. Kicks over an IRON TUB on it's side.

Rummages over a work bench. Finds a LIGHTER. Stuffs it in his pocket.

Sees a box of SHOTGUN SHELLS. Pops up the lid --- ONLY ONE!

Turns to a well-used camp stove, pulls the one pound propane canister from the base. Is about to walk out when a thought hits him.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry goes to work cutting down another tree.

INT. BACK ROOM, CABIN - SAME TIME

Linden slides open a rolling closet door revealing boxes of liquid filled mason jars.

Linden pulls one out and pulls the lid. Alcohol potency hits his entire face, obviously MOONSHINE.

Takes a calculated sip. Takes his breath, must be killer strong, an ill-timed hiccup might ignite the whole cabin.

LINDEN
(can barely say the words)
Yep, that'll work.

INT. BACK ROOM, CABIN - DAY

Joe sharpens the military hand shovel on a sharpening stone. Inspects his work. Looks good. He heads for the door.

A TOMAHAWK HATCHET mounted on the wall as decoration. YANKS it off on his way out.

INT. STEPHANIE'S FORD F-150 (MOVING) - DAY

Stephanie powers up the road.

Turns up the cabin road. She notices a couple sets of tire tracks.

She turns off the road onto a small path. No tire marks so she's on her own from here on in.

EXT. SIDE PATH - A MOMENT LATER

Stephanie travels up a harsh road. Thick snow under the lowering sun makes for SLUSH DRIVING.

The road takes a dip. Truck hits the bottom. Front tires SPIN but no forward movement.

Stephanie shifts to 4-WHEEL DRIVE but still no go.

STEPHANIE
Shit.

She gets out. Her well worn VASQUE SNOWBLIME WATERPROFF BOOTS prove she knows these woods too.

Throws the BOW STRAP over her shoulder, and tucks the GLOCK in her waist band.

She trudges out into the woods.

EXT. ROCK WALL, DEEP WOODS - DAY

Ridley follows tracks to the rock wall Charlotte climbed up. He gets off the ATV and makes his way up.

EXT. DEER STAND - DAY

Charlotte back on the deer stand. She breaks a branch out of sheer boredom. Accidently drops it.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - SAME TIME

Ridley makes it to the top of the rock wall, only fresh woods before him. He steps out into the woods.

EXT. DEER STAND - DAY

Charlotte lost in her boredom nearly doesn't notice...

Ridley approaching. She stiffens, careful not to move.

Ridley searches the woods. Comes up to Charlotte's tree. Foot nearly steps on the CELL PHONE!

He stops at a neighboring tree. Pulls binoculars and scans the area.

Charlotte tucks tighter. Tiny BARK CHIPS break under her and fall to the ground.

Ridley looks up. Scans the tree top but doesn't see anything.

A BIRD takes flight settling his curiosity. Steps to leave.

SPOTS THE CELL PHONE!

Looks up again with a determined eye. It takes a second for his eyes to adjust but soon he sees her.

Ridley grabs a branch and begins climbing the tree.

Charlotte sees him coming and climbs higher up.

Ridley looks up at Charlotte. She's gone as far as she can go. He climbs up to get her.

CHARLOTTE

No!

Ridley right on her now. Climbs around and snatches her boot. She screams and pulls away, but there's nowhere to go.

Ridley reaches again. Clutches her ankle. He's got a sure grip, she's not going anywhere this time.

FFFFPT!

BACK TO RIDLEY:

Arrow pounds through his hand pinning him to the branch!
Ridley cries out.

REVEAL STEPHANIE, hauling ass through the snow, bow at the ready.

Stephanie stands for a proper shot. Loads an arrow, spins the FOCUS DIAL. Lets the arrow fly...

Straight through Ridley's neck.

Charlotte watches as Ridley chokes for air like a beached fish.

EXT. DEER STAND - DAY

Stephanie rushing over. Charlotte making her way down the tree.

Charlotte runs to her mom. Embraces her.

STEPHANIE

It's okay baby, I'm here.

CHARLOTTE

Daddy found something in the cabin
and some guys came for it. They
were shooting at us.

