

DOWNHILL

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Based on "Force Majeure," by Ruben Ostlund

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IN BLACK:

The distant sound of a car engine, revving intermittently.

FADE IN:

EXT. AUTO-ROUTE - DAY

LOCKED FRAME of a road winding its way, side to side, up a steep, snow-covered wall of the Alps. Eventually, a black Mercedes SUV breaks the bottom of FRAME, ascending.

*

INT. SUV - DAY

At the wheel, PETE STANTON, confidently shifting gears. Riding shotgun, his wife, BILLIE. She's busy in her phone. Their twin sons, EMERSON and FINN (10), are in the back. Finn is focused on the scenery. Em is buried in a book. Yep. An actual book. Pete takes a hard curve, dropping into the wrong gear.

BILLIE

(amused)

We got it, Pete. You're a man. Slow down.

*

PETE

This is how they drive.

*

BILLIE

You're not "they."

PETE

There's no speed limit here.

BILLIE

That's Germany. This is Austria.

PETE

It's the Autobahn.

This is a couple who love to give each other shit. It makes things work.

*

*

BILLIE

(on phone)

Tell you what, I'll look it up.

PETE

I looked it up. I read it.

BILLIE
(calling bluff)
Great. Now, I'll read it.

Pete concedes. Slows down.

PETE
I just want to get out on the
mountain.

BILLIE
(amused)
I'm very aware of what you want.

He glances in the rearview mirror.

PETE
Em, you're missing it, buddy.

Em looks up, gets a quick glance, and returns to his book.

FINN
(off incline)
Are we going to ski this?

PETE
Maybe.

BILLIE
What? No. Why would you say...?

PETE
I'm saying there will be
steep stuff...

BILLIE
He said "this." Will we ski
"this?"

PETE
He knows what I meant...

FINN
(to Em)
We're going to ski this.

Em doesn't even look up from his book. He could care less.

PETE
Like this, buddy. Like this.

Pete gives a playful "Oops" look.

BILLIE
Be. Clear.

She glances out the window.

BILLIE'S POV of a passing sign/billboard for "Ischgl Ski Resort." A mixture of German and English, but their slogan is undeniable: "Relax. If You Can..."

BACK TO SCENE, as...

BILLIE (CONT'D)
(scoffing, amused)
Kind of feels like a threat...

Just then, a LARGE BUS rounds the bend in Pete's lane. Pete slams the brakes. Everyone freaks a bit. The BUS DRIVER, clearly annoyed, HONKS.

PETE
... Am I on the wrong side?

BILLIE
This is the side we've been on. *
We've always been on this side...

The Bus Driver HONKS, again, and waves Peter to back up.

PETE
He wants me to back up. *

BILLIE
You can't back up. *

PETE
Am I on the wrong side?

BILLIE
Have him back up.
(to Driver)
You back up. You back up.

PETE
It's a bus. He can't back up.

BILLIE
Buses can back up.

PETE
Am I in the wrong...?

BILLIE
Just go around.

Peter navigates to the other lane, BUT NOPE - there's a number of cars trailing the Bus in that lane.

PETE
Do we even get a lane?

HONK. The Bus Driver waves Peter back, even more insistent. *
In fact, he drives FORWARD.

PETE (CONT'D)
He's coming at us.

BILLIE Okay, back up. PETE Yeah, we have to back up.

Back to our LOCKED FRAME from the opening, as Pete slowly backs up and the bus inches forward. It's a long, awkward process. Superimposed over this image, our title: *

"DOWNHILL"

EXT. SKI MOUNTAIN - DAY

A still photo of our family: Twins center, flanked by Billie and Peter. Mountains in the background, sun in their faces. Snow blows across, the family shuffle. It's not a still, it's live action. *

PHOTOGRAPHER (O.S.)
Danke! Danke schon! Thank you -
yes. Ja. Next one.

The family moves around to pose for a series of photos. The poised classical framing is all wonky. We struggle to see our family, to focus on individuals, as Peter and Billie arrange themselves and their kids until: *

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)
Jetzt mache schneeballe und wirf
sie. Ja?

Billie looks nonplussed. Peter doesn't get it, either. But then the photographer makes a snowball and they understand. *

As other families pass by, we see the Stantons through their eyes: looking good. Cavorting for the cameras and for each other. Peter rough-housing the laughing boys, with just a hint of an eye on the camera. Click click click.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D)
Wunderbar!

Happy days. Good times.

EXT. MOUNTAINS/SLOPES - DAY

Sun plays across the snow. The peaks are beautiful, but terrifyingly, overwhelmingly massive. *

Closer in: A blank white screen of snow. Billie, Pete, and the Twins come down the mountain. All decent skiers, carving long S shapes. They make a pretty pattern as they slip in-between one another. A family in sync. *

EXT. MID-MOUNTAIN - DAY

Peter and Billie stop. They breathe and just take in that first run. Below them, the Austrian resort. *

PETER
(facetious)
Wow. That was not too shitty. *

BILLIE
Yeah, right? Better than I imagined.

Billie glances at her boot, shaking it out a bit, as the Twins arrive by their sides. Finn, all smiles. Emerson kicks snow off his skis.

PETER
How about that, huh?

FINN
Awesome.

Em doesn't pipe up.

BILLIE
Em? Pretty cool, huh?

EMERSON
(going along)
Uh-huh? Sure.

PETER
"Sure?" It's more than "sure."

Peter nudges/play-punches Emerson until he cracks a smile.

PETER (CONT'D)
Alright, everyone follow me.

BILLIE
Yeah, keep an eye on daddy.

PETER
We good?

Billie is back with her boot, shaking it.

BILLIE
Yeah, let me just...

But, Pete is already off down the mountain. The Twins follow. *
As Billie scrambles a bit to gather herself and "catch up," *
we...

INT. SKI RENTAL SHOP - DAY

Peter and the Twins are gathered around a terminal where the photos taken up at the top of the mountain can be viewed. They point, laugh and argue over which ones to 'tick' and print out.

Billie sits with a young SKI RENTAL KID, considering her boot.

BILLIE
I *think* they're good. I just felt
that they might be a little tight *
here? It's a little tight here but *
felt kind of loose there?

ON YOUNG SNOWBOARDER bursting in from outside, letting out a piercing WHISTLE to get the Ski Rental Kid's attention. *
Clearly, the Snowboarder wants to hit the mountain and is getting impatient. A slightly heated German exchange for which we receive no subtitles. Billie coughs to get the attention back.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
So, here it's tight. But, there *
it's loose. Is that good? *

The Kid gives a cursory, meaningless touch of the boot.

SKI RENTAL KID
Is good.

Peter approaches.

PETER
She just felt a little sliding of
the foot and a little, too much
grip on the ankle.

SKI RENTAL KID
Is good.

PETER
Is good?

SKI RENTAL KID

Is good.

PETER

(to Billie)

Is good?

BILLIE

Is good?

Billie considers.

PETER

(to the Kid)

We all got moulded boots but she
decided hers weren't right, so?

BILLIE

I mean, they're tight? Maybe I have
weird feet?

(conceding)

No. Good. Yeah?

*

Peter nods. Yes. Enough.

E/I. HOTEL - DAY

The family approach the front entrance. A whirlwind of
activity as the ski day comes to a close. SKIERS whisk by,
taking advantage of the "ski in/ski out."

The family enters the...

LOBBY.

Billie clocks the GREGARIOUS GROUPS (all adults) passing
them, heading out towards town, beers/cocktails in hand. The
whole lobby is a madhouse. SKIERS/GUESTS of all nationalities
mill about, gather at the bar, etc.. A cacophony of different
languages echo throughout the space. The Twins take off
running.

BILLIE

(calling after)

Stay where I can see you.

DING! From Pete's phone. A text. He checks.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

(to Pete)

Have you noticed there are no other
kids? Seems weird, right?

PETE
(shrugging, lost in phone)
School schedules are different?

Billie hands an ATTENDANT a ticket for their luggage at BAGGAGE CHECK. They had left them there in the urgency to get on the mountain.

BILLIE
Still. You'd see *some* kids.

EMERSON/FINN (O.S.)
Mom!

ON TWINS, by a table decked out with an array of sweets and coffee. They are pleading to "dive in," hands in "prayer mode."

BILLIE
One thing each.

They scoop up two things each and immediately take a bite.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
I said one.

Deer in headlights. Both put the "bitten choices" back. *

BILLIE (CONT'D)
No, don't... Take them back.

They do. Again, deer. Now, what?

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Now, put the uneaten ones back.

Still deer.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Okay. You get two. Two.

They take off running. Billie notices Pete, still in phone.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Who are you texting?

PETE
It's Zach. He and Rosie are in Amsterdam, apparently.

ON PHONE SCREEN. "**HIGH from Amsterdam!**" There's a series of selfies of ZACH and ROSIE, a very youthful and free-spirited couple. They are sporting backpacks.

BILLIE
And, they're backpacking?

PETE
Yeah, travelling wherever. No real agenda. See, I know this because it says right here.

ON SCREEN. Below the photos, more text: "**#NoAgenda
#LiveYourBestLife**"

PETE (CONT'D)
(reading jokingly)
Hashtag no agenda. Hashtag live
your best life.

*
*

BILLIE
Hashtag get better hashtags.

They both laugh. The ATTENDANT brings out their bags.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Okay, let's not be in our phones.

PETE
No, totally. I'm just finishing it.

BILLIE
This is a family vacation, so let's be here. Not texting. Playing games...

PETE
Absolutely. He texted me. I'm just... I mean, you've been on your phone...

If ever Billie gets adamant, it is with this.

BILLIE
Yeah. To deal with work stuff. And, family stuff. I'm doing both.

PETE
No, totally...

BILLIE
And, now I'm done and I'm here.

PETE
I'm done, too. Great.

Pete puts away his phone. They nod to one another and steal a quick kiss. All good.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pete and Billie approach RECEPTION as a group of MIDDLE-AGED GUYS on a men-only weekend are laughing/flirting with the FEMALE RECEPTIONIST. The GUYS depart, laughing. The receptionist is momentarily called away.

CHARLOTTE (50s), a worldly Scandinavian woman, approaches. She has packets of documents under her arm and an air of someone very happy. (NOTE: She's on the same side of the counter as Billie/Pete.) *

CHARLOTTE

Hello. I'm Charlotte. So. The flight was okay? What time did you check in?

BILLIE

Oh, uh, hi. Midday. Yes. All good.

PETE

I wanted us to get right out on the mountain. *

Billie and Peter, confused by Charlotte's role, glance back in the direction of where the Receptionist had been. *

CHARLOTTE

Well, sorry I wasn't there to meet you. Now, what the fuck have I got for you?

Billie and Peter clock one another. However, there's little time to process as Charlotte is a whirlwind of peculiarities. She gives them envelopes, key cards and maps. *

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Okay. Resort map. Key cards. Um, ski passes you got, right? With the pack? *

Finn and Emerson run up, grabbing onto Billie. She settles them. *

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Well, hello, handsome ones.

BILLIE

This is Finn and Emerson. Our sons.

CHARLOTTE

Hello tiny men, yes?

BILLIE

So, I'm curious. Are there more
kids around?

*

CHARLOTTE

Oh yes. Many.

Pete glances at Billie: "See?"

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Not here. The town of Fiss-- Maybe,
minutes of 20 from here-- Yes,
there is all families.

Billie looks at Pete: "Did you know this?" But, Pete shrugs
and shakes his head. It seems genuine, at least.

*

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

But, here better, yes? Is lively.
The Ibiza of the Alps. Ski hard.
Then, party as hardest. Yes?

But, she offers no time for them to answer or process...

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Yes! Okay. Now. Restaurant
recommendations. Around the centre
you will find quite fine dining,
quite upmarket. And in the sauna.

She pronounces it Scandinavian style 'sow-nah'.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

In Europe it's considered
unhygienic to sauna in your swim
suits. So, please, the body is not
to be ashamed of, yes?

BILLIE

Well, speak for yourself.

CHARLOTTE

(dead serious)

No. Your body is good. Celebrate
it.

(nod to Pete)

Both.

*

Charlotte stays locked on them, waiting for confirmation.

PETE

... Thank you.

BILLIE

No, yeah. Celebrate. Thank
you.

*

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
 (pleased, back to
 business)
 For your skiing, there are the easy
 runs on the Austrian side. Over the
 other, if you like, you can go
 crazy in Switzerland.

BILLIE
 Switzerland?

CHARLOTTE
 Over the top is Switzerland and
 everything is different. And so any
 questions?

Maybe they do, but Charlotte doesn't wait for them...

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
 Okay, so. We are finished. I'm here
 as friend, yes? Do you want to be
 my friend?

The slightly odd phrasing and European directness throws them
 off. She holds their gaze.

PETE BILLIE
 Um-- ... Yes?

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
 Good. Then, we are friends.

Charlotte laughs. So, naturally Billie and Peter laugh.
 Charlotte gives them her card.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
 Please call me. You are American.
 You have paid, so you must have
everything!

As they make "good-byes," Billie and Peter fumble with their
 bags. *They speak in hushed tones during the following:*

BILLIE
 Should you tip her?

PETE
 I don't - Who the fuck is she?

Peter presses a 20 Euro note into Charlotte's hand. It wasn't
 quite expected. It's hard to understand her expression:

BILLIE
 Nope. You weren't supposed to.

PETE
Is she offended?

BILLIE
I don't know...

PETE
Take it back?

BILLIE
No, you can't...

PETE
Maybe, it wasn't enough?

BILLIE
No, don't add...

But, he does add tip. Charlotte is still hard to read,
staring.

PETE
She's still there.

BILLIE
So, let's not be, anymore.

They start off with their bags.

CHARLOTTE
No, silly friends. We bring bags.
You do nothing!

BILLIE
No, yes. Of course. That's what we
were just discussing.
(can't get away fast
enough)
Okay.

As they shuttle to the elevator,...

INT. HOTEL SUITE - DAY

CAMERA FOLLOWS Billie through the nice spacious arrangement,
complete with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a common area
with a full kitchen and dining table.

She passes the Twins' room. They are tossing clothes out of
their bags, haphazardly.

BILLIE
All that stuff in drawers, please.
And, hang up your ski stuff to dry.

We continue with Billie into...

THE MASTER BEDROOM.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Them sharing a queen will be a
disaster...

ON PETE, immediately tossing his phone on the bed as if it's
on fire. Clearly, he was on it.

PETE
Now, I'm done.

Billie just playfully slaps his ass. They start to unpack.

PETE (CONT'D)
Zach kept texting. Asking questions
about Ischgl. Wondering where we
were staying... *

BILLIE
We're not looking for them to "No
agenda" their way here, are we? *

PETE
No, no, no. That's why I was
finishing the conversation. No. I
see him enough at work. *

Billie nods, "Good." Pete pulls a vintage-looking, knit ski
hat out of his bag. Tad tacky. Very old school. *

PETE (CONT'D)
Look. I found my Dad's old hat.
Thought I'd bring it. Wear it on
the slopes. Have him here with me. *

The moment catches Pete off guard. A little swell of emotion.
She rubs his back.

BILLIE
I love that.

She kisses him.

PETE
Sorry, if I've been...

BILLIE

It's okay.

She pats his heart.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

That's why we're here.

FINN (O.S.)

Dad! Come look!

Pete collects himself.

FINN/EMERSON (O.S.)

Dad!

PETE

I heard "Mom."

BILLIE

(amused)

I know you did.

*

*

She pushes him toward the door, as we...

INT. BATHROOM/COMMON AREA - DAY

CLOSE ON a BIDET.

REVEAL Em, Finn and Pete hovered around it.

FINN

What is it?

PETE

It's European.

EMERSON

What's it for?

PETE

... For washing.

ON BILLIE, in COMMON AREA. She's stacking and laying out ski clothes for everyone for the next day.

EMERSON (O.S.)

For washing, what?

Curious, Billie approaches the bathroom door, as Pete continue to struggle with what to say.

PETE
For washing your, uh...

BILLIE
Feet. But, let's not use it for
that. Or, anything.

*

Billie nods toward Pete to follow her. He complies as they
get a safe distance from the twins.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
If we tell them what it's really
for, we'll never get them off of
it.

PETE
So,... *Don't* be clear.

Pete smirks, giving her shit. Billie's not connecting the
dots from the previous conversation.

PETE (CONT'D)
Here, we don't be clear.

Now, she's "up to speed."

BILLIE
Yes. Because there will be hijinx.

PETE
So, don't be clear when there's a
possibility of hijinx.

*

Billie swats him away and walks off as...

*

PETE (CONT'D)
(as if committing to
memory)
No chance of hijinx means full
clarity. Chance of hijinx, lie.

*

*

*

*

*

INT. HOTEL ROOM, MASTER - NIGHT

*

Pete and Billie are on their bed, watching TV. There is a
tray with leftover room service between them. They pick at
the scraps which is mostly just fries and wine.

PETER
Okay, we should stop, yes?

BILLIE
Yes.

Yet, they each take more fries.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Okay, stop. We're going to want to
eat a big breakfast.

Pete complies, pushing the tray away.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
I'm going to grab a shower.

PETER
I'm going to want to get out first
thing....

As she heads into the BATHROOM,...

*

BILLIE
I know you will.

PETER
Just so we account for that big
breakfast.

Off screen, the SHOWER starts. Now safe, Pete pulls a handful of fries and downs them with great speed. He considers, clears the fry debris with his tongue, takes a gulp of water and heads into the bathroom.

CAMERA HOLDS outside during the following:

*

We HEAR the shower door, opening.

BILLIE (O.S.)
(half laughing/half
adamant)
... No. We're not doing it in here.

PETE (O.S.)
It will be fast.

BILLIE (O.S.)
It never works.

PETE (O.S.)
There's a bench...

BILLIE (O.S.)
No. Pete. This is my time...

Clearly, Pete is teasing and grabbing at her trying to win her over. It works:

BILLIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Okay, we can do a quickie on the
 bed when I'm out.

During the following, CAMERA slowly dollies back and PANS to
 the bedroom window.

BILLIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 But, go figure out what we'll watch
 on TV afterwards. I don't want you
 sitting there and scrolling around
 for half an hour....

*

CAMERA lands on the window and PUSHES IN. In the distance,
 bright, white lights illuminate the mountain. Three SNOWCATS
 ascend the slopes, grooming. We RACK FOCUS into the window,
 giving us the reflection of Pete turning on the TV and
 scrolling for show options.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

*

SKI DAY 2

*

INT. HOTEL ROOM, MASTER - THE NEXT MORNING

*

Billie and Pete are in bed, dead sleep. An alarm goes off.

QUICK CUTS OF:

- Pete slamming the alarm off.
- Pete and Billie swing out of bed. Second day excitement.
- The curtains part. Early dawn frames the dazzling, white
 vista.
- Billie and Pete grab their stacks of ski clothes. Em grabs
 his, somewhat unenthusiastically. And Finn? He's already at
 the door, dressed to go.
- BATHROOM. Despite back-to-back dual sinks, with a two-sided
 mirror dividing them, Billie and Pete choose to share the
 space, brushing their teeth on the same side.
- Billie tapes identifiable stickers to all the helmets. Pete
 passes by, carrying his dad's knit hat.

*

*

*

*

*

*

BILLIE
 (re: stickers, "good idea,
 huh?")
 So, we don't lose each other.
 (noticing dad's hat)
 Under your helmet, yes?

*

*

*

*

PETE

No, yeah. For under.

*

*

- Pete puts on his dad's knit hat, and then attempts to add his helmet. Clearly, it's not going to work. A bit bummed, he goes with just the helmet.

*

EXT. SKI LIFT - DAY

Our first real taste of the madhouse that is the lift line. It's hovering just between order and chaos. Our family navigates and attempts to figure out "how the system operates." Pete powers ahead, confident that he can figure it out. Billie keeping tabs on the boys.

LATER - They are just shy of the front of the lift line. A LIFT ATTENDANT is there checking everyone gets on safely. He chunters away in German as people pass.

Before our family, there's a GROUP OF THREE. The Lift Attendant calls for someone from the SINGLES LINE to join them to make it four. The SINGLE GUY scoots up past Pete. He can't help but notice that the Guy is skiing in a knit hat. Old school. In fact, there's a fair number of "non helmet" skiers.

*

*

It's the family's turn. The scoot into position. As Billie and Peter pass the Lift Attendant, he raps his knuckles on their helmets.

LIFT ATTENDANT

Helme für die Kinder! Helme für die Kinder!

Pete and Billie don't know what to make of what he said. (NOTE: We won't get subtitles on this. Or, at all, throughout.) Billie and Pete assume, incorrectly...

*

*

BILLIE

I think he just wants to know that they're on secure?

*

PETE

(knocking, cheery)
All good!

EXT. PISTE - DAY

The family descends. Not as compact as "day one." Finn is out in front, eager to show his parents what he can do.

PETE
(calling out)
Slow up, Finn!

But, he doesn't hear. He just keeps plowing ahead. Pete pursues. Billie hangs back with Em, who makes a more tentative descent.

*
*

EXT. SKI RESTAURANT - DAY

Finn stops just outside the agreed restaurant. Pete arrives.

*

PETE
We need to stick with the group.
Alright, buddy?

Finn nods. Pete pats Finn's helmet. They both look up the slope at Billie making wide curves ahead of an increasingly slow Emerson.

Finally, Billie and Em join them. Finn looks at his brother like: come on man, stop hamming it up. Emerson makes a fuck-you face.

Billie raises her eyebrows at Peter, meaning: Jesus he took his time.

As they start to unclip their boots, we...

EXT. SKI RESTAURANT - DAY

An outside terrace. Blue sky. Waiters come and go. The family are looking at menus.

BILLIE
I'm thinking... How about if we
just have soup? Then, we can have
pastries at four and also be hungry
for a dinner? Is that a plan?

*
*

Peter is looking at a piste map.

PETER
Should we do this black after
lunch?

FINN
I'll do that Dad.

BILLIE
Umm?

Peter takes her lack of engagement as skepticism.

PETER

Oh, I don't think it will be that
challenging. It looks black, but
skis red. American blue. Several of
these blacks are really American
blues - European reds - but they
want them to be black for the
glamour?

*
*

Billie looks at the map.

BILLIE

Unless... Should we go find some
good powder? Get in some practice
in case we want to blow it out and
go for a--

*

*

She mimes 'helicopter' - not well. Rotors over her head --

PETER

Rodeo?

Off on the opposite hillside: a loud BANG! BANG!

Everyone on the terrace looks over to the mountain side. A
controlled explosion rumbles.

BILLIE

Whoa. Look at ...

PETER

Okay!

And, on a distant piste, an avalanche starts to roll. A low
rumble that soon grows, exponentially. The mass of snow
builds. It's A BIG AVALANCHE. Suddenly, snow is filling the
whole valley.

*

BILLIE

Is that okay?

Peter, the man of the world, smiles but it's billowing and
ADVANCING FAST. PANIC RISES. There's a scream on the
restaurant terrace. It's that moment when NORMALITY FADES and
you have to judge whether this is a life or death scenario.

THE AVALANCHE is going to be upon them in a second -- What
the fuck?!

Billie PUTS HER ARM AROUND the kids. Cries out in FEAR.

Without time to think Peter STANDS, and FUMBLES A RETREAT. He grabs his phone and STUMBLES FAST out of the shot just as people SCREAM and the terrace is TOTALLY ENVELOPED IN SNOW. *

SILENCE.

EVERYTHING IS WHITE.

Then:

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Pete!

FINN/EM

Dad!!

Confusion and PANIC reign. Muted shouts and screams. Then - after the moment of maximum noise and panic, the shouts calm down. And SLOWLY, the snow starts to settle. It was just a plume of SLOWLY SETTLING POWDER. Not a mass of snow. * *

Everyone begins to realize that this was not a life or death moment. There are even a couple of muffled LAUGHS, mild mannered exclamations. The Waiters and Waitresses move into action, to clear the DUSTING OF SNOW from the tables. *

BILLIE

Are you okay? Kids? Are you okay?

EMERSON

Yep.

FINN

Yes.

BILLIE

We're okay. We're okay.

Then, clomping back in his ski boots, comes Peter.

PETER

Whoa.

The family are silent. They look at him. He rejoins them.

PETER (CONT'D)

Wow. Huh?

Billie doesn't know what to say.

BILLIE

Uh-huh.

PETER
Are you all okay?

They nod, mutely.

PETER (CONT'D)
That was -- wasn't it?

BILLIE
... Yeah.

More silence. Finally, a Waitress comes to their table to dust off the snow.

PETER
Okay. Here we go.

Pete has an air of "back to normal." Almost defiantly "not fazed."

PETE
So, we're all doing soup?

The kids and Billie look at him. He's claiming it's all over.

EXT. SLOPES - DAY

The family are out skiing again. Peter at the front. He carves off ahead, unaware or unconcerned that behind him Billie and the kids hang back.

Even Finn is taking it easy. He looks behind him for Emerson, who looks behind him for Billie, who looks behind herself at the mountain to assure that everything is safe. Just then, a YOUNG SKIER flies past them all at full speed. They flinch.

*
*
*
*

INT. SKI RENTAL SHOP - DAY

The family is putting their gear away for the day in lockers and racks. The atmosphere is chaotic as many SKIERS jostle to do the same.

*
*

At one end of the shop are a series of floor-to-ceiling movable racks for boots on runners. The racks can be shifted, and different aisles created, to get to the boots.

*
*

Emerson is dawdling in one of the aisles, as he looks for the spot to put his boots. A DUTCH SKIER on the next aisle pushes the racks along their rails unaware that Emerson is in the next aisle looking the other way. The big metal unit nears his back --

*

ON PETER, nearby, noticing.

PETER

Hey?

The Dutch Skier doesn't hear, slides on. *

PETER (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey! Stop!

ON BILLIE, across the room, pulling off her boots. She looks up as, Pete rushes over to put his hand up against the rack. *

PETER (CONT'D)

Watch what you're doing!

The Dutch Skier steps out. *

DUTCH SKIER

Ontspannen. Ontspannen.

(what?)

Okay? Cool, yeah? Everything's cool. *

PETE

It's not cool. You could have crushed my son?

Pete's reaction to this feels a bit heightened. Overcompensating?

PETE (CONT'D)

(to Em)

You alright?

EMERSON

Yeah.

The Dutch Skier touches the big set of racks with a finger.

DUTCH SKIER

They stop easy, yeah?

Billie has arrives, puts her attention on Em, too.

BILLIE

You okay?

EMERSON

Yeah, I'm fine.

PETE

This guy wasn't looking. But, I took care of it. *

(MORE) *

PETE (CONT'D)
(then to Skier)
I don't want trouble.

The Dutch Skier doesn't either. He's still not sure what all the fuss was about.

*
*

DUTCH SKIER
Yes. I don't...

*

Billie watches as Pete shuttles Em away, consoling. She's still lost in this residual fog: What happened? Where was *this* Pete on the mountain? Does she *believe this* Pete?