Stephanie's torn. Does she help Joe or get Charlotte to safety?

STEPHANIE

We need to get you out of here.

CHARLOTTE

But dad and grandpa need our help.

The urgency in Charlotte's face stops Stephanie. A child's suggestion doesn't usually lend so much weight but this time, Stephanie agrees.

INT. CABIN - EVENING

Linden finishes lugging large propane tanks onto the main cabin floor. Piles them close together.

Joe keeping close watch outside the cabin.

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

The landscape dimming. Kassen radios Gentry.

KASSEN
(in the radio)
Bring it in.

Gentry shuts the chainsaw down.

BACK TO JOE:

Silence outside.

JOE
Dad.

Linden comes over.

JOE (CONT'D)
I need you to get out.

LINDEN
No son. We finish this together.

JOE
When they come in I don't know
what's going to happen.

Linden shakes his head not willing to listen to the plan.

JOE (CONT'D)
No one knows these woods better
than you, If I don't make it I need
you to get to Charlotte.

LINDEN
Joe.

JOE
(cuts him off)
Charlotte, dad. She's all that
matters right now.

Linden nods.

LINDEN
Okay.

EXT. CABIN - A MOMENT LATER

Gentry makes it over to Kassen.

KASSEN

(to Gentry)

You cut two trees within forty yards and didn't draw fire. They're low on ammunition. Take position with eyes over the door and center windows.

Looks to Essington and Clay.

KASSEN (CONT'D)

Draw them out or push them to the center where Gentry can take a clean shot. Once we establish their location we'll gas it and take the cabin. It's time to finish this.

Essington has a machine gun.

Kassen looks at Clay. He's pale from loss of blood and babying his bullet wound.

Kassen tosses him a similar assault weapon, smaller, lighter.

You would think a bullet to the trap means your work is done for the day -- not under Kassen's watch.

INT. SHERIFF CAL'S SQUAD CAR - SAME TIME

Sheriff Cal and Deputy Harris pull up the cabin road. Notice the tire marks.

HARRIS

That's a lot of traffic for a switchback.

They drive further in. Sheriff and Deputy catch a scent.

HARRIS (CONT'D)

You smell that?

SHERIFF CAL

Smoke.

Suddenly a tree falls in front of them.

HARRIS

What the hell?

They step out from the car looking at the tree over the road.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Essington and Clay creep to the cabin. Clay's gun unsteady, clearly not his shooting hand.

They approach the back door.

Clay pulls it open and Essington pops in.

A MASON JAR shatters against the wall above his head showering him with MOONSHINE.

Joe stands several paces back holding the tomahawk. A strip of cloth lashed around the cross of blade to wood.

Before Essington has time to make the connection of how this is gonna end --- POOF.

Lighter sends the cloth in a flame. Joe whips the FLAMING TOMAHAWK in a flash.

The savage blade POUNDS Essington's chest.

It takes less than a second to become a human torch screaming and flailing outside.

Rapid bullets fire from his gun.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - SAME TIME

Stephanie and Charlotte alert to the gun shots. Stephanie rushes Charlotte off.

EXT. SHERIFF CAL'S SQUAD CAR - SAME TIME

Sheriff Cal hears the GUNSHOTS.

SHERIFF CAL
Call it in.

Harris rushes to the radio. Tries to connect...

Frequencies still jammed!

HARRIS
I got nothing.

They hear more shots.

SHERIFF CAL
Come on.

They trudge over the tree and head in by foot.

EXT. CABIN - EVENING

Essington a human torch. Clay catches a glimpse of Joe through the cracked door.

He pulls his machine gun out in a panic. SPRAYS the doorway with bullets. His inability to shoot straight allows Joe the second needed to move unharmed.

Clay sees Joe through the kitchen window. He sidesteps for better shooting.

JOE

Get down!

Linden jumps for the floor.

Clay in all-out panic runs around the house spraying as he goes, praying a stray bullet can finish Joe off.

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Joe runs. Bullets like angry bees blowing through the cabin wall around him.

Joe SNATCHES the LONG BOW and the three arrows from the table.