*
*

INT. HOTEL SUITE, COMMON AREA - NIGHT

The Twins are on the couch, dressed for bedtime, watching television. It's *The Loud House* or *Spongebob Squarepants*. (Basically, whatever is popular for boys and is "cleared.") That said, it's all in German with no subtitles. The Twins don't seem to mind.

INT. HOTEL SUITE, BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Billie stands at the dual sink, finishing her make-up. She's quite dressed up and very much still playing back the day in her head. Pete enters.

*
*

PETE
You look pretty.

He kisses her neck.

BILLIE
... Thank you.

Pete reaches over her to grab his toothbrush. Billie zigs when she should have zagged. The "ballet" at the sink before is "out of sync" here. Eventually, Pete gets his toothpaste and begins brushing. They stay on the same side of the sink despite the "vibe." Billie takes a moment. It's clear she wants to ask about today. But, just as she opens her mouth...

*
*

EMERSON (O.S.)
Stop!

FINN (O.S.)
Give it to me!

EMERSON (O.S.)
No!

Pete heads the call and heads out to investigate. He might have welcomed it. From the other room, Pete and the boys:

*

FINN (O.S.)

He won't give me the remote.

EMERSON (O.S.)

It's my turn to choose.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - A LITTLE LATER

Pete is scrolling movie options on the television, while Billie preps the twins. She's holding the cordless hotel phone.

BILLIE

Okay, this is the phone. You can call us at any point from this on our cell phones. Numbers are here. Okay? They work. We checked.

OFF SCREEN, a soft KNOCK at the door. Pete heads to answer. [During the following, we'll hear the faint sound of Pete conversing with Room Service.]

BILLIE (CONT'D)

(lays out a piece of paper)

Or, call reception. Or, the restaurant. Or, one of you can even come down. We're right downstairs at the restaurant off the lobby. You saw where that was, remember?

Pete returns with a tray, complete with TWO covered plates.

PETE

Mom ordered a couple burgers and fries. How cool is that? And, they have movies in English. So, we can pick one of those.

The boys seems a little wary. Perhaps residual feelings from today.

BILLIE

And, we'll be back by the time the movie ends to tuck you in, okay?

She smiles. As does Pete. The boys seem consoled.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Billie and Peter walk down to dinner. Glances exchanged.
Smiles, flashed. Billie grapples. A need to start a talk. *
Just as she's about to speak--

An enthusiastic ITALIAN COUPLE exit their room up ahead, mid-conversation. They continue down the corridor just ahead of Billie and Peter.

Peter lets the back of his hand brush Billie's. He offers a hand-hold. Billie doesn't take it right away, but eventually gives in and they walk interlinked.

The Italian Couple peels off down a different corridor. Back to silence. Billie lets her hand go passive, letting Pete's fingers ride interlinked with hers, but with no grip between them. They slip away. *

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Peter and Billie are waiting to be seated. She glances at Pete, a desire to start. Pete stays focused ahead. He feels her gaze but chooses to be oblivious. *
*

BILLIE

... So,...

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Yay! My good friends! Yes! *

ON CHARLOTTE in a banquette, waving. Her dinner companion, CHARLIE, a slightly older British fellow, is excusing himself to the restroom.

ON BILLIE/PETE, waving back. *

PETE

(aside)

I think she wants us to...

BILLIE

(aside)

She's just waving...

Charlotte's wave becomes a "waving over." She gestures for them to "join." *

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Let's just make an excuse...

There's NO WAY she heard that, but...

CHARLOTTE
(calling over)
There is no reason I take!

Off Pete, giving a "What are we going to do?" to Billie,
we...

*
*

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER

Peter and Billie are opposite Charlotte. A WAITER delivers
"first" drinks for Billie and Pete and "another round" for
Charlotte and her companion (still in bathroom.)

CHARLOTTE
(to Waiter)
And, bring another for my friends.

BILLIE
Oh, I'm not sure I'll...
PETE
Yeah, I'm good for...

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
No smart to get now. Bar is crazy.
The Ibiza of the Alps, yes?

The Waiter heads off.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I drink if you not. Going to clubs.

Charlotte does a small "dance groove." Pete attempts to fish
out her precise role.

*

PETE
That's nice. So, a night off from--
(off Charlotte, not
clicking in)
Do you find you get enough time off
from your duties as a... ?

But, still no such luck--

CHARLOTTE
Oh sure. Enough to catch a dick
whenever I want!

Billie swallows with a gulp.

PETER
That's... great.
BILLIE
... Time is nice.

Charlie returns to the table. He slides next to Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
(introducing)
Charlie, this is Billie and Pete.
(then)
I was just talking about you?

*

CHARLIE
All good, I hope?

*

BILLIE
(with meaning)
Uh-huh, sure.

Charlie is gossipy and pally.

*

CHARLIE
What did she say?

BILLIE
Oh. Um?

CHARLOTTE
I said I can always catch a dick
when I like.

She smiles. Playful. But he's not quite up to the challenge
of being so comic-casual about their liaison.

CHARLIE
Oh. Oh, right?

*

Charlie takes a swig of his drink. Smiles.

CHARLOTTE
Yeah?

CHARLIE
I mean. Okay, I just thought --

*

CHARLOTTE
I was kidding!
(off his slightly hurt
look)
Why, you think we're getting
married?

CHARLIE
No! God. No.
(beat, then)
I just thought. I had a nice time
today? This afternoon?

*

CHARLOTTE
Uh-huh.

Charlie looks at her - aren't you going to give me more?
Weird beat. Pete tries to break it...

PETER

And, you two know each other
from...?

*

CHARLIE

Here. I got in on Sunday? She
showed me around.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, but you're a quick learner.

*

Charlotte licks her lips. Charlie smiles, flattered but also
discombobulated. The Waiter returns for more drinks, loading
up Billie and Pete. He starts to offer menus, but...

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

No, I order for table. You'll love.
(to Waiter)
You know what I'd say. All that and
bread. Yes?

The Waiter does know what she'd order and walks off.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

(to Billie/Pete)
So, what do you do?

BILLIE

Well, I'm a lawyer. Trademark law.
(joking)
So, yeah. Riveting.

CHARLOTTE

(dead serious)
No.

Billie is thrown.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Love it. Or, no do it.

BILLIE

Oh, no. I love it. For me. Yes.

Charlotte smiles. "Good." She looks at Pete, cueing up.

PETE

I'm in real estate.
(then, quickly)
And, I love it.

CHARLOTTE

And you guys have a good day on the mountain?

PETER

(diving in)

Great day. Great conditions. Real alpine experience.

Billie can't let that fly--

BILLIE

I mean, we almost all died in an avalanche but... Yeah, great.

*

CHARLOTTE

What?

PETER

("don't exaggerate")

Come on, Billie...

(to Charlotte/Charlie)

There was a moment...

*

BILLIE

There was an avalanche.

CHARLIE

Good Lord.

CHARLOTTE

Good fuck. Were you okay?

PETER

There was a - For a moment, it could have felt dicey.

BILLIE

For more *than a moment* it did feel dicey.

PETER

Okay. And, then it was over. And, it was fine. We were fine...

BILLIE

The kids were scared...

PETER

Of course...

BILLIE

Pete. What they saw was...

Does Pete know where this sentence is going? About him? Regardless, he wants to end this.

PETER

Yes. Scary. For them, for sure. It was. But, now we're here. And, the boys are upstairs watching a movie. So, I guess I just... Emotionally, we've already been through a lot lately...

(to Charlotte/Charlie)

My dad died eight months ago. And, our sons adored him. We all did. And, it's been hard. More so than certainly I thought it would be. It's all been a lot. So, we came here. That's why we're here.

*

Pete glances at Billie. That's for her. As she said earlier: "That's why we're here."

PETER (CONT'D)

So, let's just be here.

Billie nods, conceding in her mind to let go of the conversation. She does know he's been hurting. Pete reflects on a memory.

*

PETER (CONT'D)

My dad was a travel agent for thirty years. Not that he ever went anywhere. What he knew of the world was based on research. Anyway, when he retired-- alongside one of his good buddies-- They received these beautiful, cut glasses. A set.

*

*

Billie has heard this story way too more times.

*

PETER (CONT'D)

Well, they were precious to my Dad. He just kept them up on a shelf. Even when we went to visit, he wouldn't get them down. He was saving them for... Who knows? Maybe nothing. Well, when we were back home for his funeral, I went to see Hughie. That was his buddy from work. And, we had a little drink to toast my Dad in those cut glasses. And, later, he tossed them right into the dishwasher. And I asked, "You use these for everyday?" And, do you know what he said?

*

*

*

*

Charlie and Charlotte shake their heads.

BILLIE
(under her breath) "Every day is all we have."
"Every day is all we have."

He just nods, letting his profundity lie there. While
respectful of the "sentiment," Charlie and Charlotte choose
their words/reactions, carefully.

CHARLIE
(bone dry) ... Very powerful.

CHARLOTTE
Today might be it. Yes.

PETER (CONT'D)
(not picking up on)
Yeah. So, to me. Today was today.

Charlotte clocks Billie, who seems to be "conceding" her
feelings about the avalanche/today.

CHARLOTTE
Even so. Maybe you report to resort
safety, yes? If only to give you
ease?

Pete knows to agree here.

PETER
... No, yeah. For sure.

INT. HOTEL ROOM, BATHROOM - NIGHT

Billie is on her side of the dual sink, getting ready for
bed. Pete enters, choosing (probably wisely) to use the other
sink. A moment of silence, then...

PETER
It was an avalanche. And, it was
scary. We experienced an avalanche.
And, look... You suffered some
shock.

Billie could bust up over this, but--

BILLIE
We *did* suffer some shock.

More bubbles underneath, but for now a couple comes to an
agreement of facts.

PETER
I don't know why I said we had a
great day.

BILLIE
It was scary.

PETER
It was scary.

INT. HOTEL ROOM, MASTER - NIGHT

ON PETE, in bed. His eyes are closed, but it's doubtful he's asleep. After a beat, he opens his eyes, sensing. He turns to see Billie's side of the bed is vacant. *

From the BATHROOM, the faintest sound of TINNY MUSIC. *

INT. HOTEL ROOM, BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Billie sits on the toilet, with the top lid down. Her face illuminated by her iphone. She's playing an addictive, mind-numbing game. Candy Crush or Tetris. The "candy" or "blocks" tumble much like an "avalanche." *

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

SKI DAY 3

INT. HOTEL ROOM, MAIN BEDROOM - DAY

Billie and Peter are dead asleep. The clock radio cuts the silence. An aggressive German morning show blares. Peter hits the clock radio, but it slides behind the side table, still blaring.

Billie stirs awake as Peter fumbles to retrieve the clock radio. Finally, success. Silence, again. Peter and Billie sit up on the edges of their sides of the bed, backs to one another.

QUICK CUTS OF:

- Pete parts the curtains. Bright sun reflects off the white vista. Pete squints a little. It's a lot. *

- All the ski gear is in messy piles. Billie, Pete and Em pick through it all. Everyone with bedheads, looking exhausted. But, true to form: Finn is dressed at the door.

EXT. RESORT SAFETY OFFICE - DAY

A semi-municipal, semi-commercial set of low wooden buildings. There is a red cross on one of the windows. *

Out front, a couple of snow-mobiles and an official yellow jeep with a resort logo.

*
*

INT. RESORT SAFETY OFFICE, ALL PURPOSE AREA - DAY

Snow melts on the institutional carpet of the common area, complete with small break room/kitchenette. On four chairs: Billie, Peter, Finn and Emerson in their ski outfits. Two RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS sit at the break table on their phones. The only sound in the space: The twins banging their ski boots together. Clack, clack, clack. After a beat, Billie gently silences them for everyone's sanity.

*

Suddenly, the door to the outside bursts open. In steps MICHEL (60s), the resort safety chief. He's an old mountain goat of a man. A bit intimidating. Unshaven. Wind-burnt face, complete with an outline of his sunglasses/goggles. It's doubtful he believes in sunscreen. He stomps the snow off his boots, staring at our family.

Michel has a soft, hushed German exchange with the Team Members. Clearly, they are "filling Michel in" as to the reason for our family's presence.

*
*

ON BILLIE/PETE, having their own hushed English exchange:

PETE

Please don't let that be who we
have to...

Michel looks back over at the family.

PETE (CONT'D)

Yep. Okay...

BILLIE

Yep. This is our guy.

INT. RESORT SAFETY OFFICE - DAY

Michel sits behind his desk. Peter and Billie, opposite him.

PETE

So, we wish to make a complaint.

MICHEL

Yes.

Peter stalls a beat. Billie picks up the baton.

BILLIE

About an avalanche that we... That
caused alarm yesterday.

MICHEL

Yes.

PETER

It was around one fifteen on the--
We were at the, uh...

BILLIE

We were eating outside Wonnealm...

MICHEL

(pronouncing it correctly)
Wonnealm.

BILLIE

(not getting it right)
Yes. Wonne--

MICHEL

Wonnealm.

BILLIE

That place.

PETE

And, there was an avalanche.

MICHEL

The *controlled* avalanche from
Zwolferkoph. Yes.

*

BILLIE

Well, you say it was 'controlled'
but people freaked out.

Peter plays the 'reasonable man':

PETER

It caused alarm. For sure.

BILLIE

Considerable alarm.

MICHEL

So, you are coming to say you were
alarmed?

BILLIE

Considerably.

Pete knows he needs agree here.

PETE

... Considerable. Yes.

MICHEL

But, everyone was safe?

BILLIE
Well, we don't know?

MICHEL
Yes, I can tell you, obviously.
Everyone was safe.

PETER
Okay. That's good. That helps...

BILLIE
Why wasn't there a warning?

MICHEL
There was a warning, posted at
lifts and at hotel receptions.