Loads two arrows on the bow string. Sends them whipping into the wall in front of him to be used later.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Gentry on his scope, tightens his aim. Finger curled around the trigger.

Pulls back. POP!

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Joe slides to his knees leaning back like JACK B. NIMBLE,

Looks to the outside through a low lying hole in the cabin wall -- damage from the truck explosion.

Joe draws the bow string with remaining arrow. Aims through the low lying hole at the base of the wall.

Arrow ZIPS from the bow.

EXT. CABIN - EVENING

Arrow slips through Clay's calf dropping him right there.

Despite desperation of pain, he catches a glimpse of Joe through the hole in the wall.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe immediately pulls another arrow from the wall above his head, he shot them there with perfect placement for reload.

Arrow rips out flying inches above ground.

CLAY

NO!

Arrow straight through Clay's mouth, stealing his last word.

EXT. SUV - EVENING

Kassen and Gentry load up bullet mags and ready their guns. Kassen tosses Gentry a gas mask, this is how the big boys play.

SHERIFF CAL (O.S.)

Freeze!

Sheriff Cal and Harris have pistols drawn. Kassen and Gentry have yet to turn around.

Gentry in between Kassen and Sheriff Cal.

SHERIFF CAL (CONT'D)

Drop your weapons and turn around
with your hands up!

The men don't move. Sheriff Cal and Harris hold their ground.

Kassen tosses his ENFIELD I-85 ASSAULT RIFLE to the ground. Turns slowly.

Gentry yet to turn.

Kassen and Gentry lock eyes. These well trained men can communicate with nothing more than a look.

Kassen nods, Gentry knows the plan.

SHERIFF CAL (CONT'D)

Turn around!

Gentry drops his gun and readies to turn around.

As Gentry turns he purposefully steps to hinder Sheriff Cal's view of Kassen.

SHERIFF CAL (CONT'D)

Hands up!

Gentry's hands come up slowly.

A BULLET flies from under his arm as Kassen lays a quick draw from a concealed pistol.

BULLET taps Harris in the head.

Two more shots fired.

POP. POP.

A shot hits Sheriff Cal's chest and another in the face. Sheriff Cal goes down.

Kassen tucks his pistol back. He and Gentry load up in the truck as if nothing happened.

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Joe dumps a five gallon gas jug over the propane tanks.

Kicks the nozzle off of one of the big tanks sending an unseen stream of gas into the air.

Joe takes the final arrow in hand.

JOE

They're coming!

Linden on the balcony rushes down the hall.

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Linden rushes in. A fallen tree busted through the roof. Linden climbs up.

EXT. CABIN ROOF - SAME TIME

Linden behind the treetop's protective branches watches the SUV speeding toward the cabin.

INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Joe marches to the stove. Pulls the gas line releasing more gas into the room.

INT. SUV - EVENING

The cabin gets closer by the second. The SUV isn't slowing nor does Kassen intend to.

EXT. CABIN ROOF - SAME TIME

Linden walks the length of the fallen tree making his way to the surface below.

EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

SUV PLOWS the cabin wall under the windows.

Kassen and Gentry step out.

They toss gas bombs and strap on masks like it's another day at the office.

INT. CABIN - EVENING

The cabin quickly fills with smoke.

Kassen and Gentry enter through the debris with the precision of well-trained soldiers. Guns drawn as they scan the area for any signs of Joe.

Smoke begins to clear and all's quiet. Kassen sees the propane tanks.

Kassen notices the little canister of propane on top of the pile. A SHOTGUN SHELL has been duct taped around it.

Kassen looks to the basement door.

Sees Joe in active horizontal aim with the last arrow several steps down the basement stairs.

A cloth over his nose and mouth leave only evil eyes visible.

KASSEN

Move out!

Joe releases the arrow. Leaps down the stairs. Jumps over the iron tub on the sheet of drugs, pulling the tub over him as he lands.

BACK TO THE ARROW:

Maybe he'd miss this shot nine out of ten, but today...

CLINK!

The arrow hits the metal piece of the shotgun shell causing a SPARK.

It's enough to ignite the building cloud of propane.