BILLIE
Well, we didn't see it.

Against his better judgement,...

PETE
... Well...

BILLIE
(to Pete)
No? Is that not correct?

PETE
Maybe? I mean, I think... I may
have seen something about snow
conditions?

MICHEL
Yes. They were everywhere.

BILLIE
(still on Pete)
So, you saw it?

Pete realizes he shouldn't have gone down this road.

*

PETE
I don't... I'm just saying... My
point is. The point I'm making...
(Off Billie, confused)
Warning or no warning. Seen it or
not. What happened was scary.

Pete locks in with Billie: "Correct? Scary?" Pete is trying
desperately to get back on the same page. Back to what they
already "agreed upon." Billie "returns" to the task.

*

*

BILLIE
Yes, it was scary.

PETE
Right.
(with authority to Michel)
And, we'd like an acknowledgment
that it was handled poorly.

MICHEL
It was handled perfectly.

BILLIE
No. No it was not. You can't tell
me that was supposed to go like
that. Snow came and it just --
Snow went over all the plates!

*

Michel lets that hang there a moment.

MICHEL
'Snow went over the plates'?

PETER
It was everywhere.

MICHEL
So, you are here alarmed,
considerably, about the matter of
the snow on your plates?

BILLIE
You know what, this was a big event
that traumatized the family. I
don't want to make this a legal
matter but,...

*

*

MICHEL
We are not in America where you sue
because your coffee is hot,
madame...

BILLIE
Screw you. I'm a lawyer.

Pete gets up, hoping to calm the situation/end it and shuffle
Billie out the door.

PETE
Okay, look, you've heard our
complaint...

BILLIE
Someone needs to hear it..

PETE

And, we'd like a record kept of it.
(then)
I assure you that we're not ugly Americans. But, obviously, my wife was shaken-- I had a feeling it was under control-- But, we both wanted to bring this to your attention. And, now we have.

BILLIE

And, know I could see you in court. I mean, I do trademark law-- And, I love it-- But, know that there are litigators at my firm. And, you better believe they will not hesitate to have my back...

*

PETE

Thank you for your time...

BILLIE

A "no thank you" for your time from me.

EXT. SKI LIFT - DAY

Our family is in line. Billie is still processing what happened in the office. Pete is searching his mind for the right place to start here.

PETE

What a jackass, huh?

BILLIE

... Yeah.

FINN

Who's a jackass?

PETE

The man supposedly in charge, that's who.

Billie can't help but side glance at her husband: "A man supposedly in charge." Beat of silence.

*

PETE (CONT'D)

... Yeah. Big jackass.

As they scoot up, Billie notices a SIGN near the front of the LIFT LINE. It's a posting/warning for snow conditions and "controlled avalanche" alert.

BILLIE

(loaded)

Is that the sign you may have seen?

She doesn't wait for Pete's reply. She can guess it. She just scoots up ahead, as we...

INT. HOTEL ROOM, MASTER - THAT NIGHT

Billie is asleep. Pete's side is empty. Through the cracks of the closed door BATHROOM, we see that the lights are on.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

This time, Pete is sitting on the toilet (lid down) on his phone.

ON SCREEN. He scrolls through Instagram, liking various people's photos. He passes by a post for ZACHATTACKSLIFE. (Yep. Zach's "handle.") It's a photo of them on a train.

"Zurich Bound with @RealRosie1" #Switzerland #Train #NoAgenda #LiveYourBestLife #KeepingItRealWithRosie

Pete scrolls through the subsequent photos on the same post that show them having arrived in Zurich, eating outside a cafe, etc..

As Pete "likes" the post,...

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

SKI DAY 4

INT. HOTEL ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Billie and Peter are in bed. Both dead asleep. The clock radio reads: "10:27 AM." Was the clock not set? Sleeping in?

ON BILLIE as her eyes, slowly, peel open. Is she sensing something? She jolts back at the sight of...

ON FINN, dressed to go, watching her sleep. She looks at the time. Instant panic.

BILLIE
... Shit.

She rolls over to nudge Pete, noticing that he feel asleep with his phone on his chest. As she gives him a shove awake, we...

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

The family waits out front in ski-gear. Silent and grumpy. *

EMERSON

Where are we going?

PETER

It's a treat. It's a Daddy surprise. Should I tell them?

Billie is thinking about practicalities. The kids are hungry, whiney.

BILLIE

Should I get us something from the buffet?

Peter checks his watch.

PETE

... We are late...

BILLIE

Maybe fruit? Something? *

Their CAR is pulled around by a VALET. *

PETE

It'll be fine. Let's go. *

Billie grapples, but goes with no buffet... *

EXT. HELICOPTER LANDING AREA - DAY

At a small airfield. The SUV arrives, pulling up next to a Heli-Ski company jeep.

Another YOUNG COUPLE are waiting in a small helicopter. There's a PILOT hanging by the chopper. A young HELI SKI EMPLOYEE approaches with her clipboard. *

PETER

(jumping out, eager)
Okay, we're here! Sorry. *

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE

The Stantons?

PETER

Uh-huh. Yup. Yes. That's us.

Peter unloads all the equipment.

PETE
(to Twins)
It's heli-skiing, guys! Sweet,
right?

FINN
Yeah!

Em seems less enthused.

PETE
Yeah, it's Daddy's treat!

EMERSON
... I'm hungry.

PETE
Once you get in that powder, buddy,
you'll forget about that!

BILLIE
(to Em)
Maybe, they have a protein bar or
something.

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE
They were just about to go. *

PETE
Yep. Sorry. We overslept.

The chopper blades start going.

BILLIE
Do you have a bar?

The Employee does not understand "a bar." She takes a stab at
an understanding. *

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE
... Uh, yes. This is a seatbelt. *

BILLIE
... What? *

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE
What? *

With the chopper going, it's loud. Everyone has to shout. *

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
We should climb on...

Pete's gathering all the equipment up. She doesn't have to say that twice.

BILLIE

Oh. Okay. Is there a briefing now?
Things we should know...?

*
*

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE

We can do it on the way.

*

PETER

Are we good?

EMERSON

... Where's my glove?

But, no one hears him.

BILLIE

(to Employee)

So, we're just going to...? Is
there not more information?

*
*

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE

As in?

BILLIE

What's going to happen?

*

PETE

We'll get all that on board.

*

EMERSON

(louder)

Mom! I can't find my glove.

*

FINN

Why are you so stupid?

BILLIE

(mom mode)

Hey. Uh-uh. No. Come here.

*

Despite the "urgency," Billie takes time for a "teachable moment." Finn steps over, face-to-face with Em.

*
*

BILLIE (CONT'D)

(to Finn)

What don't we do?

*
*
*

FINN

Call people names.

*
*

BILLIE
Why?

FINN
It's mean.

BILLIE
So, what do you say now?

Finn looks down at his feet, and utters a soft:

FINN
I'm sorry.

BILLIE
No, you need to look him in the
eye, Finn. Say it loudly and
clearly so that he can hear it.

FINN
(he does)
I'm sorry.

Billie is satisfied. The Heli Ski Employee ushers them toward
the chopper.

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE
We should go. The weather may
change.

BILLIE
Yeah, hold on. We lost a -- Wait.
Change? To what?

PETE
(an excited child)
Let's do this! "Every day is all we
ha--"

BILLIE
We lost a glove, Pete. He needs a
glove.
(to Employee)
Change to, what?

PETER
There'll be a spare.

BILLIE
(to Employee)
Are there spares?

HELI SKI EMPLOYEE
... I don't know...

PETER
There will be spares, let's go.

BILLIE
She said she didn't know...

PETER
He can wear yours.

BILLIE
("what?")
I'll get cold Peter.

Pete rectifies, immediately. He needs to.

PETER
He can wear mine, we should --

BILLIE
It won't stay on, Pete--

He motions to the helicopter. The Pilot is motioning them over.

PETER
We can figure it out...

BILLIE
We need gloves. We needed
breakfast.

*

Pete shouts to the Pilot.

PETER
Do you have gloves?! Protein bars?!

The Pilot can't hear. He just holds his hand up to his ear.

*

PETE
(beyond frustrated)
Billie, this cost a couple of
grand. It'll be fine, okay? This is
going to be the best, yeah?

*

*

Pete starts to walk away from them. That visual gets a
visceral reaction from her. She snaps.

*

*

BILLIE
No. No Pete. We're missing a glove,
we haven't had breakfast and
there's something about the weather
changing!

HOLD ON Pete, looking at the family, imploringly.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELICOPTER LANDING AREA - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The helicopter takes off, leaving a blizzard of snow in its wake. As the snow settles, we see Peter, Billie, Em and Finn standing there, watching it leave.

Billie and the kids walk back to the car, as Peter watches the helicopter disappear up, up and away.

ON CAR, as they round the back. Billie spots the glove in the snow and just gives it to Emerson.

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - DAY

The family (finally) has a very late breakfast/lunch. Billie lugs more loaded-up plates from the buffet to the booth.

PETE

Okay! So we still have a whole afternoon. What do we feel up for?

EMERSON

The beach?

Billie has to laugh. Her son is clever. Pete does, too, but he stays determined to rescue this day.

PETE

If we gobble all this down, we could still get in an hour, hour and a half, on the mountain?

BILLIE

I think we should cut our losses for today. Maybe, we hunker down for the afternoon? Build a fire? S'mores? Play Uno?

Finn and Em approve.

FINN/EM

Yeah!

BILLIE

And, later, you guys can watch a movie and,...

Her eyes lock in on Pete.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
We can have some time.

It's clear what the "time" will be: To talk. Pete puts on a good face.

PETE
Love that idea.

INT. HOTEL SUITE, COMMON AREA - DAY - LATER

Billie and the Twins are playing Uno. But, no Pete, at the moment.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Pete is back on the toilet (lid down) on his phone.

ON SCREEN. He's texting with ZACH: "You sure? Is it cool?"

Pete hovers over the keys, pondering.

As he starts to type: "Totally. Billie would love..."

WE HEAR an OVEN DOOR SLAMMING and...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Billie and Pete are in the KITCHEN, having a very hushed conversation. The stove top is active with a few things cooking.

BILLIE
So, they just showed up?

PETE
No, they were nearby. And, actually called...

BILLIE
(very suspicious)
They just *happened* to call?

PETE
("why would I lie?")
Billie. Yes. They called and... I didn't know how to play it on the phone.

IN COMMON AREA:

ZACH and ROSIE, sit on the couch, having cocktails. From the KITCHEN, the words are inaudible, but the tone is obvious. And, it's certainly not fooling Rosie.

ROSIE
(pleasant, calling out)
Can we help?

IN KITCHEN AREA:

PETE
(overly pleasant)
No, we're good! You guys relax!

Billie pops over to the MASTER BEDROOM to shut the door. Inside, we get a glimpse of the Twins sitting on the bed watching a movie. [NOTE: They both have on headphones, listening to the movie.]

BILLIE
(hushed)
Well, I hope they like garlic bread
and kids spaghetti because that's
what I have.

PETER
I'm sorry. I should have--

BILLIE
Yep. But, now you can't. So, let's
go offer them gold fish and baby
carrots.

Billie, in fact, grabs two bowls of those very items. The
"appetizers."

*
*

INT. HOTEL ROOM, COMMON AREA - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

*

Billie and Pete join Zach and Rosie.

PETE
(maybe too much)
So, let's hear about this trip!

ZACH
(laughing)
From what we remember...? It's been
pretty epic.

PETE
From what I've seen, yeah!

Pete keeps chiming in, hoping it all stays light.

ROSIE

We've hit three countries in four days. It's insane. Just Tuesday, we were having morning strudel in Dusseldorf and by that afternoon, we're hiking along the Rhine River in France.

ZACH

And, there may have been some shrooms on one or all of those days.

PETE

You have to.

Billie can't help but furrow her brow: "Really, Pete?"

*

ZACH

Yeah, there's something about sporting backpacks-- Strangers just want to give you things...

ROSIE

And, talk to you. They're all about your business. Where you came from. Where you're headed. Who you are and what you do.

*
*
*

(laughs)

It's been fun to fuck with people. Make up shit about ourselves.

*
*

ZACH

(to Pete, jokingly)

Did you know I'm an archeologist? Heading on a dig?

*

PETE

You didn't.

Billie's eyes can't roll back far enough.

*

ZACH

We just made a decision. Our lives at home are complicated enough. This doesn't need to be.

PETE

Hashtag no agenda. Yeah, we love that.

ZACH

We didn't even know what tonight would be. Then, you texted. Now we're here.

Shit. Billie shoots a glance at Pete. "Unbelievable." Why should she be surprised?

ZACH (CONT'D)

We don't even have return tickets? Who knows what's next?

BILLIE

You kind of do. Work on Monday.

ZACH

No, yeah. We'll get flights home.

BILLIE

That's going to be an expensive "What's next?"

Swigs wine. Air out of fun.

ROSIE

... So, you guys been getting in some good ski days?

PETE

Oh, yeah. Good. Great days.

Pete can feel (and see) Billie's expression. "Are you telling them or am I?" Pete attempts to get a head of it. *

PETER

I mean, we did have one incident that was unnerving. But, we got over that and now we're having a great time. *

Zach wants to nod past the difficulty, but... *

ROSIE

Oh, okay? Was it...? *

Zach looks like, "Shall we leave it?" *

PETER

It was just an event we came through was all.

Zach can feel the social temperature change and tries to ease things along. *

ZACH

It's good to come through events,
isn't it?

PETER

That's right. We're good now. It
was nothing.

Peter's pushed it too far for Billie.

BILLIE

It wasn't nothing.