Kassen jumps out the hole in the wall.

Gentry a few steps behind.

PABOOOOM!

A fantastic explosion BLOWS chunks of the walls out. Gentry swallowed in a ball of flame.

Kassen blown outside.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - EVENING

The distant explosion only adds to Stephanie's urgency. They locate a small cave concealed by heavy foliage.

STEPHANIE

Charlotte sweetie I need you stay here, don't move, okay?

Charlotte looking afraid. Stephanie takes a moment to be mom.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Hey, you remember Bethany the Bear cub? She was the best at hide and seek right? And when...

CHARLOTTE

(cuts her off)
Mom. Go.

STEPHANIE

(kisses her)
I love you baby.

Stephanie turns toward the cabin.

EXT. CABIN - EVENING

Night only a breath away.

The cabin severely damaged. Fire, smoke and debris surround the place.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Kassen gets up slowly.

Approaches the cabin cautiously. Sees Gentry burned and unconscious, maybe dead. Pulls his side arm. Heads in.

INT. CABIN, MAIN FLOOR - A MOMENT LATER

Kassen steps in carefully. Clears the room. No sign of Joe.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Kassen moves cautious down the stairs, pistol at the ready. Smoke thick down here, bad visibility.

Sees the iron tub. Moves toward it slowly. Kassen lifts the tub with gun pointed...

No Joe, only the sheet over the drugs.

BEHIND THE METAL DOOR:

Joe peeking out. Kassen blurred behind the lifting smoke.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen stuck in the decision to hunt Joe down or take the drugs.

SUDDENLY, the basement ceiling caves dumping debris on the basement floor.

Takes note of the BLACK SMOKE rising up out of the cabin. It's only a matter of time before someone shows up.

Kassen has to let this one go. Grabs the sheet of drugs and moves out.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Kassen tosses the load in the back of his truck.

INT. KASSENS'S TRUCK - A MOMENT LATER

Kassen fires the engine. Pulls out.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - NIGHT

Linden off to find Charlotte.

LINDEN
Charlotte!

Linden trudges along. Suddenly a tree falls from internal fire right by him.

His eyes fixate on the dim haunting orange glow inside the trunk.

His lips whisper Charlotte's name but somewhere behind the glow in his eyes Linden becomes distant again.

He looks around the woods in a panic. Sees more fallen trees in the distance all glowing from internal fires. It's a tree graveyard.

LINDEN (CONT'D)
Joey?

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Joe steps out of the cabin. Looks down the path at Kassen's tail lights in the distance.

He heads for the shed

INT. STORAGE SHED - NIGHT

Joe pulls the door open. Joe steps inside.

Grabs a backpack. Stuffs a tackle box into the bag. Rummages around until he finds two old rusty BEAR TRAPS and stuffs those in as well.

EXT. STORAGE SHED - CONTINUOUS

Joe steps out.

POW!

Bullet punctures Joe's calf! He falls to one knee dropping the bag.

Joe looks toward the direction of the shot. It takes a moment but soon sees...

EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME

Gentry through the holes of the cabin. He's propped up against Joe's torched GMC, skin melted to his clothes.

Gentry readies another shot despite shaking in pain.

Holds an aim directly for Joe's head. Grins as his finger wraps the trigger.

FFFPT!

An arrow sticks through Gentry's arm pinning it to his ribs. Cries out!

EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME

Stephanie pulls another arrow to finish the job.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry SNAPS the end of the arrow off, but the arrow head is still stuck in his rib cage.

Lifts his arm SLIDING the arrow through his bicep. Pulls his arm until it's free!

Grabs his sidearm with the other hand. Fires with reckless abandon toward Stephanie.

BACK TO STEPHANIE:

Stephanie ducks for cover dropping her bow and arrow.

She rolls pulling the GLOCK. Concealed behind a bush she pops shots overhead without aim.

POP! POP! POP!

BACK TO JOE:

Joe sees Stephanie and Gentry in a shoot out. Too far to help. Scans the ground until he sees...

The MILITARY HAND SHOVEL. He scoops it up and bolts toward Gentry.