PETER

Oh sure. No, that's the wrong word.

BILLIE

It was something.

PETER

No, yeah.

Billie locks in with Zach and Rosie. She tells the story. In
complete control.

BILLIE

We were outside at a restaurant and
there was a bang. And, suddenly
this wall of snow was rumbling down
the mountain. And, it did not look
like it was going to stop. It
looked like it going to kill us...

ROSIE

Jesus...

PETE

For a moment,...

BILLIE

No. No.

Billie is not asking to tell this story together. Pete
concedes the floor. For now.

*

BILLIE (CONT'D)

And, it wasn't just us that felt
this way. People were getting up,
screaming. And, I screamed. And the
kids screamed. And, it felt like
this was it. We were going to die.
I looked at Peter. And, he had
jumped up and grabbed his phone.
Gone. Pete ran. Pete left us.

(MORE)

BILLIE (CONT'D)

I guess in his mind he left us
there to get buried because he
could make it away and we're too
far away or on the other side or...
I don't know. And so, we just
stayed there and I put my arm
around our sons and I waited for a
moment. I waited for us to die
together. And then, bang.

(beat)

I'm still there. And the kids stop
screaming. And we realize, we're
okay. And then, Peter comes back
and we just... we just have soup.

Silence. Billie and Pete just stay locked on each other. Who goes next? There's an air to Pete. A man holding strong. In his head, spinning for sure. A man who knows he's on trial. His manhood, questioned. Rosie doesn't hesitate to support and recognize Billie's experience.

ROSIE

That's intense.

BILLIE

Yeah.

Rosie joins Billie in her look to Pete. She's curious how Pete could have done that. Zach, on the other hand, is trying to defuse.

ZACH

Wow. Yeah, that's... I guess, there
are... You know, when something
like that happens, it can be, it
can be like a survival reaction?

Zach looks to Peter: "Yeah?" But, Pete is focused on Billie still. Is he plotting a defense? Zach answers his own question.

ZACH (CONT'D)

It's almost like... You know when a
snail or something goes into it's
shell? It's an instinct...?

Pete settles on his next move:

PETER

How could I even have possibly run
away?

BILLIE

... What?

PETER

In ski boots? It's not even
credible. Can you run in ski boots?

BILLIE

... *What?*

PETER

Zach, can you run in ski boots?

ZACH

... Um... ?

BILLIE

Fine. "Clomp away." "Walk,
briskly..."

PETER

You said "run." Rosie, can you run
in ski boots?

ROSIE

I don't... Not very...?

PETER

Boom. Exactly...

ROSIE

Regardless-- I wouldn't, like,
leave my family to die?

BILLIE

(pointing at Rosie)
That's "boom exactly..."

PETER

*No, nor would I. And, I
didn't.*

*

ROSIE (CONT'D)

It's just she said you did?

BILLIE

He did.

PETER

Oh, for fuck's sake, Billie. Why
are you..? *And, I didn't leave you
to be buried...*

BILLIE

I don't know...

PETER

I do! I was there. And, I saw it
differently.

*

BILLIE

Great. Tell me what happened,
differently!

PETER

There was the snow coming. Almost
like an avalanche...

*
*

BILLIE

Oh my-- Now, it's not even a
avalanche?!

Pete powers on.

PETE

I checked you guys, visually. And,
once it was clear that it was going
to be okay, I went to get help. For
the aftermath.

BILLIE

That doesn't even make sense! You
knew it was okay? So, you went to
get help?

PETER

It was all very confusing.
Everything happened fast. BUT, I
checked you were going to be okay
and I went to get help.

BILLIE

That's not what happened.

*

PETER

I can accept your version of the
truth Billie, why can't you accept
mine?

BILLIE

Simple. Mine is true. And, not
dumb.

PETER

Well, you weren't there with me.

BILLIE

No! I was at the table. With our
sons!

PETER

I love that you are making me say
that what happened for you,
happened for me.

Billie is beside herself. She heads out of the room. Focus falls on Zach, who is looking for a way to say something. He comes up with:

*
*

ZACH
... This is very difficult.

Met with silence.

ZACH (CONT'D)
You know a lot of times people
involved in road traffic accidents
get things totally wrong...

*

ROSIE
Stop pitching theories.

Billie returns, holding the hands of the twins, who have their headphones round their necks.

*
*

BILLIE
I'm sorry kids, but just one
question.

PETER
Billie? No, no.

The kids are surprised to be in the adult arena, on show.

BILLIE
We were just telling our friends
about how we were having lunch,
remember? And, there was the
avalanche coming? What did Mom and
Dad do?

The Twins hesitate.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
You can say. It's for the story.
They wanted to hear. They can say
right, Peter?

*

Peter is acting as if she's gone over the edge: "I give up."

*

PETER
Sure.

BILLIE
The truth.

Emerson looks at the floor.

EMERSON

-- Um, -- Dad ran away.

Billie acts lightly, jolly, like this is all a game:

BILLIE

Heheh. Yeah, okay, is that how you remember it Finn?

FINN

Uh-huh.

BILLIE

Okay, well let's get you back to the movie!

Peter just sits there as Rosie and Zach look uncomfortable. Painful beat. Zach tries to ease.

*

ZACH

... They're such great kids.

Billie returns.

PETER

Are they okay?

BILLIE

Of course, they're okay.

PETER

You might have traumatised them, you know that?

BILLIE

Oh, I traumatised them?

PETER

You care about being right so fucking much, don't you?

*

BILLIE

I just want to get things straight.

PETER

No, you want to get them "right." You're "right." Well, I guess, Billie's right. So, congratulations, Billie! You win. Come on, everyone, give her a round of fucking applause. Billie's won, again!!

Peter starts to clap and stands up. Zach smiles, tightly. He can think of literally nothing to try to make things better. HOWEVER, he opens his mouth, as if to speak and...

ROSIE
(under breath)
There is nothing you need to say here.

INT. HOTEL SUITE, TWINS' ROOM - NIGHT

Billie sleeps, cuddled up to Em and Finn. WE HEAR the muffled sound of TV emanating from another part of the suite.

INT. HOTEL SUITE, MASTER - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Peter is drinking a beer, cross legged, mindlessly watching an episode of "Murder, She Wrote" in German. (Or, some other cleared show, current or old. Whatever it is, it's dubbed over.)

SKI DAY 4

INT. HOTEL SUITE, MASTER - THE NEXT MORNING

CLOSE ON ALARM. It turns from 6:59 to 7:00. BUZZZZ! A HAND comes into frame, shutting it off.

REVEAL Billie, her hand on the alarm, standing by Pete's side of the bed. Pete wakes up.

BILLIE
I'm going to take a solo day.

PETE
... Oh okay...

BILLIE
You and the boys can have an adventure.

PETE
Yeah. Great. Maybe, we'll cross paths on the mountain?

BILLIE
Actually, I saw a leaflet for those alpine rail slides. The boys might enjoy them. They have them over at the family resort. The one just "minutes of 20" from here?

Billie has a shit-eating grin focused on Pete. Does she suspect he knew of the family resort's existence?

*

PETE

*

... Yeah. Love that idea.

*

As she crosses off, we...

*

INT. SKI HIRE SHOP, LOCKERS - DAY

Billie is starting her "solo day," putting on her uncomfortable boots. She snaps them into place, wincing, as she watches a couple of YOUNG GUYS renting out equipment. One well-built SKI SHOP EMPLOYEE is grabbing a couple snowboards from up-high, exposing his wash-board stomach.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Getting an eyeful?

Charlotte is there, smiling insinuatingly. [NOTE: Charlotte looks dressed for skiing, but there will be no presence of actual ski equipment throughout the following exchange.]

BILLIE

Oh. No, I was just-- No.

Billie grabs her stuff and heads to the exit. Charlotte follows.

CHARLOTTE

So. Where is your team?

BILLIE

Oh, I just felt like a solo day.

CHARLOTTE

Yes. Good. Adventure just for you.

BILLIE

... Yes. Okay. Adventure.

Charlotte smiles, knowingly.

CHARLOTTE

And, fun. Yes? Fun just for you.

Charlotte nods, as if they are definitely on the same page. Billie has no idea what page that is, but she nods if only to complete the moment.

BILLIE

... Okay, well...

Charlotte holds the door open for Billie and continues with her. Guess the moment is not "completed."

EXT. TUNNEL - DAY

Billie steps onto the MOVING WALKWAY. Charlotte follows, studying Billie. Once again, Billie tries to get a precise fix on this woman:

BILLIE

Are you heading this way to get to your job as...?

CHARLOTTE

I'm interested, your boys: naturally conceived, or in vitro fertilization?

BILLIE

Oh - um. Okay.

CHARLOTTE

I have a friend and she was thinking about it. I apologize if for you it's very --

BILLIE

No. No. It's personal, yes. But, I don't actually mind talking about it.

*

CHARLOTTE

Because they're twins and you are very old, yes?

BILLIE

Well, *at the time*--

CHARLOTTE

They are ten, no? So, *still*--

BILLIE

Yes. Okay. Yes, correct. We considered a surrogate but in the end, yeah, it worked out with the help of a clinic. So, yeah...
(off walkway)
This seems slow.

*

Billie opts to walk on the walkway and pick up the pace of all of this. Charlotte stays right with her.

CHARLOTTE

And was it okay? Or, lots of
heartbreak?

BILLIE

Oh, you know, okay. Then,
heartbreak. Then okay. It was
everything. It was hard. But, I
kind of just gritted my teeth.

*

CHARLOTTE

Yes. You're strong.

BILLIE

... Maybe.

CHARLOTTE

No.

Charlotte actually grabs Billie's arm and gazes right at her.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You are strong.

Billie nods. But, Charlotte just holds her stare. Relentless.

BILLIE

Yeah, no, I know that...
(conceding)
I am strong.

Charlotte smiles. Approving. Billie: "Wtf?"

*

EXT. SKI LIFT - DAY

Billie plops her skis down in the snow, just shy of the long
line for the lift.

BILLIE

Okay, well, I'm where I wanted to
get to, so thank you...

CHARLOTTE

No, no. This wait is not for you.

Charlotte holds up the divider rope, indicating to Billie to
skip the line. Billie picks her skis back up, as we...

EXT. SKI GONDOLA - DAY

Billie places her skis in the gondola holders herself.

BILLIE

Okay, well, now I'm where I wanted--
Thank you for...

Charlotte shuttles Billie on...

CHARLOTTE

Adventure, yes? Now. Fun?

Jeez. She will not let this go.

BILLIE

Yes. All that. Just for me.

Unbeknownst to Billie, Charlotte waves to a young ski instructor, MAROUANE. He waves back and steps onto the gondola behind them. Then, Charlotte boards with Billie. *What is happening?*

INT. GONDOLA - DAY

Billie and Charlotte ride up. There's a decent-sized group of SENIOR SKIERS on board. From the sound of them, they are all Austrian.

CHARLOTTE

So, can I ask you... Have you had a
varied life of sexual experience?

*

BILLIE

... I'm sorry? Have I--?

CHARLOTTE

Have you had a varied life of
sexual---?

BILLIE

No, I'm not asking so you'll
repeat it---

Billie glances at the Senior Skiers, self-conscious.

CHARLOTTE

(re: Skiers)

At that age, they rarely bother
with English.

It seems true, at this moment. None of them are paying
attention, involved in their own conversations. And, all in
German.

*

*

BILLIE

(scoffing, "unbelievable")

Boy, you just get right in there,
don't you?

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry, it's just - I don't like
so much bullshit all the time.

For the first time, Billie really hears something from
Charlotte that resonates for her.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I don't see the point of bullshit.

BILLIE

... No yeah. I don't like so much
bullshit. No, that's good.

CHARLOTTE

You just seem to me, like...

BILLIE

What? A "one man" woman?

Charlotte's silence tells her the answer:

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Well, you'd be surprised. I know my
way around the -

She gestures a "dick." Charlotte doesn't seem convinced. Yet.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

In college, I did my fair share of,
you know,...

*

A bad gesture of a "blow job." A short, BURST OF LAUGHTER
emanates from somewhere in the gondola. Billie glances over
wondering if someone caught that/understood. But, nope. All
of them are still in their own German worlds.

*

*

*

*

CHARLOTTE

I don't like to perform that.

BILLIE

Well, no one likes it.

*

CHARLOTTE

(dead serious)

So, why do you do it?

*

BILLIE

No, I'm kidding. I like it. I mean,
I don't LOVE it. It's fine.

*

CHARLOTTE

I just tend to only do what I like.
I masturbate. Every day. Because,
that's for me...

BILLIE

(half joking/half
wondering)

And, having sex with guests, I
guess...?

*

CHARLOTTE

Yes. That is very for me.

*

BILLIE

But, you're married, right?

*

Charlotte's ring is there on her finger. She nods.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

So, how does that work for you?
With everything? With Mr. Charlie
and other "guy friends?"

*

*

CHARLOTTE

Easy. I work the winters here. In
the summer, my husband and I have
our farm. What I eat, doesn't make
him shit.

BILLIE

Oh, okay?

CHARLOTTE

I think that is a beautiful phrase.

BILLIE

("Is it?")

... No, yeah. Absolutely.

(then)

But, will you tell your husband
about...?

*

*

*

CHARLOTTE

Can we shake hands?

Charlotte holds out her hand. Billie, apprehensive, shakes.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Now, will I tell my husband about
that? Will you? Should we? Our
bodies touched. We have a little
intimacy.

BILLIE

Well, that's not exactly...

*

CHARLOTTE

Why is there this absurdity if
these two parts of our bodies
touch?

*

(waves hand)

No big deal. But, the other ones.