BACK TO STEPHANIE:

Pistol CLICKS empty! Bullets still coming at her.

She slides away from her location escaping incoming bullets.

BACK TO GENTRY:

Gentry firing at Stephanie...

A bullet punctures her arm. She hits the ground next to her bow.

Sees the arrow on the ground. She pops up for a shot.

Gentry locks an aim on her.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe sees Stephanie is about to catch a bullet. HURLS the shovel on a dead run.

It whips with menacing speed.

Shovel head pierces deep into Gentry's back. Gentry curls back in pain.

BACK TO STEPHANIE:

Stephanie pops up with bow drawn. Sends an arrow in a split second aim.

FFFFPT!

Stephanie's arrow cracks into Gentry's forehead. Gentry falls to the ground.

Sees Stephanie emerge from the trees. Joe limps toward her. They fall into an embrace.

Joe pulls back to look at her.

JOE
Charlotte?

STEPHANIE
She's fine. Where's dad?

JOE
I need to go find him.

Stephanie looks over at Gentry.

STEPHANIE
Are there any more of them out there.

JOE

One.

They hear a faint voice.

LINDEN (O.S.)

Joey!

JOE

Get Charlotte out of here.

Joe limps as he runs with a bullet still lodged in his leg. Deer head among the debris on the ground.

Joe stomps on the antler breaking off a sharp piece looking like nature's nasty knife. Scoops up the backpack from off the ground and heads in the woods.

INT. KASSEN'S TRUCK (MOVING), CABIN ROAD - NIGHT

Kassen drives the cabin road. Sees the fallen tree over the road and Linden's silhouette up ahead.

EXT. CABIN ROAD - SAME TIME

Linden hypnotized by the embers. Holds the photo from the cabin like nothing else matters.

Kassen steps out of the truck, eyes cautious. Kassen has gun concealed ready to use it at a second's notice. Linden turns, startled to see him.

Kassen takes on a sympathetic persona.

KASSEN

You okay out here sir?

Linden's eyes pleading.

LINDEN

I lost my boy.

Kassen looks deep into Linden's eyes. They're vacant, scared. Kassen sees Linden is in another place in his mind. Holsters his pistol.

KASSEN

You know what, I think I saw a little boy down by a cabin back there.

Kassen leads Linden around. Kassen notices the picture clutched in Linden's hand.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
What you got there?

Linden hands it over. Kassen looks at it.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
That's a great picture. Don't worry, I'm sure he'll be along shortly.

Just then Joe becomes visible in the distance.

OVER TO JOE:

Joe sees Kassen with Linden.

JOE
Dad!

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen's arm around Linden like they're old friends.

KASSEN
There he is, there's your boy.

LINDEN
Joey?

Linden lights up. Rushes toward Joe.

BACK TO JOE:

Adrenaline replaces the pain in Joe's leg and he pushes to a full panic sprint.

JOE
No dad behind you!

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen slides out his bowie knife. Perfect steel shines in the moonlight. Kassen WHIPS the knife at killer speed.

EXT. CABIN ROAD - SAME TIME

Linden runs happy, relieved to have found Joe. All that stops in a split second as the knife pounds Linden's back.

Linden falls face to the road, blade in his back.

BACK TO JOE:

He's too far but tries with everything he's got to close the distance.

JOE

No!

EXT. CABIN ROAD - SAME TIME

Kassen marches over to Linden. Pulls him up by his hair ensuring he can see Joe before he dies.

With the glowing fires illuminating the darkness behind him Kassen looks like the devils messenger, and the message lies on the knife's edge.

KASSEN

You can thank your little boy.

Kassen PLUNGES the knife in Linden's gut. Yanks the blade up. We hear innards spill over snow.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe's face pulls with desperation, tears and screams as he runs.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen pulls the blade out.

Linden exhales for the last time, breath no longer a burden. He falls lifeless to the dirt.

Kassen wipes the blade clean across his pants and holsters it. Sees Joe running over.

KASSEN (CONT'D)

Look what you did to your father
Joe!

Joe still running up. Kassen pulls his pistol. Has a dead lock on Joe.

Joe halts his run as Kassen trains the gun on him.

It's a long distance showdown. Joe huffs gritting his teeth. Kassen enjoying his dominance in the moment.

Kassen lowers the gun.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
 You gonna leave you father like
 this Joe?

Joe stares him down a moment longer, then darts for the trees.

Kassen watches Joe flee.

KASSEN (CONT'D)
 (to himself)
 Fucking coward.

INT. WOODS - SAME TIME

Joe whips past trees in the forest. His eyes sharp, he's running with purpose.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen heads back to the truck. He takes note of the fallen log over the road.

Kassen looks out seeing all the other trees over the road revealing Joe had a plan to trap him hours ago.

Kassen looks at the drugs in the back seat. He grits his teeth debating revenge over duty.

He slams the truck door unable to let Joe win the night. Tucks his pistol away and heads into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABIN ROAD - NIGHT

Stephanie walks Charlotte up the road. They approach the body of Deputy Harris. Stephanie tucks Charlotte close and shields her eyes.

SHERIFF CAL (O.S.)
 (barely audible)
 Stephanie.

Stephanie looks. Sees Sheriff Cal lying on the ground.

She rushes over. Sheriff Cal's face grazed by a bullet but it's the one in his chest that's bleeding out.

STEPHANIE
 Cal? Where's your radio? I'll get
 help out here.

SHERIFF CAL
The signal's jammed.

STEPHANIE
We gotta get you out of here.

SHERIFF CAL
We don't have time for that. They
must have a signal jammer.
(hands her his hip radio)
Find it.

Stephanie runs back to toward the cabin.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Stephanie rushes to Gentry's body. Pats him down, but finds nothing.

She looks to the SUV smashed into the cabin wall. Runs over.

INT. SUV - A MOMENT LATER

Stephanie YANKS the door open. Sees a bag. Unzips it revealing the SIGNAL JAMMER! She kills the power.

Radio CRACKLES with life!

STEPHANIE
(into the radio)
This is Stephanie Braven. Officers
down on Blue Mountain. Location N38
degrees 47'30"...

CUT TO:

EXT. DEEP WOODS - NIGHT

Joe drags through the area. Blood can't be stopped revealing his movements.

Stops in a clearing. Bends a long thin tree testing its give. Satisfied he opens his bag.

Takes the PARACORD BRACELET from his wrist. Unravels it. Cuts several long strands and ties them together at one end.

Grabs a box of CATFISH TREBLE HOOKS, three pronged and nasty.

Pulls the kernmantle casing revealing the smaller strands. Begins tying them to the ends of each cord.

Joe bends the tree for a SPRING POLE SNARE.

Attaches the bundle of cords to a toggle. Spreads them over the ground. Lightly conceals it with a sprinkle of leaves.

Takes a few calculated steps. Pulls out a BEAR TRAP. Strings a line of paracord through the chain loop.

EXT. FROZEN RIVER - NIGHT

Joe climbs down a 40ft. bluff.

Hits bank of a FROZEN RIVER. He takes a deep breath as if not sure he wants to cross.

He steps out onto the ice, it's solid.

When reaching the middle of the river he hears...

THE CREAK OF WEAK ICE under his boot.

His next step cautious.

CREAKS again.

Joe looks around. Sees a protruding ledge over the river. He's hit with an idea.

He squeezes the bullet wound on his leg. Blood oozes out. He lets it spill onto the ice, a RED PUDDLE over glassy waters.

He light steps at an angle back to the banks he entered on. Climbs back up the bluffs to the forest.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - NIGHT

Kassen follows the blood trail to the area Joe laid his first trap.

Notices the paracord tied to the tree. Eyes follow the line. Kassen grabs a branch about a forearm in thickness.

Pushes it into the snow. SNAP!

The bear trap chomps through the branch sending wood chips into the air.

Kassen smirks, almost amused.

Moves past the bear trap -- WRONG MOVE.

Steps on the trigger.

The fishhooks WHIP up violently tearing through flesh and clothes.

Kassen yells in pain. Chest and face badly ripped. Eye nearly ripped out.

Obviously not dead, but severely PISSED! That anger allows him to gather himself enough to pick up Joe's trail again.

EXT. FROZEN RIVER - NIGHT

Kassen stalks after Joe. Eyes intense. Ears sensitive. Sees BLOOD TRACKS end at the river bank and onto the ice.

Kassen steps out testing the ice's give. It's solid.

He proceeds over the river.

Spots the PUDDLE OF BLOOD in the middle of the ice, but the trail ends there. Where the hell is he?

Kassen pulls his pistol as he surveys the area. Soon it hits him. LOOKS UP.

ON THE LEDGE:

Joe struggles to hoist a huge rock over his head. Determination kicks into overdrive as he hurls it down.

BACK TO KASSEN:

Kassen can only watch as the shadowed rock plummets over head. Kassen leaps at the last second to avoid being crushed.

The rock shatters the ice dunking him in sub-zero waters.

Kassen struggles to get out. Ice breaks off in chunks when he tries to pull himself out. Loses the pistol as it sinks in the freezing depths.

Kassen finally clutches stronger ice and pulls himself from the water.

Takes a moment to gather himself. He's freezing but the thought of killing Joe fuels him. Kassen moves up the bluffs after Joe.

EXT. DEEPER WOODS - NIGHT

Kassen marches through the woods, determination and lacerated skin on his newly ripped face.

Notices a bare trunk where branches must've been broken off.

Studies the surroundings.

Takes a stick and reaches for a pile of leaves. When the stick touches the leaves...

...SHHHHPP! Toggle releases a fast whipping stick with spikes. Kassen avoided a world of pain.

KASSEN
(to himself)
I'm gonna kill this inbred fuck.

Kassen stomps off.

EXT. CLIFF OVER THE WATER – NIGHT

Joe pries open the jaws of the last BEAR TRAP. Covers it with snow.

Joe gets up. Looks over the cliff, possibly to escape.

KASSEN
End of the line Joe.

Joe turns. Sees Kassen cut up and nasty. Grins a bloody smile.

KASSEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Underestimated you. You put up a
hell of a fight...

Kassen sheds his jacket.

KASSEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
...But it ends here.

Slides out his BOWIE KNIFE.

Joe pulls out his antler. Clutches it. Kassen chuckles.

Joe doesn't move -- trying to draw Kassen in the bear trap.

Doesn't want to expose his plan by not moving, so he stomps toward Kassen with aggressive intention.

Joe jabs the antler. Kassen slips and SLICES Joe with two swift cuts.

Joe backs off examining the damage. Deep lacerations over his arm and chest.

Kassen grins, knows he's got this.

Kassen lunges. Joe curls back barely avoiding a blade to the stomach. Tries to counter but misses.

Kassen dips SLICING Joe's leg above the knee dropping him to a kneel.

Kassen enjoying his handiwork.

Joe pops up unexpectedly. Kassen tries to stick him. Joe grabs the blade splitting the meat in his hand!

With the knife neutralized Joe lunges the antler point under Kassen's collar bone.

Kassen steps back with a painful yell inadvertently tossing his knife to the ground. Adrenaline pumps blood from his wound. Kassen pissed!

Joe gets up weak and bleeding. Kassen stomps forward. Joe swings a haymaker.

Kassen ducks and pounds palm to sternum pushing air from Joe's lungs.

Kassen lights Joe up with machine gun fists. Joe getting pushed back closer to the bear trap.

Joe slips a punch and pulls Kassen. Kassen's foot barely misses the metal claw.

Kassen quickly reacts slamming Joe with more strikes backing him against a tree. Continues to dump on him.

Kassen's back foot just a little bit away from the trap. Booms another shot to Joe's face.

Joe's eye on the trap taking his beating --- hoping it will lead to a foot in the trap.

KASSEN (CONT'D)

Come on Joe.

Kassen seemingly irritated at the lack of competition. Pounds a combo to the gut and face.

KASSEN (CONT'D)

Come on!

Kassen throws a big one.

Joe bobs the punch and pounds Kassen with a monster fist knocking him back.

Kassen miraculously misses the trap again. Joe winded and beat. Kassen knows it.

Kassen walks to his knife.

Kassen coughs, spits blood.

Joe struggles to catch his breath.

Kassen grips his knife. Steps to finish Joe off. Joe stomps aggressively from the tree.

Joe fakes left, Kassen bites and lunges the blade.

BOOM! Joe blasts him with a ghost right. Knife falls.

Joe on the attack this time. Kassen slips and dodges but gets caught.

But Kassen returns expert blows. Kassen finds new vigor and unloads devastation on Joe.

Joe hits the dirt. Face next to the BEAR TRAP. He can see it but can't even reach out for it as Kassen POUNDS him with savage strike after strike.

Joe's done, there's nothing left.

Kassen fatigued. Stands and heads over to his knife on the ground. Scoops it from the snow.

Stands inches from the trap.

Joe exhausted and bleeding but won't die on his back. Gets himself to one knee.

Coughs blood staining the snow with crimson saliva.

Joe's eyes trained on the bear trap. God, just step in it already!

KASSEN (CONT'D)

What is it Joe? Hoping I'd step
into this?

Kassen pushes the bear trap with his foot exposing it from the snow.

He knew the whole time!

STEPHANIE (O.S.)

(in the far distance)

Joe!

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Papa!

Kassen takes note, gives that same sinister fucking smile.

KASSEN

(calls out)

I'm over here!

Looks to Joe.

KASSEN (CONT'D)

I want you to know that after I gut
you here tonight, I'm gonna gut
your wife and little girl like I
did your old man. No loose ends.

Fuck it! Joe realizes there's only one thing to do ---

He bolts for Kassen in a school yard bum rush.

Eyes locked on the old bear trap.

Joe purposefully stomps his own foot in the trap while on the
run.

Kassen watches in disbelief as the rusty jaws clamp through
Joe's leg bone and muscle. What kind of CRAZY FUCKER does
that?!

Before Kassen can process what's going on Joe SPEAR TACKLES
him sending them both over the cliff!

They fly down the mountain.

The paracord holding the trap reaches its end. Violently
pulls taut.

Joe YANKED to an excruciating halt.

Kassen can't hold on, slips from Joe's arms falling the long
way down to unforgiving rocks below.

Joe left SCREAMING as he hangs on the side of the mountain.

The torturous IRON CLAWS rip through leg meat and tendons,
but it's the only thing keeping Joe from falling to his
death.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - SAME TIME

Stephanie hears Joe's cry echoing the woods.

STEPHANIE
(to Charlotte)
Come on.

Pulls her toward the scream.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe tries to pull himself up but the pain just won't let him. Blood gushes from his leg and gravity spills it up his body.

Joe tries getting up again resulting in a weaker effort. Nothing to do but hang in the night air.

Joe's face muscles begin to relax as the loss of blood numbs his body.

Eyes begin to roll back, breathing steadies. He's been beat to shit today but no man can endure much more of this!

Joe closes his eyes, death patient only a moment longer.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
(in the distance)
Daddy!

Eye lids struggle to open.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)
Joe!

Joe fights dizziness and snaps alert. Breathing intensifies as adrenaline generates.

Joe musters up the last of whatever he runs on, and lifts his body.

Grabs the cord in a scream of pain. His cry ECHOES the canyon walls.

Somehow pulls himself up.

EXT. TOP OF THE CLIFF - NIGHT

Joe grabs the cliffs edge. Roars a final cry of strength and pulls himself up.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - SAME TIME

Stephanie hears Joe.

STEPHANIE

Joe.

BACK TO JOE:

Joe lays out on the ground, not an ounce of strength left.

Stephanie and Charlotte make it over to him. Stephanie lifts his head so he can see her.

She's in a panic to his condition.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Joe?

He grins.

CHARLOTTE

Daddy?

Joe turns sees FLASHLIGHTS through the trees, a search party comes for him.

STEPHANIE

Everything's gonna be fine baby.

Charlotte hugs her daddy.

Once again we see the surrounding woods remain at peace regardless of the actions of men.

FADE OUT