*

(she mimics huge shock)

No! The bodies touched! The special
parts! Oh my goodness, what shall
we do! God is angry in his heaven!
The marriage must be over, the
special parts have rubbed!

*

(the slightly alarming act
is over)

It's superstition.

BILLIE

Well, shaking hands can't make
babies, whereas --

*

CHARLOTTE

Oh please. Sex doesn't need to make
babies and you don't need sex to
make babies. So. Shall we all move
on now? Please?

They're approaching the top of the gondola.

BILLIE

No. Sure. I'm just not convinced
it's as easy as you make it out.
Isn't your arrangement,
complicated?

*

CHARLOTTE

Isn't everything?

BILLIE

I guess I just feel, a
relationship, it's-- What is it,
but kind of a story? And, it's
important you're both in the same
one, right?

*

CHARLOTTE

I guess I make my own story.

BILLIE

... But, are you happy?

CHARLOTTE

Yes. Very. Are you?

BILLIE

... Yes. Yeah. Yeah. Yes. I'd say yes.

CHARLOTTE

So, good. You have your story the way you want it. And, I have mine. Yes?

*

Billie thinks a little too long about this. Which, might surprise her, too.

BILLIE

... Yes.

They have arrived at the top. The Senior Skiers and Billie step off, grabbing their skis. But, Charlotte stays on.

ON MAROUNE, getting off the next gondola.

CHARLOTTE

(waving him over)

Okay. Now. Maroune will be your instructor.

*

*

BILLIE

--Wait. Who will be my what--?

Charlotte just winks as she travels away in the gondola.

SENIOR FEMALE SKIER

(to Billie, Austrian accent)

I like to perform it. And, on him, I would.

*

*

*

*

Yep. At least, she understood everything. As Maroune approaches, all sexy smile, we...

*

*

EXT. ALPINE RAIL SLIDE - DAY

The SUV pulls into the lot. Unlike where the family has been staying, this place is flooded with FAMILIES WITH KIDS. The whole vibe feels different. Definitely, with kids in mind. In fact, all the signage includes, "Berta the Cow," the resort mascot. Yep. A cow.

EXT. ALPINE RAIL SLIDE - DAY

Em, Finn and Pete (in that order) are all in their individual slide cars. An ALPINE SLIDE EMPLOYEE works her way along them, checking that they each know how to operate the hand brake.

ALPINE SLIDE EMPLOYEE
(to Em)
Forward to go.

Em pushes the handle forward to show he understands.

ALPINE SLIDE EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
Back to brake.

Em shows her that. The Alpine Slide Employee gives Em a "thumbs up" and points to a security camera pointed at them. Clearly, for confirmation that they understood about safety. Em gives a "thumbs up." The Alpine Slide Employee moves back to Finn and goes through the same instructions, then to Pete.

ALPINE SLIDE EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
(to Pete)
Forward to go.

Pete does.

ALPINE SLIDE EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
Back to brake.

PETE
(jokingly)
Won't be needing to.

ALPINE SLIDE EMPLOYEE
(not having it)
Back to brake.

Pete eats crow and shows that he understands, as we...

EXT. TOP OF MOUNTAIN - DAY

We're back with Billie and Marouane, who it turns out, is very French. They stand at the precipice of a slope.

*

MAROUANE
So, first thing of instruction.
Coffee!

*

BILLIE
To be honest, ...
(pronounced wrong)
Ma-ROON-ON

MAROUANE
Marouane.

BILLIE
Mar-OO-NON

MAROUANE
Marouane. Like, marijuana, without
the 'a'. Marijuan-a. Marouane?

Billie carefully says "Marijuana" and conscientiously stops
before the "a."

BILLIE
To be honest, Marijuan... I didn't
ask for a, uh-- I'm actually a
pretty decent skier.

MAROUANE
Why stop at decent? There's better
than decent?

He pulls a thermos from his knapsack.

MAROUANE (CONT'D)
(displaying)
See? Coffee. Decent.

Then, he pulls out a flask.

MAROUANE (CONT'D)
Alpine coffee. Better, no?

Billie considers.

*

BILLIE
Okay, yeah. Why not? I can be more
than decent.

He adds a healthy pour of the flask into her coffee.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Oh. Okay. A lot more than decent.

He winks at her, as she "bottom's ups."

EXT. ALPINE RAIL SLIDE - DAY

Finn, Em, and Pete ascend the mountain, spaced a good distance apart. (It operates much like a "roller coaster," pulling you up to the top on the track.) *

ON PETE, as we watches SKIERS whisk by. A hint of "I wish I was doing that" is undeniable.

LATER - They make it to the top and, one by one, descend.

ON EM. Contrary to skiing, Em appears not to be afraid of speed on the slide. He's an expert at navigating the curves. This is his thing.

ON FINN. He's more hesitant, riding the brake. His pace is much slower.

ON PETE. True to form, he's all speed.

PETE'S POV of Finn, up ahead. He's gaining on him.

BACK TO SCENE.

PETE
(joking)
I'm coming for you, Finn!

As he gets closer,...

PETE (CONT'D)
Ease up on the break, buddy. It's fun!

ON FINN. He does, speeding up a little.

PETE (CONT'D)
There you go!

BACK WITH EM, having the time of his life. While fast, Em is being responsible about his brake. Safe. He passes a CAMERA BOX that snaps photos for purchase as you pass by.

BACK WITH FINN. He's coming up on a sharp curve. He brakes a good bit.

ON PETE, pulling his brake, but fast approaching.

PETE (CONT'D)
(jokingly)
Alright, I'm gonna tap you!

FINN
Don't.

PETE
(doesn't hear him)
What?

FINN
Don't!

But, he does. Not a slam, by any means. Truly a tap, but it does jolt Finn.

ON CAMERA BOX, flashing a photo of that moment.

EXT. ALPINE RAIL SLIDE - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

Post ride. CAMERA HOLDS ON Finn and Em, standing near the entrance. Each has a PHOTO. Em's photo is of him beaming on the ride. Finn's is of Pete bumping into him. *

Behind them, in the distance and out of earshot, is Pete with an ALPINE SLIDE EMPLOYEE. *We can't hear them*, but it's pretty clear Pete is being reprimanded. *

After the "reprimand," Pete approaches.

EMERSON
Did you get kicked out?

PETE
("yes")
No. I just thought we'd, you know,... do other things. *

EMERSON
Because, you got kicked out? *

EXT. SLOPES - DAY

Billie is having a great run. She seems very relaxed. Marouane follows closely behind, encouraging and instructing. They get to a stopping point.

MAROUANE
Nice!

BILLIE
Whoa. That felt so different.

MAROUANE
Yes because you leaned into it. *
With confidence. Just flow. No need
to work so hard.

Billie likes that. "No need to work so hard."

MAROUANE (CONT'D)
(pointing down slope)
Now, you tackle this.

Below, a good stretch of pronounced moguls.

BILLIE
Oh, I can't do moguls. I know that.

Marouane is not having it. Presents her with the flask.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
(laughing)
So, just "alpine" now. No coffee?

MAROUANE
(sexy fucking smile)
Decent. Better.
(indicating flask)
Best.

Billie takes a huge swig off the flask.

MAROUANE (CONT'D)
Do like faster? Or slower?

Billie is confused.

MAROUANE (CONT'D)
(re: moguls/slope)
Do you want to go faster or slower?

BILLIE
... Faster.

Maroune steps up behind Billie, perhaps a bit too close, but not invasive.

MAROUANE
(pointing at slope)
Hands out in front. Find a line and narrow your stance and go *around* each bump. Not over. Maintain a steady rhythm.

BILLIE
(little overwhelmed)
Maybe, I just follow you...?

MAROUANE
No. Find a line. Steady rhythm. Do not look back. I will be there.

Billie exhales, prepares. She takes off. It's wonky, but she finds a line. As Marouane follows, shouting instructions, we...

INT. FAMILY RESORT RESTAURANT - DAY

The Twins are having hot cocoa and snacks. Again, the vibe is different. FAMILIES everywhere. A costumed version of "Berta The Cow" roams the room, taking photos with guests. Pete approaches with a resort pamphlet.

PETE

Alright, let's see what we can get into here. Ski, obviously. Right? We can ski. Ski park.

Pete glances up, slightly. He's hoping the boys perked up to those options. Nope. He keeps reading. *

PETE (CONT'D)

What else? There's a toboggan run. Arcade. Indoor mini golf. (actually surprised) Indoor waterpark? *

Pete starts perusing options, silently. Probably, to avoid the evidence that this place is awesome. *

PETE (CONT'D)

Okay. Yeah. A good amount of stuff. What are we thinking?

But, the boys are silent.

PETE (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Something on your minds?

Em and Finn stall, looking at one another.

PETE (CONT'D)

You can tell me anything.

EMERSON

You don't seem like you're having fun?

A dagger to his heart. Riddled with a guilty feeling.

PETE

... What? Why would you think--?

FINN

Do you want to be here?

PETE

What? Of course-- Guys. Listen to me. I love being with you. More than anything. You know that, right?

The boys are give nothing at first. And then, just shrugs. They aren't sure. Brutal.

PETE (CONT'D)

Is this about the slide? Daddy *did* get kicked off. But, because Daddy was having too much fun.

Nope. That doesn't seem to be it.

PETE (CONT'D)

Is this about yesterday? The helicopter? I just wanted that for all of us. I messed that up. I overslept. And, we should have had food. Is that what makes you think that I'm not having fun?

Em and Finn look at each other, again. Clearly, it's because of something else. But, maybe they don't want to say? Pete fears the worst: the avalanche.

PETE (CONT'D)

I love you two. So much. I've just been--

Pete avoids "an excuse."

PETE (CONT'D)

Let's finish this day, right. Just us boys. What are you thinking?

Pete slides the resort pamphlet in front of them. They glance for a beat. But, then...

FINN

Can we have screen time? Back at our hotel?

Pete flashes a big smile, hiding his stress.

PETE

... Yeah. Absolutely.

EXT. SKI WARMING HUT - DAY

Billie descends more moguls, pretty expertly. Marouane right behind. She comes to a stop, exuberant. She's breathing pretty hard.

BILLIE
That's a lot of work.

MAROUANE
But, good, yes?

BILLIE
No, yeah. Worth it.

Billie is definitely winded.

MAROUANE
Let us rest, yes? Warm up? And
then, go again?

Off Billie's nod, Marouane skis toward the WARMING HUT, as we...

INT. SKI WARMING HUT - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Marouane lights an oil heater. Billie can't help but eye the smooth back of Marouane's neck. His back is spectacular, too. A specimen. The light is flattering and cozy over the bare room: Water; supplies; sleeping bags rolled up; emergency equipment; table and chairs. *

MAROUANE
How do your calves feel?

BILLIE
Oh, I can feel them alright.

MAROUANE
You might want to... For ten
minutes or so?

He's taking his ski boots off. Billie starts to pull her feet out of her boots.

MAROUANE (CONT'D)
(slapping his thighs)
It can burn here, no?

BILLIE
Oh yeah. Yup.

MAROUANE

Sometimes I can give people, just
on the calves or something, a rub?

BILLIE

(wry)

Oh. Sometimes you can do that, can
you?

MAROUANE

Yeah. That's something I do.

Marouane kneels to rub her calf.

*

MAROUANE (CONT'D)

Yes? Just to relax out those
muscles a little. It's recommended.

BILLIE

Oh well, if it's "recommended."

He rubs gently, but firmly. More sports massage than sensual
come-on. Not too much.

*

MAROUANE

Uh-huh?

BILLIE

Uh-huh. Um. That's. Yeah. Uh-huh.

As he rubs, keeping his hand below her knee, Marouane seems
to be studying her.

MAROUANE

So, I'm curious. Who is Billie?

Billie scoffs. Is that a line?

BILLIE

... What?

MAROUANE

Why is that silly? To want to know?

BILLIE

It just sounds like a, uh... I
mean, "Who?" How do you even
answer...?

MAROUANE

(without missing a beat)

I am very confident, but never
afraid to admit when I am wrong. I
tend to fall in love too fast.

(MORE)

MAROUANE (CONT'D)

And, heal too slow. I love to paint. And, I'm good at it. However, I cannot sing. But, that does not stop me from doing it everyday.

He heads up a bit higher, up above the knee, massaging the front of her thighs. She shifts her body subtly to let him know it's okay. *

MAROUANE (CONT'D)

Skiing is a passion, yes, but teaching feeds my soul. To witness someone surprise themselves. I live for that. And, I am the only child of a single mom and she is my hero.

He lets that sit, then...

MAROUANE (CONT'D)

That is how I answer.

Billie is flush. Her heart racing. He moves up higher, massaging with his thumbs, up towards her inner thighs. It feels good.

MAROUANE (CONT'D)

Uh-huh?

BILLIE

Uh-huh.

MAROUANE

You do not need to share with me who you are, Billie. But, you must promise me. *

Marouane locks in, holding Billie's gaze. His eyes stare right at her lips.

MAROUANE (CONT'D)

You must promise that you will never find it silly when people want to make it about you. *

And, with that, a kiss. A perfect kiss, but not lustful. The kiss breaks. Marouane holds his gaze and slides his hand up her body. But, Billie stops him.

BILLIE

Thank you. But, that's where this ends.

Marouane does not hesitate. He respects that. Backs off.

MAROUANE
I apologize if I...

BILLIE
No. I did what I wanted to do. And
now, I want to ski.

She starts to collect her things.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
But, make no mistake, I could fuck
you right through that wall. If I
wanted. But, I don't. And, I
wouldn't. That much I know about
me.

*

INT. SUV - DAY

Pete drives in silence. The boys in the back. Pete glances in
the rearview, pondering. He needs to get back some "love."

*

PETE
Hey, guys. The bidet-- The European
thing-- You know what that's really
for?

The shake their heads.

PETE (CONT'D)
Cleaning your butt.

They perk up, looking at one another. Is he kidding?

PETE (CONT'D)
Yeah. It sprays water up and, uh...

Pete decides to double down on "cool points."

PETE (CONT'D)
Yeah. It cleans the shit out of
your butthole.

*

The boys are a mixture of shock and joy.

FINN
Are you serious?

PETE
Yep. Mom said "feet," but after you
take a dump, it's to clean your
butthole.

A giggle fit begins. The mood shifts. Pete feels better, but thinks to be smart and safe...

*
*

PETE (CONT'D)
But, no hijinx now that you know.

*
*

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Billie squats in a little copse of fir trees, taking a piss. She looks through the trees to where Marouane waits, leaning on his poles, staring the other way out and down into the valley.

She's happy. Proud. Relaxed.

Over this image, WE HEAR: CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP, as we...

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION - DAY

Billie heads across reception. Clomping in her ski boots. A woman on a mission. She heads into the...

RESTROOM.

INT. REST ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

She clomps straight into a STALL. From the looks of it, she's alone. Even if she wasn't, she wouldn't seem to mind.

IN STALL. She has it in mind to masturbate. What starts as confidence slowly evolves into awkwardness as:

- She pulls off her gloves and lowers the zipper on her ski suit. But, her jacket is bulky. Need to lose that.
- Her goggles and helmet clatter to the floor.
- She tries sitting on the toilet, trying to get her hand in her pants. But, still too many layers.
- She stands, navigating zippers and straps. Tangled.

OFF SCREEN, "someone" enters. More CLOMPING boots. Billie freezes. The FAUCET comes on. Whoever it is, is washing her hands. Then, the powerful AIR DRYER comes on. Nice cover for Billie.

- She leans back against the door, putting a foot up on the toilet. Success. An angle. Just as she "begins,..."

THE LATCH GIVES. She falls back onto the floor. Disheveled but not indecent. Our BATHROOM WOMAN stands at the air dryer, perplexed. Billie starts to collect herself and things, as...

BILLIE

I, uh, had a problem in there. I think I just... I think it was just one of those classic times when your contact pops out and, uh... Yeah I bent over and blacked out when I stood up too fast. So,...

She trails off. The moment lingers a bit until...

BILLIE (CONT'D)

(clears throat)

Yeah, we don't have to... This doesn't need to continue...

The Bathroom Woman goes back to air drying her hands.

INT. HOTEL SUITE, BATHROOM - THAT NIGHT

Billie and Pete are at the dual sinks, separated by the mirror. Plenty of tension. Mostly, felt by Pete.

PETE

... How was your solo day?

BILLIE

Great. Yeah. It was *great*.

PETE

That's awesome.

Pete assumes she will reciprocate. Long beat. Nope. So,...

PETE (CONT'D)

Me and the boys had fun.

BILLIE

Good.

PETE

Yeah, we hit the slide for a good while.

BILLIE

Until you got kicked off?

Doh. As she heads out, we...

INT. HOTEL SUITE, MASTER - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Pete emerges from the bathroom. No Billie. Guess she's not sleeping there, again. Resigned, Pete heads to his side of the bed, as...

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK**SKI DAY 5****INT. HOTEL SUITE, MASTER - MORNING**

QUICK IMAGES OF:

- Alarm goes off. "Pete's" hand shuts it off.
- The room is dark. Pete sits on the side of his bed.
- Pete picks his ski stuff out of the piles.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pete stands just outside the TWINS' ROOM. The door is slightly ajar.

PETE'S POV of Billie and the boys on bed, watching something on an iPad together. Billie is holding it up so they can all see as they lie on their backs.

BACK TO SCENE, as Pete lightly taps and opens the door.

PETE
Good morning.

EM/FINN
(staring at iPad)
Morning, dad.

BILLIE
... Morning.

PETE
Are we...?

BILLIE
I think we're going to do this for now.

PETE
... Okay. Zach texted about joining us. I think Rosie is sleeping in.

BILLIE
Great. You guys have fun.

Beat.

PETE
Should we meet up for dinner? Do
the restaurant?

BILLIE
Sure.

Beat.

PETE
You guys have fun.

But, the three are lost in the iPad.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Pete steps off the elevator. Zach, dressed to ski, is there.
And, he's wearing a knit cap.

ZACH
Let's do this.

Pete considers.

PETER
Hold up.

As Pete heads back onto the elevator,...

CUT TO:

EXT. LIFT - DAY

Pete and Zach are in line. And yes, Pete is now wearing his
dad's old hat. No helmet for this cool motherfucker. Zach,
discreetly, takes a hit on his vape pen. He hands it to Pete
with a wink. *

ZACH
A little Amsterdam in Austria.

Pete considers: "Why not?" Zach snaps a quick selfie with
Pete. *

ZACH (CONT'D)
Hashtag it begins!

LATER - Zach and Pete are at the front of the lift line. They shuffle into place. The same Lift Operator is there. Pete waits, but the Operator says nothing. He beams. He's "cool." *

EXT. PISTE - DAY

Zach and Peter are at the top of a run. Pete can't help it. This feels good. To be standing here now. Free. *

PETE
How great is this?

ZACH
So great.

PETE
All I have to do, right now. My only obligation? Go down. *

ZACH
Yeah. Live your best life.

PETE
Yeah. Every day is all we have.

They fist bump. And, with that, push off. Confident. Free. *

EXT. SLOPE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pete's having a great run. Maybe, a little loose from the vape, but in control.

A SNOWBOARDER cuts across his path, nearly colliding. *

Pete loses his balance, struggles. He can't stay up and bites it hard. His momentum carries him, sliding down the slope, in a direct path with a SNOW GUN MACHINE. *

He skids to a halt, hitting his head on the machine. Not too hard, but he feels it. He sits up and checks the back of his head for blood. But, luckily, none. *

EXT. SKI LIFT - DAY

Billie and the kids are in line for the lift. [NOTE: This a two seater.] Rosie skis up into line.

ROSIE
Well, hello there. Going up? Mind if I...?

Billie doesn't object. Rosie joins them as they approach the front of the line.

BILLIE
You getting a late start, too?

ROSIE
Yeah, I got a massage.

Billie's face, jealous. "Good for you." They are next up.

BILLIE
Em, Finn, you go together. But,
wait at the top, okay?

The Twins shift into position and the lift takes them up. As Billie passes the Ski Lift Operator, he raps his knuckles on Billie's head.

LIFT OPERATIVE
Helme sind fur Kinder!

ROSIE
Hallo...!

BILLIE
Oh, he's just checking that it's
secure...

*

ROSIE
Ein wenig Respekt bitte!

The Lift Operator switches to Italian:

LIFT OPERATIVE
li Vaffanculo, non capiscono.

ROSIE
(Italian)
Si lavora in fatto di ospitalità,
essere ospitali, cazzo!

Then, she switches to Spanish:

ROSIE (CONT'D)
Folla a tu madre y tu existencia!

The Lift Operator does not know Spanish. That was her hope. Billie is surprised by Rosie's multi-lingual assertiveness. They shift into position, as...

*

BILLIE
What was all that?

*

ROSIE

Basically, I told him he was a
piece of shit in three languages.

Rosie can't leave it at that. One more scolding:

ROSIE (CONT'D)

(in Dutch)

Je bent een imbeciel!

(winking at Billie)

Four.

The lift scoops them up, as we...

EXT. LIFT CHAIR - DAY

Billie and Rosie ride up.

ROSIE

So, how are you doing today?

BILLIE

Better. I guess? I don't know. I'm
sorry that you were there for all
of that the other night.

*

*

ROSIE

Why are you apologizing?

BILLIE

I shouldn't have involved the kids.

ROSIE

Okay. But, you have nothing to
apologize about. What he did was
fucked up.

*

BILLIE

Well, I shouldn't have attacked
him. His dad died eight months
ago...

*

*

ROSIE

Yeah, well, people die. It sucks.
It happens. But, that doesn't
excuse why he ran away like a
fucking pussy.

Billie lets that sink. Someone is validating her.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

You don't owe him anything. You
have a right to be angry.

Emotion swells up for Billie. All the shock. All the confusion. She can't hold it in anymore. Rosie lets her have the moment. Eventually, Billie collects herself.

*

BILLIE

... Thank you.

ROSIE

I'll tell you this much, if Zach ever did that to me, I'd kick him in the nuts and he'd never see me again. It's black and white.

Billie glances ahead. This part she may not agree with: "Is it black and white?"

*
*

EXT. TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN BAR/RESTAURANT - DAY

Outside at a table, Zach and Peter are drinking lagers. Pete is still feeling his head.

PETER

Do I seem okay?

ZACH

Yeah. I think.

*

PETER

Should you run through the concussion protocol things?

*
*

He points to his phone.

ZACH

Uh-uh, I think you're fine.

*

PETER

I haven't been repeating myself, have I?

*

ZACH

I don't know? Like, you asked if you seemed okay a few times?

*

A BAR WOMAN, who might be a bit tipsy, approaches. She addresses Peter over the loud music:

*
*

BAR WOMAN

Hi?

PETER

Hi.

BAR WOMAN

Hi, yeah. My friend just wanted to
say hi.

*

PETER

Oh. Oh, okay?

*

BAR WOMAN

Yeah, she thinks... She likes the
way you carry yourself.

*

PETER

Oh, well that's kind. Which
[woman]...?

*

*

He looks over to a group of YOUNG WOMEN in their twenties,
early thirties.

*

*

PETER (CONT'D)

That's nice.

BAR WOMAN

She thinks you're the best groomed
man in this bar.

*

PETER

Well, thank you.

*

She retreats.

*

ZACH

Nice!

PETER

Oh man. That's embarrassing!

(beat)

Do you wanna...? Should we send
them a drink? Or you want to [go
over]... ?

*

*

*

ZACH

Oh, um, I don't...

*

PETER

No. Sure.

(then)

I mean, it just doesn't happen to
me all the time. Not like you.
Right?

*

ZACH

Oh, well. You know!

*

PETER
Yeah. Come on.

*

ZACH
(laughing)
Well, me and Rosie... It's been
pretty steady for a while, now!

*

*

*

PETER
Oh sure. But, still. It's fun to
flirt, right?

Pete thinks about that. "Good times."

PETER (CONT'D)
Yeah. I was good at that.

The Bar Woman returns.

*

BAR WOMAN
Hi. Sorry.

PETER
Hi.

*

BAR WOMAN
It wasn't you.

PETER
... What's that?

*

BAR WOMAN
It wasn't you. She didn't like the
way you carried yourself. It was
him.

She points behind them to a GOOD-LOOKING BAR GUY.

*

PETER
Oh. Cool.

BAR WOMAN
Uh-huh. Sorry.

PETER
(trying to flirt)
So, what's your name?

BAR WOMAN
Bye.

She walks off. Peter is a bit drunk. He looks at the Good
Looking Guy.

PETER

He is. He is a catch.

(shouts over)

You're a catch my friend!

Zach takes a shot at making it better for Pete.

ZACH

I can see a resemblance...

PETER

It's okay, man. I'm not... Yeah.

All good. So much so.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

An active party scene, already. People have moved straight from the slopes into the bars.

Pete and Zach, a bit drunk, are in line for a "Club." But, as of now, they are just waiting outside an "elevator."
[NOTE: Most clubs in the village are below ground.]

PETE

This place is the Ibiza of the Alps!

ZACH

Who says that?

PETE

I say that!

Zach and Pete "high five." Eww. As they step onto the elevator, we...

INT. CLUB - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The elevator door opens and our senses are in overload with loud euro pop. It's quite a scene.

LATER - Pete is on the packed dance floor, uninhibited and quite drunk. Zach approaches with two more steins of lager.

Pete drinks down some more beer, noticing the...

GOOD-LOOKING GUY from the top of the mountain. Pete stumbles over. He smiles at him. Then, out of nowhere he makes a lunge. It's a half hug, half wrestle. The weight of Pete sends them to the floor.

The Guy gets up and actually tries to help Pete off the floor. But, Pete swats his hand away. It's hard for the Guy, or us, to understand what's going on in Pete's head. His mood and behavior is erratic and all over of the place. *

Zach shuffles Pete out of there, as...

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DUSK

The guys stumble along.

ZACH
Maybe we should get you some
coffee? Pizza?

PETER
Nope. No. I need to stay hungry.
For dinner. With my family.

ZACH
Some food might be smart...

PETER
I love my family.

ZACH
I know. *

PETER
Billie and I didn't even do it for
the longest time. Kids. But, then
we said if science says we're
parents, then we'll be parents.
That's awesome. If not, that's
okay.
(beat)
And, science made us parents. *

It's hard to tell where he stands with that.

PETER (CONT'D)
I just... You lose a parent and the
ticking gets louder. Time is...
Want to know how old you are? Look
at your kids. Every day they
change.

ZACH
Yeah. We get older.

Pete grabs for the last tangible excuse in his mind?

PETER

But, you can't forget about you. It happens. You think about yourself. That's all I did. That's all that was... I didn't mean...

Pete stops. "To run away?" Was that what he was going to say? *
Pete clams up, shaking off whatever he was thinking.

ZACH

I think coffee might be a good thing.

PETER

I know that's what I said.

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Billie and the kids are already at the table, waiting.

I/E. HOTEL CORRIDOR/SUITE - SAME TIME

Peter walks down the hotel corridor towards his room with a cup of coffee. Far from sober. At the suite door, Pete breathes. Steadies himself. He opens the door. It's empty. *

PETER

Hi? Hello? People?

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER

Billie and the Twins are now eating.

ON PETE with them at the table, showered and in his regular clothes. Pete flashes a smile at his family trying to look as sober as possible. He drops his knife. CLANK! *

He regains himself and tries to cut a crostini in two with a knife and fork. It crumbles and he tries to gather it up with his finger tips as he imagines a sober man might. He pops it into his mouth. *

PETER

Mmm! Yum.
(he looks at Billie)
Yours?

BILLIE

I'm not that hungry.

PETER

Oh, did you eat? I didn't eat. To stay hungry. So, I'm hungry.

*
*

BILLIE

Yeah I ate. We ate a little.

Peter sees an opportunity to be magnanimous, an example to Billie and the world.

*

PETER

Oh, okay. I don't mind.

*

That appears to be it for the dinner chat. Back to silence.

*

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Peter and Billie walk behind the Twins, who rush ahead with the key card. Peter has sobered up some, but his reactions are still a bit off. Billie walks ahead of him. The Twins head into the room.

*

PETER

Billie?

Billie stops outside the door.

PETER (CONT'D)

I just want to say I'm sorry.

BILLIE

You don't need to do this now.

PETER

I want to.

(exhales)

What happened is what you said happened. I ran. And, I don't know how to make sense of that. I was just afraid to... If I said it out loud, then it's true. And then, what? That's who I am? I'm this selfish, terrible person capable of...

*

Emotion starts to bubble up...

PETER (CONT'D)

Which is, I guess, what I am. A coward. But, it doesn't mean that I don't love you. And, that I don't love the kids. I don't know...

Tears come.

PETER (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. I didn't know how to
make this better for you and the
boys. Or, for me. And, I still
don't. I can't stop an avalanche,
Billie.

*

His cry grows, odd and all-encompassing. His body shakes.
Billie regards this, somewhat coolly. After a beat:

BILLIE

This is what you say four days ago.
Instead, you made me feel like an
idiot. Like it was my fault. I
didn't ask you to stop an
avalanche, Pete. I just want you to
want to survive one... with us.

*

As she heads into the room,...

*

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

*

SKI DAY 6

INT. HOTEL SUITE - THE NEXT MORNING

*

QUICK FLASHES OF THE STATE OF THE ROOM:

*

- Multiple pairs of shriveled-up gloves on the radiator.

*

- BATHROOM. Almost-dry socks draped along the shower curtain
rod.

*

*

- Piles of ski clothes. A collective heap.

*

QUICK FLASHES OF OUR FAMILY:

*

- The Twins in their ROOM, asleep.

*

- Pete in bed, on his side. His eyes, open. Lost in thought.

*

- Billie sits on the couch, drinking coffee. The drapes still
closed. She looks over at the...

*

*

Pile of ski clothes.

*

QUICK FLASHES OF BILLIE:

*

- Pulling some dry socks down from the curtain rod.

*

- Collecting some dry gloves from the radiator.

*

- Folding/stacking some of the ski clothes into piles.

QUICK FLASHES OF PETE:

- He stares at the alarm, waiting for 6:59 to become 7:00. It does. And, as if a game show buzzer, he turns it off before it even barely makes a sound.

- Pete opens the curtains. A wall of snow blankets most of the window. Clearly, there was a huge dump last night. Despite his low energy, Pete's eyes can't help but go wide. His wet dream of conditions.

INT. HOTEL SUITE, COMMON AREA - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pete emerges from the Master. The Twins [still in pajamas] are seated at the dining table. Billie brings them each a bowl of oatmeal.

PETE
... Morning.

FINN/EM
Morning.

And, a bit delayed.

BILLIE
... Morning.

PETE
Looks like we got hit with a big
dump of snow.

Pete might be regretting his choice of words and the timing. "We got hit with... snow." Billie just glances up at Pete. Not an angry glance. Not a forced smile. Just a look that seems to "study her husband."

Pete goes to grab his ski clothes, noticing that Billie folded and stacked the Twins' stuff. His stuff remains in a pile.

INT. SKI-SHOP - DAY

CLOSE ON BOOTS, slammed down on a counter.

REVEAL Billie, standing with the Ski Rental Kid. The rest of the family hang back, within earshot.

BILLIE
These are too tight. They pinch.

SKI RENTAL KID

... Huh?

BILLIE

Okay, look, maybe you can't understand me. But, the safer bet is you're pretending. These boots are too fucking tight.

SKI RENTAL KID

It's good to be tight.

The Kid looks over at Peter. Can you help me here?

*

BILLIE

He's not in my body. And, you're not in my body. These hurt. I want some that don't.

He looks at the receipt she presents.

SKI RENTAL KID

You leave today?

BILLIE

Yeah, I put up with them for longer than I should have. But, I deserve to be comfortable.

*

*

*

EXT. LIFT - DAY

The family is at the front of the line.

LIFT OPERATOR

Smart to get out early. Fresh foot of powder at the top. Blue skies. Can't get better than that.

*

*

PETE

Oh yeah, great way to end our family vacation, for sure.

*

*

*

Billie can't help but offer up "side eye" to Peter. Really? Now, he calls it a "family vacation?" The family scoots into place for their chair, as...

*

*

*

PETER

Should we hit The Beast for a final run? Cut the first tracks? Finn?

*

*

*

FINN

Yeah!

PETER

Em?

Em just shuffles along. Peter knows better than to ask, but he knows he had to. He moves on quickly to...

PETER (CONT'D)

(aside to Billie)

Sound good? The Beast?

BILLIE

(aside back)

Sure. Unless, I decide to go to Switzerland.

Peter laughs a bit. Hoping it's a joke. But, Billie does not.

PETER

... Yeah...

The chair scoops them up, and we...

EXT. LIFT - DAY

The family ascends. No one is speaking. After a beat:

EMERSON

I hate skiing.

FINN

No, he doesn't.

BILLIE

Finn,...

EMERSON

(stealing mom's line)
You're not in my body.

EMERSON

It's cold and dumb. And, you're
always wet and it hurts when you
fall and it takes forever if you
have to go to the bathroom. And,
people are stupid. They don't look
where they're going. So, you're
always scared you're going to die.
What's fun about that?

(beat)

And, I have to go to the bathroom.

Smartly, no one protests or chimes in. Billie just puts her hand on Em's knee, letting him know he has been heard.

EXT. TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

We're back where the photo was taken in the beginning. The family stands at the edge of The Beast, staring down the steep incline. FEARLESS SKIERS swish right past them.

For some reason, no one is initiating a dissent. Not even Pete. Em's words still haunting?

Suddenly, BANG! BANG! BANG! From a far distance, an avalanche is being set off. Despite the faintness, the whole family - even Pete - flinch. Finn grabs his dad. Is he holding on for comfort or is he afraid his dad will flee again?

A moment of clarity for Pete. A decision.

PETE

You know what I'm thinking I might need. Some hot cocoa. Maybe, we wait this out? Warm up? I'm not sure I'm feeling this.

The boys nod. Billie glances at Pete. A hint of smile. It's about time. They start for the lift, but...

PETE (CONT'D)

(to Billie)

You should take the run. If you want. We'll wait for you at the bottom.

Billie considers, as we...

LATER - Billie watches from the top of The Beast as Pete and the boys descend on the lift.

BILLIE'S POV of the boys, leaning onto their dad. Pete puts his arms around them to get them warm.

BACK TO SCENE, as she looks down at the slope ahead of her: The way back to her family. Then, she glances behind her: Switzerland. As she ponders, we...

EXT. BASE OF MOUNTAIN - DAY

Peter and the boys wait at the base of the run, looking out for Billie. An "avalanche" of skiers descend. But, no sign of Billie. Long beat until,...

EMERSON

(a bit worried)

... Where is she?

PETE

It's okay. Your mom's better than
all of us.

They scroll the area, but still no Billie. After another
beat,... A faint "Pete!" emanates from somewhere distant.
Peter listens intently until it's clear... "Pete! Pete!"
Billie is calling out from up high. Without hesitation, Pete
pops off his skis.

PETE (CONT'D)

Stay right here...

EMERSON/FINN

Dad.

PETE

Everything's fine. Stay right here.

Pete runs up the slope, disappearing into the crowd of
skiers. We stay with Em and Finn, waiting. Long beat plays
out. Finally,...

Through the crowd, we see Peter appear, carrying Billie in
his arms. He sets her down.

EMERSON/FINN

Are you okay?

BILLIE

I am now.

She shares a glance with Pete. An understanding of what this
was: Letting their sons see their dad as a "hero for a
moment," instead of "the coward they had witnessed." Peter
seems grateful. Then,...

BILLIE (CONT'D)

(very casual)

I should get my skis.

With that, she just walks back up. But, not before...

BILLIE (CONT'D)

(whispering to Pete)

By the way, knee deep powder. Best
run of my life. And, you're *not*
going back up there.

She flashes a smile. And, Peter smiles back. He understands.

INT. HOTEL SUITE/HALL CORRIDOR - DAY - LATER

The family is preparing to leave. All the roller suitcases are packed and stationed by the door. Pete opens the door to the room. The Twins chase one another out.

PETE

Hold up. You guys are more than capable of taking your own bags.

The Twins return, grabbing their suitcases and head back out. As Billie passes by Pete in the doorway, he stops her.

PETE (CONT'D)

I'll give you more reasons not go to Switzerland.

A promise to be there. Shared smiles. Two people committing to the story they want to be a part of. They kiss.

BILLIE

I hope you do. Because, I will kick you in the nuts.

Pete seems confused, trying to decipher her words, but goes with:

PETE

("understood")
... Sounds good to me.

With that, she heads out, as we...

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Pete, Billie and the Twins step off the elevator. The Twins run ahead.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

No, this is not truth!

Charlotte approaches.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You must stay forever!

Pete, again, tries to pinpoint Charlotte's "role."

PETE

Thank you, Charlotte, for everything you've done for us as a...

CHARLOTTE

Friend! This is of course! What the fuck good am I if I'm not that?!

Charlotte laughs and hugs them, whether they want a hug or not. "Good-byes" all around. Billie and Pete start to peel off...

PETE

(to Billie, hushed)
Well, I tried...

BILLIE

(hushed)
Yep. Still don't know who the fuck she is?

Charlotte did not hear that, but she reaches out and lightly grabs Billie's arm. Stopping her. Pete heads over to the Twins, as...

CHARLOTTE

So,... Your "lesson" good, yes?

Billie considers her answer.

BILLIE'S POV of Pete rough-housing with the Twins. A man attentive. At this moment, a dad.

BACK TO SCENE. Billie, warmed by the image.

BILLIE

(nodding)
This story works for me.

Charlotte beams, approving. As Billie walks away, Charlotte hones in on a group of YOUNG MALE SKIERS, passing by.

CHARLOTTE

My friends! I'm sorry I was not here to meet you earlier! But, you must have everything. And, you will want everything from me!

EXT. HOTEL - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The family make their way out to VALET. Nearby, Zach and Rosie are handing their backpacks over to a SHUTTLE DRIVER.

ZACH

(calling over)
Hashtag we don't want to leave!

They approach. Hugs all around.

ROSIE

Thanks for letting us crash your vacation.

BILLIE

Glad you did.

A genuine sentiment. A "thank you" to Rosie for hearing her.

ZACH

We'll see you back in the States.

PETE

What's next for you guys before that?

ZACH

Who knows...?

ROSIE

Oh my-- What is wrong with you?
(then, to Billie/Pete)
What's next is a shuttle to Zurich.
Layover in London. On standby in
Dallas. With hopes to be in LA by
midnight on Monday to be up for
work seven hours later.

ZACH

(smirks, shrugs)
Hey. Live your best life, right?

PETE

You know it.

BILLIE

Oh, yeah.

Zach and Rosie head onto the shuttle. Pete and Billie's smiles fade just a tad as, individually in their own "worlds/heads," they seem to be reflecting on that sentiment differently, now. *"Live you best lives."*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AUTO-ROUTE - DAY

LOCKED FRAME of the same winding road from the beginning, but this time our SUV is descending.

INT. SUV - DAY

Our family is in their same positions. As they round a curve,...

POV of a LARGE BUS ascending from the opposite direction. It and our SUV are on a path to intersect at the next curve.

BACK TO SCENE, as Pete and Billie glance at one another. A sly smile comes to Billie's face. Pete reciprocates. A mutual decision.

Pete lays on the gas, booking it to beat the Bus to the curve. The Twins' excitement grows as, with finesse, Pete smoothly navigates and dodges the Bus, successfully.

The whole family cheers the success!

	BILLIE	EMERSON/FINN	
Nice.		Awesome, Dad!/So cool!	

A shared thrill. We watch as, slowly, this feeling dissipates and things go "back to normal." Back to silence. And, gradually, the family returns to the tableau we met them in.

- Billie goes to her phone.

- Pete focuses on the drive.

- Finn looks out the window.

- Em goes back to his book.

BEAT.

ON PETE, glancing at Billie, on her phone (She won't notice it.) Then, he glances in the rearview at his sons in their own worlds. Then, his eyes go back to the road.

ON BILLIE, looking up from her phone. She glances at Pete, lost in the road. She studies him for a beat.

ON BILLIE/PETE as they stare out at the road ahead, lost in their own thought: *"Is this my best life?"*

As they simultaneously glance out their side windows, we...

EXT. AUTO-ROUTE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

HOLD ON the SUV as it continues down the winding road.

PAN to the back side of the same sign/billboard we passed in *
the beginning. Again, an advertisement for Ischgl Ski Resort. *
And, again, a mix up of German and English. And, the slogan: *

"Come Again! If You Can..." *

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK *