

H O L E S

BY

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Based upon the novel by

LOUIS SACHAR

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FADE IN:

EXT: TEXAS DESERT -- HELICOPTER SHOT -- SUNRISE

We glide across the VAST TEXAS DESERT... flowing into the PURPLE SKY like a conveyor belt of GOLDEN SAND PAPER.

NARRATOR

(elderly voice)

Once... when it was still early in the twenty-first century... there existed a prison in a sea of sand. All signs of life in this place had been destroyed by something terrible... and that something had dried up into the earth... and the earth was a prison for all mankind.

We approach a desolate road... stretching off into the horizon... as a LONE SCHOOLBUS drives along leaving a thundering blaze of DUST behind it.

We approach the SCHOOLBUS... where a LONE FIGURE can be seen through a dirty glass window.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

There was a young man named Stanley Kramer. He committed a crime... and he was sent out into the depths of nowhere to be punished.

INT: SCHOOLBUS -- NEXT

Sitting HANDCUFFED in the MIDDLE SECTION of the Schoolbus is STANLEY KRAMER (age 16), a handsome young man with blue eyes and blonde hair.

He looks out the window... his head almost resting against the glass.

NARRATOR

He did not feel sorry for what he had done... but feeling sorrow is not adequate punishment for such a crime. Feeling sorrow does not absolve the crime from the memory of the victims... if the victims are still breathing.

Stanley looks forward to the GUARD driving the bus... as it begins to slow down.

GUARD

(yelling over the engine)

You awake, Kramer?

STANLEY

Yes, sir.

GUARD

Welcome to Camp Green Lake.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- NEXT

The Schoolbus turns underneath an ANCIENT ARC SHAPED SIGNPOST that reads: WELCOME TO CAMP GREEN LAKE.

The sign is brand new.

The Schoolbus follows the dirt road out towards a CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS in the distance.

NARRATOR

When it was all said and done... people said that it was fate that sent him to the prison. Others said that it was mere coincidence... one of many coincidences that form the rhythm... guiding the children out into the unknown.

The Schoolbus pulls up in front of the MAIN BUILDING.

The engine cuts off with a shudder... and the guard leads Stanley out of the BUS... taking him inside.

INT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- MAIN BUILDING -- NEXT

While Stanley ^{waits} stands quietly against the wall, the GUARD signs several forms at a desk... behind which sits MISTER SIR (age 40). He has his feet up on the desk casually, chewing on SUNFLOWER SEEDS.

The guard unlocks Stanley's HANDCUFFS from his wrists and feet.

GUARD

Five hours here. Five hours back.
(sighs)
What a day.

The guard heads out the door in a huff.

Mr. Sir spits out a mouthful of sunflower seeds into the trash can, and then approaches Stanley.

MR. SIR

Stanley Kramer. My name is Mr. Sir.
(beat)
Whenever you speak to me you must call me by my name, is that clear?

STANLEY
Yes, Mister Sir.

MR. SIR
You answer to me now.

INT: MAIN BUILDING SUPPLY ROOM -- NEXT

Stanley is now dressed in a long-sleeve BLUE JUMPSUIT.

MR. SIR
You get three jumpsuits. Wash is every two weeks. Unfortunately for you... we're out of sunscreen. Supply truck doesn't come for two weeks. But by then... your skin will be nice and leathery.

Mr. Sir hands Stanley a shiny FIVE FOOT METAL SHOVEL.

MR. SIR (cont'd)
You are to dig one hole each day, except Sundays. Each hole must be exactly five feet deep, and five feet across in every direction. Your shovel is your measuring stick. Breakfast is served at 4:30.

Mr. Sir turns toward the doorway.

MR. SIR (cont'd)
No one is going to baby-sit you. The longer it takes to dig, the longer you will be out in the sun. If you dig up anything interesting... anything at all... you are to report it to me or any other counselor. When you finish, the rest of the day is yours.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- NEXT

Stanley and Mr. Sir step out of the air-conditioned building into the blazing heat. *A group of* ~~Several~~ LARGE TENTS are assembled several hundred yards to the east.

Stanley can see dozens of other prisoners milling about in their jumpsuits past the tents.

MR. SIR
Take a good look around you.
(beat)
What do you see?

Stanley gazes across the expanse of DRY EARTH.

STANLEY

Not much.

Mr. Sir feigns a laugh.

MR. SIR

You see any guard towers?

STANLEY

No.

MR. SIR

How about an electric fence?

STANLEY

No.

MR. SIR

There's no fence at all, is there?

STANLEY

No.

MR. SIR

You want to run away?

Stanley looks at him for a moment, unsure of how to respond.

MR. SIR (cont'd)

If you want to run away, go ahead, start running. I'm not going to stop you.

Mr. Sir smiles at him... revealing crooked yellow teeth.

MR. SIR (cont'd)

I see you're looking at my gun. Don't worry. I'm not going to shoot you.

(he taps his holster)

This is for yellow spotted lizards. I wouldn't waste a bullet on you.

STANLEY

I'm not going to run away.

MR. SIR

Good thinking. Nobody runs away from here. We don't need a fence. Know why? Because we've got the only water for a hundred miles. You want to run away? You'll be buzzard food in three days.

Stanley stares at him silently, showing no emotion.

MR. SIR (cont'd)

When the buzzards start gnawing at your flesh... most likely... you'll still be alive.

(leaning in)

So go ahead and run... 'cause I don't ever waste a bullet.

Stanley does not flinch.

STANLEY

Mister Sir... isn't every bullet... a wasted bullet?

Surprised at Stanley's aggressive demeanor, Mr. Sir raises his gun to Stanley's face.

MR. SIR

Not if I hit the target right between the eyes.

STANLEY

But isn't that an even greater waste?

(beat)

The waste of a living thing I mean.

Mr. Sir does not follow.

STANLEY (cont'd)

I think that it is a far greater waste... when a bullet tears through flesh... destroying what God has built.

(beat)

Cutting life short.

Mister Sir's smile disappears.

STANLEY (cont'd)

If anything... when a bullet misses its target... well... I consider that to be a miracle from God.

Mr. Sir appraises Stanley for a long moment. He then takes out his CANTEEN and takes a long, sloppy drink in front of Stanley in the searing heat of the midday sun.

MR. SIR

You thirsty, Stanley?

STANLEY

Yes, Mister Sir.

Mr. Sir screws the cap on the canteen. ~~and then~~ ~~walks away~~

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- HELICOPTER SHOT -- NEXT

We see FROM AN AERIAL VIEW the entire expanse of TENTS lined up on the edge of the camp.

NARRATOR

There were six tents at Camp Green Lake. Letters A through F. The first five tents were for the campers... assigned by age group. The counselors slept in TENT F. Stanley was assigned to ~~the~~ TENT D. Pendanski was his counselor.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- TENT D -- NEXT

Stanley stands with his shovel across from PENDANSKI (age 35). He is a tall, more white collar-looking man than Mr. Sir.

PENDANSKI

My name is really easy to remember. Three easy words: pen, dance, key.

STANLEY

Or two words: PENANCE and DYKE.
(beat)
If you re-arrange the letters a little.

Pendanski smirks at this.

Mr. Sir drives by in a RED DODGE PICKUP TRUCK with a specially mounted REAR CAB holding several campers. He glares at Stanley.

PENDANSKI

Don't mind him. He's just been in a bad mood ever since he quit smoking. The person you really have to worry about is the Warden. There's really only one rule at Camp Green Lake: Don't upset the Warden.

Stanley and Pendanski walk out toward the vast lakebed. Stanley can see dozens of other CAMPERS out digging.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

I want you to know, Stanley, that I respect you. I understand you've made some bad mistakes in your life. Otherwise you wouldn't be here. But everyone makes mistakes. You may have done some bad things, but that doesn't mean you're a bad kid.

They come to a stop in an area closer to the other Campers already digging.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

I'm going to help you turn your life around, Stanley. But you're going to have to help. Can I count on your help?

STANLEY

Yes, sir.

PENDANSKI

Good. Now this is a good place to start. You know the rules.

(beat)

Do you like to dig, Stanley?

Stanley looks at him silently for a moment.

STANLEY

Sure.

PENDANSKI

Digging a hole is a healthy... therapeutic exercise.

(beat)

Do you know what THERAPEUTIC means, Stanley?

STANLEY

Sure.

PENDANSKI

What do you think it means?

STANLEY

I guess you could say it's like therapy... that makes you want to puke.

(beat)

That's what therapeutic means to me.

Pendanski is once again taken aback by Stanley. He almost smiles at this.

PENDANSKI

Okay then. Let's get started.

Pendanski begins to walk away.

STANLEY

Pendanski?

He turns around in his tracks.

PENDANSKI

Yes, Stanley?

STANLEY

You don't have to be nice to me just because all of the other counselors are assholes.

(beat)

There's nothing you can do to help me. There's nothing you can say that will make me believe that I am going to enjoy this experience.

(beat)

I know that the next eighteen months are going to be hell. Probably the worst year and a half of my life.

Pendanski nods his head slowly.

STANLEY (cont'd)

So I only want you to be nice to me if you're in a good mood. If you're in a bad mood... feel free to act like an asshole. Because there's nothing more depressing than someone who's only pretending to be your friend.

Pendanski's smile slowly returns.

PENDANSKI

Here's some advice from a friend, Stanley.

(beat)

Shut your mouth and start digging.

And then he is gone.

And Stanley turns his eyes toward the cracked and scorched ground beneath his feet.

He then takes his SHOVEL... and tries to jam it into the ground. The cracked sand is so hard that the shovel merely bounces off.

Stanley tries again... but the shovel won't budge. By the third try... he makes it through.

MONTAGE

Stanley marks the FIVE FOOT SQUARE OUTLINE... begins to dig in the center until the hole is about 35% finished.

He stops to take a break... and notices another YOUNG MAN approaching him. It is X-RAY (age 15).

X-RAY
Hey.

STANLEY
Hey.

X-RAY
What's your name?

STANLEY
Stanley.

X-RAY
Call me X-Ray.
(beat)

I've got X-Ray vision... you see. I
can see through space and time.

STANLEY
(long beat)
Wow.

X-RAY
Don't worry... give you a couple a
weeks... you'll have a stupid nickname
too.
(beat)
You know... you're doing it all wrong.
You gotta start your dirt pile further
out. Remember... it's all about
compression.

STANLEY
Compression?

X-RAY
The dirt. You see it's all compressed.
But when you dig it up... it gets all
loose... takes up three times more
space.
(pointing over to another
digger)
You see?

We see further down... a young man named ZERO (age 16).
He is almost finished with his hole... and his pile is
VERY LARGE.

X-RAY (cont'd)
That's Zero. He don't talk much... but
that boy can dig like a sumbitch. He
can dig faster than anybody at Camp
Green Lake.

STANLEY
How long's he been here?

X-RAY

About a year. People say he dug the very first hole. Right after the war ended.

(beat)

He don't talk about it... and nobody knows for sure... but people say he killed someone.

Stanley stares over at Zero silently. They make eye contact... and Stanley turns away.

X-RAY (cont'd)

So... what'd you do? You steal somethin'?

STANLEY

(beat)

I don't want to talk about it.

X-RAY

I understand. You probably did somethin' stupid to get here just like me.

They are silent for a moment.

X-RAY (cont'd)

Well... aren't you gonna ask me what I did?

STANLEY

What'd you do?

X-RAY

Me and my friend Darryl... we stole a Slurpee machine from 7-11. Then we threw it off the roof of our school.

STANLEY

Roof testing stuff is cool... but why a Slurpee machine?

X-RAY

Cuz when it smashes... all the Slurpee splatter like a sumbitch. It looked badass. But this lunchlady saw us do it. Stupid bitch.

STANLEY

That sucks.

X-RAY

Yeah... but I think it was worth it.

(beat)

X-RAY (cont'd)
Well I gotta get back to diggin'...
before the Warden comes by.

STANLEY
The Warden?

X-RAY
Yeah. You'll know when you see him.
(serious beat)
Whatever you do... don't ever let the
Warden see you slackin' off. Ever.

STANLEY
Thanks for the warning.

And then X-Ray is gone.

Stanley begins to dig once again. Suddenly... a voice
calls out from behind.

VOICE
Hey! Rookie!

THEO (age 16) approaches.

THEO
You get sunscreen?

STANLEY
Naw. They were all out.

Theo pulls out a bottle of sunscreen... and throws it to
Stanley.

THEO
This is only eighty six. Try to get
some one-sixty when the next supply
truck comes. Barely any ozone in this
sector since the war. You'll still get
a little burned...

STANLEY
But at least no Cancer.

THEO
Right. My name's Theo.

STANLEY
Stanley.

THEO
Did they give you three uniforms?

STANLEY
Yeah.

THEO

Don't alternate suits each day... thinking they'll stay cleaner. The sweat and dirt will cause a rash eventually. Everyone tries it and regrets it. Don't make the same mistake.

STANLEY

Five days per suit then?

THEO

Right.

(beat)

So... what did you do?

STANLEY

(long beat)

I... I'd rather not talk about it.

THEO

Sure, I understand.

Theo then rolls up his sleeves... holding out his wrists. There are deep scars on both of them.

THEO (cont'd)

I tried to kill myself. So they sent me here.

(beat)

And here... I found God.

(beat)

God taught me to love myself again. And now I look forward to each day. I look forward to the digging. It helps me focus. It makes me stronger.

(beat)

The Warden taught me this.

STANLEY

When do I meet the Warden?

THEO

(smiles)

Soon enough. No one meets the Warden on their first day.

STANLEY

Is the first day the hardest, Theo?

THEO

No. People say that the second day is the hardest.

STANLEY

Why the second day?

THEO
Because that's when you meet the
Warden.

Stanley is silent for a moment... nodding his head.

THEO (cont'd)
Good luck, Stanley.

Theo runs off toward his hole in a military-like trot.

Stanley then applies some SUNSCREEN... and begins to dig
once again.

MONTAGE

Stanley has now dug out almost 75% of his HOLE. He
stops... looking down at his hands. They have begun to
BLISTER.

Suddenly... another voice can be heard from behind him.

VOICE
Hey... you smoke, rookie boy?

STANLEY
(turning around)
Naw. I don't smoke.

ALAN (age 17) approaches. He puts a cigarette in his
mouth and lights it.

ALAN
Give yourself a week. You'll be
smokin'. Just don't let the warden see
you. And bury your butts in the dirt.
(motioning toward Theo)
Theo give you some sunblock?

STANLEY
Yeah.

ALAN
(laughing)
Good 'ol Theo. That boy actually likes
this shithole. You believe that?

STANLEY
I don't... know too much about this
place yet.
(beat)
But... I can't imagine that there
would be much to like about it.

ALAN
You talk like you're from the suburbs.
You from Dallas?

STANLEY
What's left of it.

ALAN
Tell me about it. So what'd you do?

STANLEY
(hesitates)
I...

ALAN
You don't wanna say.
(beat)
That's cool. You ever see one of them
high speed chases on TV?

STANLEY
Sure. All the time. They videotape
most everything these days.

ALAN
Yeah... well that's how I got caught.
I had a girlfriend... this big titty
slut from Abilene. She made PCP
brownies and we went joyridin' in my
Camaro... ran it through the front of
a Jack in the Box.

STANLEY
(long sad beat)
My sister got food poisoning from Jack
in the Box.

ALAN
Yeah? I used to work there.

STANLEY
Figures.

Alan laughs out loud.

ALAN
You're alright, Stanley.
(turning back to his hole)
Hey... whatever you do... don't ever
use no foul language in front of the
Warden. Not even DAMN... and never
HELL. You understand?

STANLEY
Damn straight.

ALAN
 (smiling)
 See you in hell, Stanley!

And then Alan is gone.

Stanley then turns around and tries to finish his hole.

He looks over and sees that ZERO has now completed his hole... and is sitting INDIAN STYLE on the ground next to it, staring out at the LATE AFTERNOON HORIZON.

MONTAGE

The sun is going down in a wake of PURPLE SKY.

Stanley finishes his hole... just as the SUN IS BEGINNING TO SET. He takes his SHOVEL and places it against the vertical wall of the hole... measuring out FIVE FEET.

From above... the RUMBLING of an ENGINE can be heard.

Stanley awkwardly climbs out of his hole... trying to get his footing on the walls. He eventually climbs out... covered in sweat and dirt... his hands blistered. He looks EXHAUSTED.

It is a DODGE PICKUP TRUCK... and Mr. Sir is driving. In the back of the cab are several campers... including X-Ray... Theo and Alan.

Mr. Sir turns off the engine and steps out of the cab.

MR. SIR
 You finished yet, Stanley?

STANLEY
 Yes, sir.

MR. SIR
 You sure?

STANLEY
 Yes, sir.

Mr. Sir is carrying a DIGITAL CLIPBOARD. It is dusty and battered... but still functional. On the DIGITAL CLIPBOARD, Mr. Sir touches a PLASTIC PENCIL to the screen.

The CLIPBOARD SCREEN shows an OVERHEAD MAP of CAMP GREEN LAKE. Mr. Sir touches the pencil to the screen... zooming in on an area SOUTHWEST of the main camp. On the COORDINATE MAP there are several dozen SQUARES marking other holes that have been completed... with the DATE, DIGGER, and GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES.

MR. SIR
Stanley Kramer. Your registration code
is S.O.L.

In free-hand, Mr. Sir draws out S.O.L. and the scribbles
are translated into TEXT... with Stanley's INFORMATION
and PHOTOGRAPH on the SCREEN.

MR. SIR (cont'd)
Mark your hole, Stanley.

STANLEY
Excuse me?

MR. SIR
I said mark your hole. If you
acknowledge completion of your hole...
you scratch your registration code in
the dirt next to it. And then #1.

Stanley then scratches into the dirt next to his hole:

SOL 1

Mr. Sir then approaches quickly.

MR. SIR (cont'd)
Give me your shovel.

Stanley hands him his shovel.

Mr. Sir takes it and then hops down into Stanley's hole
with the precision of a man who has done this many times.

He then takes the shovel... holding it vertically and
begins to examine the walls of Stanley's hole.

Stanley looks at Mr. Sir nervously, and then gazes over
at the others... staring at him from the back of the cab.
They are mostly silent... but a few people have DEVIOUS
SMIRKS on their faces.

Mr. Sir then places the SHOVEL on one part of the wall...
and the HANDLE to the shovel BARELY RISES ABOVE the edge
of the hole.

MR. SIR (cont'd)
This isn't five feet.

Mr. Sir then climbs out of the hole... handing Stanley
back his shovel.

MR. SIR (cont'd)
This hole is not finished.
(beat)
Start over.

Stanley stares at the hole... unsure of what to do.

STANLEY

Sir... you want me to start... over?

MR. SIR

Yes. This incomplete hole is already marked. Start digging another one now.

(pointing west)

Over there.

Mr. Sir then walks back to the truck.

MR. SIR (cont'd)

I'd get started quick.

(beat)

It will be dark soon.

Then Mr. Sir starts the engine and drives off... as the others STARE BACK AT HIM FROM THE CAB.

Stanley is left alone... standing next to his INCOMPLETE HOLE. He looks up at the DARKENED PURPLE SKY.

He looks down at his BLISTERED HANDS... and then picks up his shovel... walking several yards west... and begins to dig once again.

MONTAGE

As the sun goes down... Stanley digs alone.

For the first time we pull back from above Stanley... into a HELICOPTER SHOT AT SUNSET... revealing HUNDREDS OF HOLES THAT COVER THE DESERT FLOOR around the camp.

For the first time we see the ASTONISHING VOLUME OF WORK that has transpired to create this SURREAL LANDSCAPE.

The helicopter shot moves over the CAMP BUILDINGS as the WORLD HAS GROWN COMPLETELY DARK.

We move in toward TENT D.

INT: TENT D -- NEXT

We see inside the LARGE TENT that there are TWO ROWS OF BEDS... with A DOZEN SLEEPING YOUNG MEN on either side.

~~Mr.~~ Pendanski lets Stanley into the tent.

PENDANSKI

(wiping sleep from his eyes)

I suggest you get to sleep as fast as you can Stanley... the sun comes up in about two hours.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
 (pointing)
 That's your bunk... down at the end.

Stanley hobbles his weary body down toward the bunk...
 hearing the snores of the other prisoners.

He falls to the bed... asleep within seconds.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT: TENT D -- EARLY THE NEXT MORNING

A HARSH WHISTLE SOUND breaks through the silence.

STANLEY jolts awake.

Mr. Sir and Pendanski are walking through the tent...
 blowing their whistles.

Stanley looks over and sees that ZERO has the bunk to his
 left. THEO has the bunk to his right. They are quickly
 putting on their JUMPSUITS.

THEO
 I'd hurry, Stanley. A lot of times the
 breakfast runs out quick.

INT: MESS HALL -- NEXT

All NINETY-SIX campers are packed into the mess hall.
 There is only a small amount of groggy, early morning
 conversation.

INT: MESS HALL SERVING LINE -- NEXT

Stanley is in line with X-Ray, Theo, and Zero.

DEREK, one of the two COOKS at Camp Green Lake, is
 standing behind the counter.

X-RAY
 Hey, Derek... what is this horseshit?

DEREK
 You don't wanna know, kid. Just eat it
 and hope it don't give you Cancer.

X-RAY
 Would you eat this shit, Derek?

DEREK
 Not a chance.

THEO
 What do you eat, Derek?

DEREK

Pussy.

X-RAY

Derek, we both know there ain't no pussy on Camp Green Lake.

DEREK

Sure there is. I'm lookin' at one right now.

GROUP

Aaaaaaaaawww!

The group continues to taunt X-Ray.

INT: MESS HALL -- NEXT

Stanley is sitting with X-Ray, Theo, Alan, and Zero at a table... scarfing down WRETCHED FOOD. They are joined by DARRYL (age 16) and ANTHONY (black, age 17)

ALAN

So Stanley... how was it last night?
You have to dig two holes?

Alan shifts his eyes to the others with a knowing look.

STANLEY

Yeah. I coulda sworn I measured it right... but then...

X-RAY

Don't worry. You measured right.

DARRYL

It's a trick, Stanley. They always make you dig two holes on the first night.

ANTHONY

They might even do it again later on... just to keep you from ever slackin' off.

THEO

It makes the rest of the days easier, Stanley. Now when you finish each day you'll only be using half of your energy. One... is a piece of cake.

Stanley thinks for a moment.

STANLEY

What... are we digging for?

The whole table is silent. Anthony and X-Ray look down at their food. Alan eyes Theo. Zero almost smiles.

THEO

We're not supposed to talk about that, Stanley.

(beat)

The Warden forbids that. Just keep digging... and then you will discover the truth buried inside of you.

The table is quiet for a moment. Alan pulls out a MAGIC MARKER and writes something on a NAPKIN... passing it over to Stanley.

Stanley looks down... reading what he has written:

BE CAREFUL. THEY ARE WATCHING AND LISTENING.

Stanley looks back at the others... once again unsure what to think of things at Camp Green Lake.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE COURTYARD -- NEXT

All ninety-six CAMPERS are now assembled in a GIGANTIC CIRCLE FORMATION.

They all hold their SHOVELS... and their matching jumpsuits build a circular WALL OF ORANGE.

In the center of the circle is A FLAG POLE... which carries an AMERICAN FLAG at HALF MAST.

All SIX COUNSELORS, including Pendanski and Mr. Sir, are assembled in the center of the circle... in a line formation.

At the base of the FLAG POLE is a HUMAN BODY.

The BODY is wrapped neatly in a WHITE SHEET... and is placed with its head next to the base of the flag pole.

Suddenly, several of the campers in the circle across from Stanley move aside... as the WARDEN steps through.

The WARDEN (age 52) is an TALL and IMPOSING MAN with a SHORT, MILITARY CREW CUT.

WARDEN

As you know... Camp Green Lake has recently lost one of its Campers.

(beat)

Twelve days ago... Jonathan Gaines disappeared off the Southwest Sector after sunset... and has not been seen since then.

WARDEN (cont'd)

(beat)

Yesterday afternoon... his body was discovered by one of the counselors... thirty-two miles from here.

The campers are all silent. A few whispers can be heard.

WARDEN

Let this be a reminder... to anyone who chooses to run.

(beat)

Running... will get you nowhere.

(beat)

And if you don't believe me... ask Jonathan Gaines!

The camp is silent.

WARDEN

Ask him if it was worth the risk. Ask him if it was worth... never seeing his family again. Ask him if it was worth the pain and suffering that his mother will feel for the rest of her life.

The camp is silent.

WARDEN (cont'd)

Jonathan Gaines. SAY HIS NAME!

CAMPERS

(in perfect unison)

JONATHAN GAINES!

The camp is silent.

WARDEN

Jonathan Gaines will never know the glorious victory of a long and moral life.

(beat)

Jonathan Gaines committed suicide.

(beat)

In God's eyes... there is no greater or more cowardly sin... than suicide.

(beat)

Suicide is the medicine of cowards... and there is no reward for suicide in God's kingdom.

The camp is silent.

WARDEN (cont'd)

Jonathan Gaines will never know the glory of God's kingdom.

Stanley stares across the circle at Jonathan Gaines' body... and then moves his eyes up toward the Warden.

For a moment... Stanley is almost certain that the Warden is staring back at him.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- NEXT

Stanley is almost 50% finished with his hole. He looks over and sees that ZERO is standing next to him.

ZERO

You're... sleeping in his bunk.

Stanley looks confused... and somewhat intimidated by Zero.

STANLEY

Who?

ZERO

Jonathan Gaines. You filled the space that he left open.

STANLEY

(long beat)
Did you know him?

ZERO

Not really. He didn't talk much.
Seemed kinda sad.

STANLEY

Sounds like... the two of you had a lot in common.

Zero smiles.

ZERO

The way I figure it... why talk unless you've got somethin' important to say?

Stanley smiles at this.

ZERO (cont'd)

Most people I know who talk all the time... always tryin' to be the center of attention... tryin' to prove to everyone how tough, funny, or smart they are... they got the most to hide.

STANLEY

(beat)

I guess everybody's got something to hide.

Zero looks down at the cracked Earth.

ZERO
Did they tell you that I killed
somebody?

Stanley looks at Zero long and hard.

ZERO (cont'd)
Yeah. They said that.

Zero looks for a moment as if he is about to say something... but then he simply turns and heads back to his hole.

Stanley watches him walk off... knowing somehow that this will be the first of many conversations with Zero.

MONTAGE

Stanley is now 95% finished with his hole... when suddenly... his shovel HITS SOMETHING.

He reaches his hand down into the loose soil and feels a HARD WHITE OBJECT. He digs down further... and sees that the white object is elongated.

He eventually gets it loose... and we see that it is a BONE.

Stanley examines the bone closely.

[SOUNDTRACK: We hear the screams of children... echoing into the hum of a truck's engine].

Stanley hears someone approaching from above.

Stanley takes the bone and puts it into the pocket of his jumpsuit. He then climbs up from his hole... with more coordination than before.

He steps out of his hole and sees that it is Pendanski... driving the WATER TRUCK.

PENDANSKI
Need a refill, Stanley?

Stanley hobbles quickly over to the truck with his CANTEEN. Pendanski takes it, and turns the nozzle on the TANK... water flowing into the canteen.

He hands it back to Stanley, who takes a long, desperate swig.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
Easy now, that has to last you until tomorrow. We ration out the water here, Stanley.

STANLEY
(lowering the canteen from his mouth)
Yes, sir.

PENDANSKI
Let me see your hands.

Stanley holds them up, revealing his BLOODY and BLISTERED palms.

Pendanski cringes at the sight of them.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
I guess I've seen worse... but let me tape them up anyway.

CUT TO:

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- MOMENTS LATER

Stanley now has several layers of TAPE on his hands.

STANLEY
Thanks, Mom.

Pendanski gives Stanley a look that is almost angry.

STANLEY
Pendanski, why the hell would you want this job? Don't you have a wife or kids to tend to?

Pendanski puts his FIRST AID KIT in the truck.

PENDANSKI
My wife was killed, Stanley.

STANLEY
In the blast.

PENDANSKI
(long beat)
Yes. In the blast.

STANLEY
So... why aren't you out trying to find a new wife? Why didn't you move far away... like most everyone else did?

PENDANSKI

(beat)

Why don't you keep digging... and stop asking so many questions.

STANLEY

Sorry.

Stanley turns back to the hole. Pendanski gets back into the water truck.

Stanley then stops... and pulls out the BONE from his pocket.

STANLEY (cont'd)

Pendanski?

PENDANSKI

What now?

STANLEY

(holding out the bone)

I found this... buried.

Pendanski gets out of the truck... taking the bone from Stanley, examining it closely.

PENDANSKI

Looks like a radius... or ulna.

Pendanski takes a deep breath.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

Is this the only one that you found?
Did you dig around it?

STANLEY

There could be more. I didn't have time to check. This just happened.

Pendanski takes a deep breath... contemplating what to do.

PENDANSKI

Next time you find a bone, or anything... tell me immediately.

(beat)

Now we have to do an excavation.

Pendanski turns toward some of the other diggers... who are now FILLING THE CANTEENS from the water truck.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

Excavation team! Four men!

Upon hearing these words... several campers... including Alan, X-Ray and Theo, SPRINT OVER WITH EAGER ANTICIPATION.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
 Alright! You three!
 (beat)
 We've got another body.
 (turning to Stanley)
 Looks like you lucked out, Stanley.
 You get the day off tomorrow.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- MOMENTS LATER

Stanley, Theo, Zero, Alan and X-Ray are all digging around the edge of Stanley's hole. There is a WHITE BLANKET laid out on the desert floor off to the side.

On the blanket they have placed the ULNA and the bones to the RIGHT HAND in their place at the end of the ARM BONE.

X-RAY
 Damn you, Stanley! Second day and you already found a body! Lucky-ass bitch. Why can't I get a break?

ALAN
 Shit... I been here a year and still never found a goddamn body.

THEO
 I found one once.
 (beat)
 It was a little baby.

They dig silently for a moment.

Pendanski paces around by his truck impatiently. There is a WALKIE TALKIE in his hand.

PENDANSKI
 (into walkie talkie)
 Yes sir. Just an arm so far. Looks like there's lots more. Buried pretty far down.

They have now unearthed the entire RIGHT HALF of a HUMAN SKELETON.

X-RAY
 I always wanted to be an archeographer.

ALAN
 Archeologist, dumbass.

X-RAY

Same difference.

(to Stanley)

Stanley, listen man... I been here almost a year... and I never found nothin'. You're gettin' the day off tomorrow... and you just got here.

ALAN

Oh... here we go. Don't fall for this, Stanley.

STANLEY

It's not my fault that I have good luck.

THEO

Luck is God's fault.

X-RAY

Listen... all I'm sayin' is if you find somethin' else any time soon... give it to me and let me turn it in so I can get my day off.

ALAN

Don't give him shit, Stanley. He don't deserve it.

X-RAY

(to Alan)

Shut up, but nugget! I dig harder than anybody here!

THEO

Not harder than Zero. No one digs harder than Zero.

Stanley thinks for a moment... looking down at the emerging skeleton.

STANLEY

Alright. You got a deal.

The others are surprised at Stanley's generosity.

ALAN

(outraged)

You gotta be kiddin' me. Stanley you're a goddamn fool.

CUT TO:

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- MOMENTS LATER

The ENTIRE SKELETON is laid out on the blanket. There are crusts of dirt and rock still attached to it... but they have done a fairly decent job of placing all of the bones in the right places.

It stares back at them ominously.

STANLEY

I wonder what she was doing when it happened.

X-RAY

How do you know it was a she?

STANLEY

The height. Hips and shoulders.

ALAN

He's right. Definitely a woman. Maybe five foot three.

Theo approaches from the hole... carrying a tattered and dirt-covered piece of CLOTHING.

THEO

Found some clothing!

Pendanski approaches from the truck.

PENDANSKI

All finished here?

STANLEY

Looks like it.

Theo examines the tattered rags... and sees that there is a LABEL on them.

He smears mud off of the SEWN LABEL and sees that there is a NAME SEWN IN CURSIVE:

Diane

THEO

Her name was... Diane.
(beat)

Looks like she was a waitress... at Bob's Big Boy... or somethin'.

Pendanski suddenly looks up from his DIGITAL CLIPBOARD for a moment... his eyes WHITE WITH FEAR.

PENDANSKI
What did you just say?

Pendanski approaches Theo quickly.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
Let me see that!

Pendanski examines the label closely. Over by the SKELETON, Stanley is now examining the RIGHT HAND.

He scrapes a hardened chunk of crusted dirt off of the left RING FINGER BONE... revealing a DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING.

STANLEY
There's a diamond ring on her finger.

Stanley carefully removes the ring from around the bone... examining it.

Pendanski approaches Stanley with nervous anticipation.

PENDANSKI
Let... let me see it.

Stanley does not hear him.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
Give me the goddamn ring, Stanley!

Stanley gives Pendanski the ring... and he begins to examine it closely... his face still white.

With his thumb he wipes away dirt from the interior of the band... where there is an INSCRIPTION.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
My God...

Pendanski falls to his knees.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
My Diane... oh dear God... it is my Diane.

Pendanski looks over at Stanley... who looks almost afraid to move.

And then Pendanski begins to cry.

INT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- SUNSET

We pull back from this scene into another HELICOPTER SHOT... gliding ominously over the SEA OF HOLES.

NARRATOR

We used to say that coincidences were God's way of reminding you that he was still around. That he was watching... every moment... of every day.

(beat)

That was when I came to be certain that he was watching Stanley.

INT: TENT E -- SUNSET

Pendanski is curled up on his cot... his face a mask of detached sorrow as he holds his dead wife's engagement ring up into the light.

NARRATOR

Pendanski told us to take the bones to the incinerator. And that was all we heard from him for quite some time.

(beat)

Part of me thinks that sometimes... if the timing is right, coincidences can scare people half to death.

INT: INCINERATOR ROOM -- NEXT

We move across DOZENS OF HUMAN SKULLS stacked neatly on metal shelves along the edge of the storage room.

We then see Stanley and the others standing in front of the large incinerator... the woman's SKELETON laid out on the blanket on the cement floor in front of them.

They all stare down at Diane's remains... unsure of what to say.

ALAN

Should we say something?

X-RAY

It's a little late for that. It's been six years.

THEO

No... he's right. We should say something.

Stanley leans down and picks up Diane's SKULL from the blanket. He stares at it closely.

THEO (cont'd)

May the lord grant you eternal peace
in the kingdom of Heaven.

X-RAY

That don't make no sense. If she's in
Heaven, she already been there for
over a year. And if she ain't in
heaven there sure as hell ain't
nothin' that we can do for her now.

ALAN

He's right. Her fate's already been
decided.

(picking up her bones)

We're just cleaning up the remains. In
the end... that's all the living can
do for the dead.

(beat)

Clean up the remains... and hope one
day that you might run into them on
the other side.

They begin to toss her bones into the incinerator.

Stanley still stares at the SKULL. He rubs his thumb
across Diane's right cheek bone. There is a hint of
sadness behind his eyes.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

INT: BOB'S BIG BOY -- EVENING

We see DIANE as a YOUNG WOMAN... standing against the
wall of the BASEMENT ENTRANCE BREAK ROOM... SMOKING A
CIGARETTE as other WAITERS and BUS BOYS scurry around
behind her in the kitchen.

After taking a drag... she looks out toward nothing in
particular... as if pre-occupied by something.

Suddenly... a BLAST OF WHITE ENVELOPS HER.

CUT TO:

INT: INCINERATOR ROOM -- NEXT

Stanley JOLTS out of his DAYDREAM... and he is still
holding her skull... while the others pile the last of
her remains into the incinerator.

He then carefully places her skull onto the metal shelf
at the end of a long line of them... their empty sockets
staring back at him.

INT: TENT D -- NEXT

Stanley, freshly showered, approaches his cot... seeing that on the wall above it there is still a tag that reads: GAINES.

On the bunk next to Stanley's... Zero is laying on his back.

ZERO
No one here get's out alive...

STANLEY
(turning around)
What did you say?

ZERO
Nothing. I was... just singing... Jim Morrison? *The Doors*?

STANLEY
Oh, yeah.

ZERO
We'll get out of here alright, Stanley. As long as we play by the rules... dig between the lines.

Stanley pulls JONATHAN GAINES' ID TAG off of the wall.

STANLEY
Why did he run?

ZERO
I don't know for sure. But I've got my opinion.

STANLEY
And what's your opinion?

ZERO
He was a week away from turning eighteen. He got denied parole... due to serve a life sentence in real jail. Adult jail.

STANLEY
Saw his shot at an escape... and he took it?

ZERO
That's what most runners are thinking. After putting up with this place for so long, they can't even imagine what it must be like to live inside a jail with bars.

STANLEY
 Maybe this place isn't so bad after
 all.

ZERO
 The best part about it is the
 repetition.

STANLEY
 Repetition?

ZERO
 Yep. Digging a hole every day. The
 repetition of it... makes time move
 faster in your head. But if you were
 to do something different each day...
 your mind would be constantly
 distracted by new ideas. And that's
 when time moves the slowest. When days
 start to feel like weeks.

STANLEY
 I feel like I've been here two weeks
 already... but it's only been two
 days.

ZERO
 (rolling over)
 You just wait, Stanley.
 (beat)
 You just wait.

Stanley then lays there for a moment... closing his eyes.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

EXT: SWIMMING POOL -- UNDERWATER

[SOUNDTRACK: We hear the SCREAMS OF CHILDREN splashing
 and frolicking in the pool].

A LITTLE GIRL (age 7) swims toward the camera... smiling
 ear to ear.

The POV CAMERA then rises to the surface.

CUT TO:

INT: TENT D -- NEXT

Stanley opens his eyes once again... rolling over to his
 right... where THEO is writing in his DIARY.

He looks down at the METAL RAIL of Theo's cot... and sees
 that someone has scratched something into it:

BURY THE PAST.

Stanley slowly closes his eyes... as the words DARE HIM TO FORGET...

EXT: TEXAS SUBURBS -- DAY

[SOUNDTRACK: dream-like screaming children...]

We crane down to the BACKYARD of a midsize RANCH HOUSE on a middle class suburban street.

There is a SWIMMING POOL... and there is a POOL PARTY in full swing.

Dozens of KIDS are CHICKEN FIGHTING in the pool... water splashing everywhere. Adjacent to the pool, in the YARD... there is a SLIP N' SLIDE going.

We STEADICAM through the crowd of children... teenagers and parents... following YOUNGER STANLEY (age 15) as he runs along the edge of the pool with a HUGE SUPER-SOAKER WATER GUN.

KID'S VOICE

Hey Stanley... over there!

Stanley then heads over toward the GRASS SECTION of the yard where the Slip N' Slide is set up adjacent to the BACK PATIO.

A LARGE BANNER hangs on the back of the house.

It reads: HAPPY BIRTHDAY REBECCA!

Stanley turns toward the house... where his SISTER REBECCA (age 8) is standing in a line of other LITTLE GIRLS. They are all wrapped in TOWELS... and are POSING FOR A PHOTOGRAPH.

Stanley's FATHER... JOE KRAMER (age 38) is standing across from the girls with a CAMERA.

JOE

All right girls... on three. One... two... three.

Just before Stanley's father can snap the photograph... Stanley launches the Super-Soaker... sending a GIANT STREAM OF WATER in the girls' direction.

As they get hit with the water... they all FLEE SCREAMING.

Stanley's MOTHER... SUE KRAMER (age 35) comes out of the house.

SUE
Stanley! Get inside... now!

Stanley's father then grabs the Super-Soaker from Stanley and hands it to REBECCA... who is angrily waiting to exact her revenge.

JOE
Fire away, sweetheart.

REBECCA
(aiming the pistol)
You're such a jerk!

She then sprays him with water... but he quickly runs toward the house.

STANLEY
Too slow!

INT: KRAMER HOUSE KITCHEN -- NEXT

Stanley bounds inside through the sliding glass door where his mother is placing the candles on Rebecca's BIRTHDAY CAKE.

SUE
I want you to carry your sister's cake outside and lead the singing.

STANLEY
Aww... Mom! Why me!?

SUE
Because I asked you to. And because it will mean a lot to her.

STANLEY
I'm not doin' it.

SUE
Then you're not getting any cake.
(beat)
And Jimmy and Randy can't sleep over tonight.

She raises her eyebrows... knowing that she has him on the ropes.

STANLEY
That's blackmail. You can't do that.

SUE
(exasperated)
Oh... I can't? Watch me!

Sue then holds out the birthday cake... and Stanley reluctantly takes it from her.

He gives his mother a SNEER... and then moves outside with it.

EXT: KRAMER HOUSE BACKYARD -- NEXT

Stanley comes onto the back deck carrying the cake with its 8 LIT CANDLES.

STANLEY
(loud and obnoxious)
Happy Birthday to you...

The rest of the crowd begins to join in singing. Rebecca smiles.

STANLEY (cont'd)
Happy Birthday dear Rebecca...

He places the cake on the PICNIC TABLE in front of her.

STANLEY (cont'd)
Happy Birthday to you.

Everyone claps as Rebecca approaches the cake... wrapped in her towel... smiling ear to ear.

STANLEY (cont'd)
Happy Birthday, stupidhead. Don't forget to make a wish.

Rebecca then sticks her tongue out at Stanley. And leans down to blow out her candles.

[NOTE: Just as Rebecca leans down toward the cake... we go into SLOW MOTION as she extinguishes her candles].

EXT: SWIMMING POOL -- LATER

[NOTE: The following sequence is also in SLOW MOTION].

We see Stanley and several other CHILDREN ambush the swimming pool.

We follow Stanley as he runs around the edge toward the DIVING BOARD.

He runs to the end... bouncing off the edge... UP INTO THE AIR.

Just as Stanley has reached his PEAK HEIGHT... THE SKY EXPLODES WITH WHITE LIGHT.

INT: UNDERWATER -- NEXT

We follow Stanley as he plunges into the BLUE WATER... seeing the FLAILING ARMS AND LEGS of the other children... as the water suddenly has taken on A SURREAL WHITE GLOW... slowly fading back to normal.

EXT: SWIMMING POOL -- NEXT

Stanley rises to the surface to the SOUND OF SILENCE... and he LOOKS UP AT THE SKY.

A GIGANTIC MUSHROOM CLOUD IS FORMING.

As the WHITE CLOUD looks down on him from the blue sky Stanley looks up in horror... desperately treading water as people begin to SCREAM... parents grabbing their children from the pool.

CUT TO:

[NOTE: REPEAT SHOT IN SLOWER MOTION]

Once again we see Stanley jumping off the diving board into the white blast...

NARRATOR

Every generation has its moment of disaster... a moment in time when suddenly the world takes one giant step backward.

We see Stanley... treading motionless in the pool as people panic around him.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

One might say that for our grandparents' generation... it was the moment of the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Stanley's father screaming for him to get out of the pool.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

And for our parents' generation... it was the moment of the disastrous explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.

Sue Kramer, carrying Rebecca in her arms... frantically running through the house.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

And for us... it was the moment that someone set off a nuclear weapon seventy miles southwest of Dallas, Texas.

WIDE SHOT of the NEIGHBORHOOD STREET... as people run from the MUSHROOM CLOUD toward their cars.

CUT TO:

INT: TENT D -- NEXT

Mr. Sir's WHISTLE pierces through the morning... as Stanley awakens from his dream.

Mr. Sir approaches as everyone sluggishly gets out of their beds.

MR. SIR

What are you doing, Stanley?

STANLEY

Sir, I'm getting ready for breakfast, sir.

MR. SIR (cont'd)

You don't have to get up... you get the day off.

STANLEY

Sir... I would like to eat breakfast with the others. And, if it is OK, I would like to put my day off... on layaway... and use it at a later date if possible.

Mr. Sir gets in his face. He then gives him a long, hard look.

MR. SIR

What the hell do you think this is?

STANLEY

Sir... if I may be completely honest... I'm worried that the others will resent me... for getting so lucky this early.

(beat)

Sir.

Mr. Sir slams Stanley into the wall.

MR. SIR

Listen here and listen good. You go and eat your breakfast. And then you take your day off. You take your day off and thank your lucky stars that the opportunity has been provided for you.

Mr. Sir then turns and storms off.

MR. SIR (cont'd)

(to the others)

LET'S GO!

Stanley catches his breath... looking around at the others, seeing if everyone witnessed the encounter.

And of course... they all did. Alan is smiling. Zero is almost laughing... shaking his head. X-Ray approaches.

X-RAY

(patting Stanley on the back)

Layaway plan. What the hell you think this is, Sears?

INT: MESS HALL SERVING LINE -- NEXT

The group approaches DEREK once again... who is setting out the trays of DISGUSTING FOOD.

X-RAY

Hey Derek... that hair net makes you look awful sexy! Where can I get me one of them?

DEREK

(quick to return)

Funny you should ask, X-Ray. I stole this one off your momma's head last night!

Derek makes a HIP GRINDING MOTION with his hands down at his crotch... as if he were holding onto a woman's head while she is performing fellatio.

GROUP

AWWWWWWWWWW!!!

Once again, X-Ray has been destroyed by Derek.

Alan goes to give Derek a HIGH FIVE.

ALAN

(to Derek)

Give it here 'ol boy!

DEREK
 (high five)
 Can't knock the hair net! Don't want
 no longhairs in yer food do ya?

ALAN
 Hell no.

ANTHONY
 Don't want no shorthairs either,
 Derek.

DEREK
 Too late for that.

GROUP
 AWWWWWWWWWWW!!!

INT: MESS HALL -- NEXT

Stanley and the others are scarfing down their food.

THEO
 So Stanley, what are you gonna do with
 your day off?

X-RAY
 Go sleep! Sleep the whole friggin'
 day!

THEO
 Don't listen to him, Stanley. Never
 sleep in if you get a day off. It
 spoils you.

ALAN
 Screws up your equilibrium.

X-RAY
 Screw that! Take it when you can get
 it. Sleep is better than anything in
 the world.

Stanley thinks for a moment.

STANLEY
 I don't wanna sleep. What else is
 there to do around here?

ZERO
 The rec room. Go to the rec room and
 listen to some music.

X-RAY
 What music? They ain't got crap to
 listen to!

ALAN

Stanley don't listen to none of your country music bullshit! Stanley's from the suburbs!

ZERO

You know... there's a theory that country music is what started the war. That the most dangerous weapon on earth isn't the bomb... but bad taste in music.

ANTHONY

Bad taste. Now that's the definition of White American Culture if you ask me.

X-RAY

Aw shut up! You can take your Ni...egro rap and shove it up your ass!

ANTHONY

You were gonna call me a nigger!

X-RAY

(defensive)

I said negro!

THEO

(conceding)

He said negro.

ANTHONY

But he meant nigger!

X-RAY

I said negro! I ain't no racist!

ANTHONY

You better not let the warden hear none of that shit... he'll bury your fuckin' ass!

Suddenly the table goes DEADLY SILENT.

Anthony realizes that has said too much. The entire table appears nervous... as if expecting someone to come over to the table.

Zero then breaks the silence.

ZERO

Go to the rec room. Relax, Stanley. That's where we hang out at night.

ZERO (cont'd)
It will give you something to look forward to.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE COURTYARD -- NEXT

Stanley walks through the courtyard... as dozens of other campers walk by with their shovels... jumping into their assigned TRUCKS... where the counselors will take them out to their assigned sectors.

Two other CAMPERS approach Stanley... giving him a weird look.

CAMPER #1
(to his friend)
He's the one. He's the one I told you about.

CAMPER #2
He found Pendanski's wife?

CAMPER #1
Yeah. Right next to Pendanski.

As they pass... they look at Stanley in awe.

INT: REC ROOM -- NEXT

Stanley walks through the door of the REC ROOM. It is a fairly large, rectangular room with two COUCHES, a battered FOOSBALL TABLE, a battered POOL TABLE, and a battered JUKEBOX.

He walks slowly over to the Jukebox... and begins to shuffle through the limited number of COMPACT DISCS.

There are only FOUR OF THEM in the DISC CASES.

LED ZEPPELLIN: *FOUR*

NIRVANA: *UNPLUGGED IN NEW YORK*

CREDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL: *GREATEST HITS*

METALLICA: *METALLICA*

STANLEY
(shuffling through)
Zeppelin. Nirvana. Credence. Or...
Metallica.
(beat)
Oldies I can handle.

He hits the buttons for Metallica... SONG #4.

After a few moments, METALLICA'S "THE UNFORGIVEN" booms over the loudspeakers.

Stanley backs away from the Jukebox slowly, intoxicated by the guitar and drums.

METALLICA

*New blood joins this Earth/ And
quickly he's subdued/ Through constant
pained disgrace/ The young boy learns
their rules*

Stanley begins to ROCK OUT to the music.

METALLICA (cont'd)

*With time the child draws in/ This
whipping boy done wrong/ Deprived of
all his thoughts/ The young man
struggles on and on he's known*

Stanley begins to play AIR GUITAR.

METALLICA (cont'd)

*A vow unto his own/ That never from
this day/ His will they'll take away*

Stanley turns around... still playing the air guitar... and sees that the WARDEN is standing right behind him.

Stanley freezes... not knowing what to do. The song goes into CHORUS.

WARDEN

What is that?

STANLEY

(long beat)

Sir. Air guitar, sir.

WARDEN

No. I mean this song. What is it?

METALLICA

*They dedicate their lives/ To running
all of his/ He tries to please them
all/ This bitter man he is*

STANLEY

Metallica, sir.

WARDEN

Metallica. This music of the devil.

STANLEY

(gaining confidence)

Sir?

WARDEN

Music of the devil. It was once thought by the conservative establishment that this music was satanic.

STANLEY

Do... you want me to turn it off, sir?

WARDEN

No. You are allowed to do as you wish on your day off. You are not breaking any rules.

STANLEY

This song... it reminds me of my father.

WARDEN

Your father. He was lost?

STANLEY

Yeah... he was one of the first to go.

(beat)

My dad used to listen to lots of classic 90s rock. My mom was always telling him to turn it down.

WARDEN

Do you miss them?

The Warden begins to pace around the room.

STANLEY

Yes, sir.

(beat)

But I'm starting to forget what they looked like.

The Warden analyzes the jukebox.

STANLEY (cont'd)

Sir... may I... speak freely?

WARDEN

Like I said... it's your day off. You may speak and do as you wish.

STANLEY

(long beat)

Sir, what exactly, are we digging for?

The Warden turns his head abruptly, surprised at Stanley's directness.

WARDEN

We aren't digging for any specific object. We are digging because the act itself has meaning. Therapeutic value. Digging builds character. Repetition.

STANLEY

(repeat)
Repetition.

METALLICA

(chorus)
What I've felt/ What I've known/ Never
shined through in what I've shown

WARDEN

Nothing strengthens the body and the mind more than repetition. It trains the mind to stand attention to a task and not tire... not hesitate... not forget.

METALLICA

Never be/ Never see/ Never see what
might have been

WARDEN

Repetition brings discipline. Discipline brings order. Order brings peace.

METALLICA

Never free/ Never me/ So I dub thee
unforgiven

WARDEN

That is our duty before God. Does that answer your question, Stanley?

Stanley thinks for a moment.

STANLEY

Yes.

The Warden turns away once again. The song comes to an end.

STANLEY (cont'd)

But I still think that's all a crock
of shit.

The Warden stops in his tracks... and then slowly turns around toward Stanley.

There is rage behind his eyes... but he does not reveal it.

STANLEY (cont'd)
(suddenly nervous)
You... said I could speak freely.

WARDEN
Yes. And that you are.

STANLEY
I... can see part of your point. The physical exercise of digging... it's like working out. Lifting weights every day to get stronger.
(beat)
But digging holes does nothing but destroy the earth. It makes it weak and unstable so that you can't build a house on it or drive a car across it.
(beat)
Digging holes is nothing but a stupid and pointless exercise. Kind of like when it's the last day of school before summer break... and your teacher makes you write an essay about Canada. And at the end of the day she just takes all the essays and throws 'em in the garbage... because no one really gives a shit about Canada.
(beat)
Because in the end, it's just busy work. Busy work to pass the time... and keep you from goofing off.

The Warden does not blink.

STANLEY (cont'd)
So that's what digging holes is to me. Busy work.
(beat)
Unless we're looking for something in particular.
(beat)
Sir.

The Warden approaches Stanley slowly... getting right into his face.

WARDEN
Tell me about Rebecca, Stanley.

This hits Stanley like a brick to the face.

STANLEY
What... do you want to know? She's gone.

WARDEN

I know. I've read your file, Stanley. I know all about you. I know that you are an educated young man. Which makes it all the more disappointing what you did to get here.

(whispering in his ear)

I know all about the sins that you have committed against God.

(beat)

I know that you are in danger of eternal damnation. I know that you feel incredible guilt and remorse for your crime.

(beat)

I know that the guilt is tearing you apart.

Stanley is silent... because he knows that the Warden is not wrong.

WARDEN (cont'd)

You have a gift, Stanley. You have a gift, and you must use it to find God's forgiveness. You must dig to find his forgiveness.

And then the Warden turns and heads silently to the door.

WARDEN (cont'd)

Enjoy the rest of your day off.

And then he is gone... leaving Stanley alone...

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- NEXT

Stanley walks alone through the sea of holes... staring down at the codes scrawled into the dirt next to them.

DLL 55... FJR 34... WDO 189...

Once again, Stanley looks back.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

EXT: TEXAS INTERSTATE -- NIGHT

Along the edge of the interstate, Stanley and his family are pushed through a SCREAMING CROWD among dozens of STALLED VEHICLES toward an ARMY TRUCK.

NARRATOR

Almost immediately... there was confusion. There was no drill to follow. There was no emergency broadcast system. There were no rules.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
 And when the rules slip away...
 confusion becomes chaos... and chaos
 becomes anarchy.

Stanley's MOTHER grabs for Rebecca's hand.

SUE
 Hold onto my hand, Rebecca.

Sue is pulled away from Rebecca and Stanley by the crowd.

SUE (cont'd)
 Rebecca! Stanley... hold onto Rebecca!

Stanley grabs his sister's hand as the crowd further
 separates them from their parents.

Suddenly... an ARMY GUARD grabs Rebecca from the crowd.

ARMY GUARD
 Come with me... children over here!

STANLEY
 Wait! I'm her brother!

ARMY GUARD
 You too, then.

SUE
 (pulled further away)
 Stanley!

Stanley and Rebecca are lifted up into the back of the
 army truck along with other children.

STANLEY
 Wait... my parents aren't with us!

Without listening, the Army Guard closes the gate to the
 truck, and it begins to drive off along the shoulder of
 the interstate.

NARRATOR
 Those who escaped the epicenter of the
 blast... also escaped the sickness
 that followed.

We see Stanley and Rebecca looking out the back of the
 truck...

NARRATOR (cont'd)
 But then... sickness can also get
 hidden in the chaos...

We move in toward Rebecca... who stares back at the moving world behind her in shock.

CUT TO:

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- NEXT

Stanley approaches Zero... who is almost finished with his hole.

ZERO

How's the day off treating you, Stanley?

STANLEY

(long, sad beat)
Not so good.

ZERO

Not much to do around this place all by yourself.

(beat)
Except dig a hole.

STANLEY

(long beat)
Do you need any help?

Zero laughs.

ZERO

(handing Stanley his shovel)
Sure. It's all you, buddy.

STANLEY

Thanks.

As Stanley starts to dig... Zero picks up ROCKS from his dirt pile and begins skipping them across the lakebed.

ZERO

Camp Green Lake sure does funny things to your head, don't it, Stanley?

(beat)
Find me a another dead body Stanley... get me a day off.

STANLEY

Don't talk to me while I'm digging.

Zero laughs... continuing to skip rocks... as we pull back...

DISSOLVE MONTAGE

It is now SEVERAL MONTHS LATER... and Stanley is once again digging next to Zero.

NARRATOR

Stanley dug for two months straight... and before he knew it, he was one of us.

Stanley scratches his registration code into the dirt next to his completed hole.

SOL 58

He then throws his shovel down into the dirt with pride.

STANLEY

Finished! Two hours, forty-six minutes!

Zero looks up from his hole...

ZERO

Damn you, Stanley! What's Derek been feedin' you!

Stanley smiles exuberantly.

NARRATOR

It was then that Stanley became the fastest digger at Camp Green Lake.

INT: MESS HALL SERVING LINE -- NEXT

Stanley, Zero, X-Ray and Alan are once again in line for LUNCH in front of Derek. He slaps SLOPPY JOES onto their trays.

ALAN

(quietly to Stanley)
Sloppy Joes... my hole is gonna explode this afternoon.

X-RAY

(sincere)
Hey Derek... you ever think of opening up your own restaurant?

DEREK

(serious beat)
One day maybe... if my parole officer ever gets me outta this chickenshit outfit.

X-RAY
Yeah? Well what are you gonna call it?

DEREK
I dunno. You got any suggestions?

X-RAY
Yeah. Derek's Diarrhea Barn!

GROUP
AWWWWWWWWWWW!!!

X-Ray high fives the others... having finally nailed Derek.

Then, without hesitation, Derek takes X-Ray's SLOPPY JOE and pulls off the top bun... HOCKS A LOOGIE into it... and then puts it back onto X-Ray's tray.

DEREK
Enjoy your lunch, X-Ray.

X-RAY
Awww shit!

INT: MESS HALL -- NEXT

While the others tear into their food... X-Ray stares down at his contaminated Sloppy Joe... bummed out.

After a moment, he shrugs... looks around to see that no one is looking, and then takes a bite.

NARRATOR
The food was awful.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- WEST SECTOR -- DAY

Theo and Alan dig their holes... Alan collapses to the ground... as Theo runs over to him... dumping water into his mouth.

NARRATOR
The sun was often unbearable.

INT: TENT D -- EARLY MORNING

Mr. Sir blows his whistle... pulling the groggy campers out of their beds.

NARRATOR
Sometimes we were so tired that we couldn't sleep.

INT: SHOWERS -- LATE AFTERNOON

Stanley stands under the shower... motionless... as the water pours over his head.

He then looks down at his hands which are RAW and CALLOSED.

NARRATOR

Sometimes our hands were so sore that we couldn't move our fingers.

(beat)

But we endured. And we followed the Warden's rules.

(beat)

Because there was always one thing to look forward to.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE COURTYARD -- NEXT

The campers stand in the GREAT CIRCLE around the FLAGPOLE as the Warden walks around the perimeter... stopping once he is face to face with Stanley.

He stares at Stanley... whose has black circles under his eyes, revealing the sadness that he tries to conceal with a smirk.

WARDEN

(whisper)

Rebecca.

Stanley's smirk disappears.

NARRATOR

The Warden promised us one thing. He promised us one reward for our hard work.

The Warden's eyes narrow.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Something to look forward to.

INT: TENT D -- MORNING

The Campers slowly emerge from their beds... casually and sporadically on their own.

NARRATOR

Sunday.

(beat)

The day of rest.

We see Stanley... fast asleep on his bed.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
 There was no digging on Sunday. The
 Warden would not have it.

We move in closer...

NARRATOR (cont'd)
 Which left us with the one thing
 better than sleeping in on Sunday
 morning.

Closer...

NARRATOR (cont'd)
 Saturday night.

INT: REC ROOM -- NIGHT

The Rec Room is packed... as CCR'S "FORTUNATE SON"
 blares. Anthony walks around singing along to the music
 with his pool cue.

There are full on POOL and FOOSBALL games going, each
 table surrounded by dozens of campers.

Stanley is at the Foosball table, playing with Zero
 against Alan and X-Ray.

Pendanski walks through the crowded room... amused at the
 shenanigans. He approaches Alan... WHISPERING something
 in his ear.

Alan pauses for a moment... nodding his head.

Pendanski moves away... and then Alan resumes the game
 once again.

Stanley then scores a point... winning the game.

STANLEY

Yes!

X-RAY

Goddamnit!

ALAN

Hey... we're outta here.

STANLEY

What are you talkin' about? Where the
 hell is there to go better than here?

ALAN

Laundry duty.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE COURTYARD -- SUNSET

The four of them walk through the courtyard toward Pendanski, who is standing against the flagpole... smoking a cigarette.

PENDANSKI
You boys ready for laundry duty?

ALAN
(slightly nervous)
Hell yeah.

PENDANSKI
(throwing his cigarette to
the ground)
Follow me.

INT: LAUNDRY ROOM -- NEXT

Stanley, Zero, Alan and X-Ray are now in the back of the Laundry room... lifting large white bags onto the LOADING DOCK... and throwing them into the back of a PICKUP TRUCK.

Derek walks by... smoking a cigarette.

DEREK
Hurry up you pussies. I gotta get on the road, here.

X-RAY
I ain't no pussy!

ZERO
Just shut up and work. We're almost finished.

X-RAY
Why do we gotta do this? This Derek's job!

ALAN
Just shut up and do it, X-Ray. We're almost finished.

Pendanski approaches... just as the last white bag is thrown onto the truck.

ZERO
Alright... all loaded up and ready to go.

Pendanski looks at Alan... who seems anxious.

PENDANSKI
We're not loaded up just yet, are we
Alan?

A large grin forms on Alan's face.

ALAN
No sir.

PENDANSKI
Load up, then.

As Pendanski moves to get into the cab of the pickup truck, Alan jumps into the back, crawling on top of the laundry bags.

X-RAY
What the hell are you doin'?

ALAN
Just get in! Trust me!

Zero and Stanley quickly get into the back of the truck. X-Ray hesitates.

X-RAY
But what if the Warden...

ALAN
The Warden won't know! Just get in,
it's alright!

X-Ray jumps into the back of the cab... just as Derek returns... closing the back door to the truck.

DEREK
Keep your heads down. And don't pull
any shit.

Derek raises up a PISTOL, just to remind them who they are.

DEREK (cont'd)
Don't say I never gave you no lovin',
X-Ray.

X-RAY
(excited)
Holy shit.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- MAIN ENTRANCE -- NEXT

With Pendanski behind the wheel and Derek in the passenger seat... they drive off onto the main road that leaves the camp.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- PERIMETER -- NEXT

Mr. Sir... walking along the Perimeter of the camp with his RIFLE over his shoulder... gazes off into the distance... where he sees the LAUNDRY TRUCK exiting the camp.

He eyeballs it suspiciously

INT: LAUNDRY TRUCK -- NEXT

Stanley and the others are now sitting up on top of the laundry bags, more relaxed.

STANLEY

So this is laundry duty.

ZERO

I always wondered why everybody always wants laundry duty.

X-RAY

Where we going, Alan?

ALAN

The Way Station. Truck Stop Supply Exchange. I never been there... but I heard some stuff about it.

(beat)

We're in for quite a night boys.

The others look at one another like they have just received the best news of their lives.

STANLEY

This is when you want time to move slow. Time's like this.

ZERO

You just gotta savor every moment, Stanley. Every moment counts.

INT: REC ROOM -- NEXT

Mr. Sir walks into the crowded Rec Room... where it is still rambunctious. He begins to examine the room...
COUNTING OFF HEADS.

INT: LAUNDRY TRUCK -- NIGHT

The wind blows through Stanley's hair as he looks off into the night from the back of the truck.

STANLEY

How far away is this place?

ALAN
I dunno... probably a couple of hours.

ZERO
Hey Alan... any ladies at the Way Station?

X-RAY
Oh please oh please say there be ladies at the Way Station.

ALAN
Think about it, boys. It's called THE WAY STATION... not THE GAY STATION.

Stanley smiles longingly.

STANLEY
I haven't touched a girl...

ZERO
(finishing his sentence)
Ever?

ALAN
You a virgin, Stanley?

Stanley does not answer.

INT: LAUNDRY TRUCK FRONT CAB -- NEXT

Pendanski drives while Derek ROLLS a joint. Derek lights up... takes a hit... and then passes it over to Pendanski.

DEREK
What do you think the Warden would do if he found out about these little field trips?

PENDANSKI
(taking a hit)
Screw the Warden.

Derek laughs at this.

EXT: TEXAS DESERT ROAD -- NIGHT

The Laundry Truck approaches a SMALL CLUSTER OF LIGHTS in the distance.

INT: LAUNDRY TRUCK -- NEXT

Stanley and the others look out at the Way Station LIGHTS looming in the distance.

STANLEY

Hey fellas... we're here.

EXT: THE WAY STATION -- ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

The Laundry Truck pulls up to the WAY STATION ENTRANCE.

The Way Station is a small CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS surrounded by a SQUARE SHAPED FENCE with HEAVY BARBED WIRE. At the GATE there are several ARMED MILITARY GUARDS posted with GERMAN SHEPHERDS.

As the truck pulls up to the gate... an ARMED GUARD approaches Pendanski on the drivers' side.

PENDANSKI

Evening.

GUARD

Evening.

Pendanski holds out a DIGITAL CLIPBOARD to the guard.

PENDANSKI

Green Lake... laundry and supply exchange.

The guard looks through the clipboard. The second guard shines his FLASHLIGHT into the back of the truck, seeing Stanley and the others.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

(referring to them)

Laundry duty. They're with us.

The Guards look at one another for a moment.

GUARD

(to Pendanski)

Make sure these boys are with you on your way out. And get 'em in plain clothes.

PENDANSKI

Yes, sir.

DEREK

(to the back)

You hear that, boys?

GROUP

(simultaneous)

Yes, sir.

INT: THE WAY STATION -- NIGHT

The Laundry Truck pulls in... parking in front of one of the Supply Buildings in between two MILITARY JEEPS.

As they get out of the truck, Derek and Pendanski throw some CIVILIAN SHIRTS at Stanley and the others.

PENDANSKI

Put these on. We unload Laundry first.
Stay close by or else I get court
marshalled.

Stanley and the others quickly put on the civilian clothes.

INT: SUPPLY BUILDING -- LATER

Stanley and the others unload the laundry like before... while Derek and Pendanski move through the SUPPLY STORAGE SECTION... filled with large scale CANNED FOODS, CLOTHING, PAPER PRODUCTS, etc.

STANLEY

Hey Derek... can you get us some Froot Loops?

DEREK

(derisive)
Froot Loops! This ain't the Piggly Wiggly, Stanley.

Stanley goes back to Laundry detail, disappointed.

EXT: SUPPLY BUILDING -- LATER

Pendanski shuts the tailgate to the truck... with the clean laundry and supplies loaded inside.

PENDANSKI

Alright. Good work, boys. You ready for the Last Stop?

They all smile at one another.

ALAN

Ready as we'll ever be.

EXT: THE LAST STOP -- NEXT

Stanley and the others approach THE LAST STOP... another building on the other side of the Way Station.

There is an ORANGE NEON SIGN hanging above the entrance to the one story stone building.

Several drunken MILITARY OFFICERS stumble out of the door with WOMEN on their arms. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN'S "BORN TO RUN" can be heard blaring inside.

Stanley and the others stare at the women as they walk past.

X-RAY
Oh... my... God.

ALAN
Derek, do we have to go in with X-Ray?
He's gonna scare all the women off.

X-RAY
Shut up! I can pimp any Ho in this
place. I got X-Ray vision!

Alan raises his hands to the others.

ALAN
Point proven.

INT: THE LAST STOP -- NEXT

Inside... The Last Stop is a relatively small BAR... yet it is PACKED with people. Pendanski and Derek lead them through the crowd toward the bar... while the others take in the scene with awe.

Behind the bar is an ELDERLY BARTENDER named EARL.

PENDANSKI
Hey Earl... six Budweisers!

CUT TO:

INT: THE LAST STOP -- MOMENTS LATER

Alan, Derek, X-Ray and Zero are all playing POOL in the corner of the bar... drinking their beers.

ALAN
Hey X-Ray... if anyone asks... we're
all eighteen.

ZERO
And we're not in prison... got that?

X-Ray nods his head... admiring a group of WOMEN in the corner.

DEREK
We got about three hours... so I
reckon you boys get your groove on as
fast as you can.

They all POUND their beers simultaneously.

CUT TO:

INT: THE LAST STOP -- NEXT

Stanley is sitting at a table across from Pendanski.

PENDANSKI
How are you dealing with all of this,
Stanley?

Stanley thinks for a moment.

STANLEY
Fine... I guess. I thought the time
would go by really slow, you know?
(beat)
But it doesn't. Time flies when you
don't pay attention to it.

PENDANSKI
How much longer?

STANLEY
Till when?

PENDANSKI
Till you turn eighteen.

STANLEY
About a year.

Pendanski nods his head slowly.

STANLEY (cont'd)
You read my file?
(beat)
You know what I did to get here?

Pendanski nods his head slowly.

STANLEY (cont'd)
Things are gonna get a whole lot worse
for me when I turn eighteen, aren't
they?

Pendanski is silent for a moment, knowing that he is
delivering the grim truth.

PENDANSKI
Given the severity of your crime,
you've got maybe a ten percent chance
of getting paroled... only if you've
got letters of recommendation.

STANLEY

Which I don't.

PENDANSKI

Most likely they'll put you down in one of the camps in Mexico. Maybe even South America.

Stanley nods his head slowly. He then takes a sip from his beer.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

I wouldn't lie to you, Stanley. Those are tough places. Compared to adult prison, Camp Green Lake is like summer camp.

(beat)

I tell you that, only because I'm not pretending to be nice to you.

(beat)

I'm not pretending to be your friend.

Stanley nods his head long and hard... for the first time confronting the severe turn that his life has taken.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

I am your friend, Stanley.

Stanley nods his head.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)

You're too smart, too good of a kid to have deserved this. It's not fair the way things worked out for you.

(beat)

But no matter how bad it gets, don't you ever run. Because trust me, this desert goes farther than you ever will on foot. Just ask Jonathan Gaines... I found his body, and I don't ever want to find yours.

STANLEY

Kind of ironic, isn't it. A prison without walls?

(trying to change the subject)

Is this all because I found your wife? Did it let you bury her memory... seeing her that one last time?

Pendanski thinks for a long moment, sipping his beer.

PENDANSKI

This may sound crazy, but ever since that day, I can't remember her.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
(beat)
She's forgotten.

STANLEY
Sometimes I wish I could just forget.
I wish that I could just come down
with amnesia.
(beat)
Start over from scratch in some
faraway place.

PENDANSKI
You can, Stanley. And you will.
(beat)
It just... you'll be about fifty years
old when it happens.

Somehow, Stanley manages to laugh at this, acknowledging
truth.

PENDANSKI (cont'd)
You know what? We need to get you boys
drunk.
(looking over at the bar)
And we need to get you boys laid.

Stanley smiles, jokingly pretending to fix his hair.

CUT TO:

INT: THE LAST STOP -- MOMENTS LATER

The others are still playing pool. Zero approaches Derek.

ZERO
Hey Derek, is it true that three outta
four women in this place is a
prostitute?

DEREK
You kiddin' me? Four outta four. You
want to get laid tonight, you better
be prepared to pay for it.

Stanley and Pendanski approach the group.

PENDANSKI
Leave that one up to me.

ZERO
(suddenly excited)
Are you kidding, me?

PENDANSKI
I got enough for two of you.

X-Ray approaches anxiously.

X-RAY
Did I just hear what I thought I
heard?

ZERO
No. Go away.

DEREK
(to X-Ray)
Are you a virgin, little man?

X-RAY
Hell no!

DEREK
Good. Then you're out of the running.

X-RAY
(pissed off)
What the...

ALAN
Stanley's a virgin. I think he's the
only one.

PENDANSKI
Is he telling the truth, Stanley?
Stanley hesitates for a moment.

STANLEY
(somewhat embarrassed)
Yeah.

PENDANSKI
(to Zero and Alan)
And I take it you two were a regular
Motley Crue before all this, huh?

ZERO
Don't remind me of the past. I'll
start crying.

ALAN
(to Zero)
There's no way in hell that you
masturbate more than I do.

ZERO
Wanna bet?

X-RAY
 (trying to get attention)
 Hey! This one time I masturbated six
 times in one day!

PENDANSKI
 (to X-Ray)
 Shut up.
 (back to Alan and Zero)
 Which one of you is the lifer?

Zero and Alan look at one another.

ZERO
 That'd be me. I'm up for parole in
 less than a month.

PENDANSKI
 But you killed someone. Am I right?

Zero is quiet for a moment.

ZERO
 It was self-defense. It... was an
 accident.

PENDANSKI
 Listen, I'm not here to judge you. If
 you're headed south, you deserve this
 more than he does.
 (beat)
 Stanley... you and Zero are up. Now we
 got to find you two some girls that I
 can afford.

CUT TO:

INT: THE LAST STOP -- NEXT

Pendanski is across the room talking to two
 twentysomething women.

Zero and Stanley shoot pool nonchalantly... trying to
 hide the fact that they are both nervous as hell.

X-Ray is stewing with Alan at the bar... a line of SHOTS
 in front of them... courtesy of Derek.

DEREK
 Drown your sorrows in booze, fellas.
 Then maybe you can try to get some
 without having to pay for it.

X-RAY
 Can you keep a secret, Derek?

DEREK

No.

X-RAY

(beat)

I really am a virgin. I mean... I've stuck my finger in a few girls... but that's it.

ALAN

Didn't your mother teach you not to lie?

X-RAY

That's the problem. My mother is a liar. She put the F in credit card fraud.

DEREK

(F?)

Shitty genes... huh X-Ray? You best start drinking now.

They raise their shot glasses.

ALAN

To the greatest lie of them all...

And then the shots are gone.

CUT TO:

INT: THE LAST STOP -- NEXT

Pendanski approaches Stanley and Zero with TWO WOMEN. They are both worn out... but certainly not unattractive.

PENDANSKI

Boys... this is Amy... and this is Stacey.

Amy takes Zero's hand.

AMY

Follow me.

Stanley and Stacey follow them up the steps.

Pendanski smiles as they disappear upstairs... feeling some sense of closure for a debt that has finally been paid.

INT: UPSTAIRS PRIVATE ROOM -- NEXT

Stanley and Stacey walk into the TINY room where there is a RED LIGHT, BEADS and a COUCH.

She goes over to the BUREAU and lights several candles.

STACEY
How old are you?

STANLEY
Uh... eighteen.

She smiles... touching his face.

He awkwardly goes to KISS HER... but she pulls back.

STACEY
No kissing on the mouth.

STANLEY
Sorry.

She begins to take off her clothes.

Stanley does the same. When she is completely undressed... she walks him over to the couch... handing him a CONDOM.

STACEY
Now let's put this on.

STANLEY (cont'd)
You don't have to worry... I'm clean.

STACEY
It's not you I'm worried about, honey.

CUT TO:

INT: UPSTAIRS PRIVATE ROOM -- NEXT

Stanley is now on top of her on the couch... and they awkwardly begin to make love.

About FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER... Stanley climaxes.

They are both quiet for a moment... as if he is unsure of what to do next.

STANLEY
So... was that as good for me as it was for you?

For a moment she stares at him... wanting to laugh.

STANLEY (cont'd)
That was a joke... you're supposed to laugh now.

And then she does. She laughs long and hard.

STANLEY (cont'd)
You're not supposed to laugh that hard.

STACEY
I'm sorry...

STANLEY
You're hurting my feelings. I just lost my virginity... and you're hurting my feelings.

STACEY
I didn't know... I would have been more delicate with you.

STANLEY
We can... do it again... if you want.

STACEY
(that's not gonna happen)
You're sweet.

They begin to put their clothes back on.

STANLEY
(beat)
Why... do you do this?

STACEY
It's complicated.

STANLEY
I'm not judging you or anything. You gotta do what you gotta do... right?

STACEY
Right.

STANLEY
It's just been so long since I've talked to a woman.
(beat)
It's been so long.

STACEY
I'm sorry.

STANLEY
Can you just...

Stanley does not know how to say this without sounding stupid.

But somehow she understands what he is asking of her... and she walks over and embraces him.

For quite some time he stands there in her arms... and she runs her fingers through his hair... and for a moment it appears as if he is about to cry.

EXT: TEXAS DESERT -- HELICOPTER SHOT -- SUNRISE

We approach the laundry truck as it zooms across the desert back toward Camp Green Lake.

Stanley and Zero look at each other... and neither of them can stop grinning.

Alan and X-Ray are bitter.

ALAN

You wipe that smile off your face, there Zero.

Stanley looks out into the desert... and once again he is reminded of something from the past.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

EXT: WOODS -- NIGHT

Stanley and Rebecca are running through the woods. GUNFIRE can be heard in the distance.

Stanley is in front... and Rebecca is trailing behind.

REBECCA

Stanley... wait!

STANLEY

We have to hurry!

Suddenly... Rebecca trips and falls to the ground.

Stanley turns to go back... and help her to her feet, but he quickly realizes that the fall has knocked the wind out of her.

STANLEY (cont'd)

(holding her hand)

Take deep breaths. Deep breaths.

She breathes in deeply... but soon she begins to cough severely.

REBECCA

(through her coughing)

It... hurts...

STANLEY

It'll be alright. Just keep breathing.

But soon Rebecca is coughing up blood.

INT: TENT D -- SUNDAY MORNING

Stanley and the others slowly pull themselves from bed...
and there is an ALARM going off.

Stanley looks over at THEO from his bunk.

THEO
Roll call.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE COURTYARD -- NEXT

All of the campers are once again assembled in a GIANT
CIRCLE in the courtyard. The Warden and Mr. Sir are
talking in the center.

Stanley looks over at Zero and Alan... worried. Pendanski
is nowhere to be found.

WARDEN
It has been brought to my attention
that four men were left unaccounted
for yesterday evening.

Everyone is silent.

WARDEN (cont'd)
If you left camp last night on the
laundry truck... please step forward.

No one does.

WARDEN (cont'd)
This is your last chance. Step forward
now.
(beat)
Or else.

X-Ray is standing right next to Stanley.

X-RAY
(whispering)
Don't do it. He's bluffing.

The Warden surveys the circle once again. He looks at
them long and hard. He then turns to Theo.

WARDEN
White. Step forward.

Theo steps forward from the circle.

THEO
Sir, yes, sir.

WARDEN

Did you leave on the laundry truck last night?

THEO

Sir, no sir.

The Warden pauses for a moment. He then nods toward Mr. Sir... who walks over carrying his rifle.

WARDEN

Thank you for telling the truth.

Mr. Sir then jabs the but of his gun fiercely into Theo's stomach. He falls to the ground... the wind knocked out of him.

Stanley winces... looking over at Zero.

Mr. Sir then kicks Theo once again in the stomach... while he is doubled over on the ground.

Suddenly... Stanley steps forward.

STANLEY

It was me!

The Warden and Mr. Sir then turn toward Stanley.

STANLEY (cont'd)

Sir, I left on the truck last night.

Zero steps forward.

ZERO

Sir, I left on the truck last night too.

WARDEN

(long beat)

That's only two.

He looks back at Mr. Sir... who gives Theo one more kick to the ribs... leaving him writhing in pain.

Alan reluctantly steps forward.

ALAN

Sir, I was with them.

Finally, X-Ray steps forward as well.

X-RAY

Sir, so was I.

The Warden approaches Stanley.

WARDEN

I certainly hope that it was worth it.

STANLEY

Sir, yes sir.

The Warden appears genuinely shocked.

STANLEY (cont'd)

It was worth every second getting out of this shithole, sir.

(beat)

It was worth every moment not having to look at your fucking face.

You could hear a pin drop.

STANLEY (cont'd)

Stop beating Theo, sir. If you're going to punish anybody, punish the one's who deserve it, sir.

Theo is now coughing up blood. The Warden nods over to Mr. Sir... who with a malevolent grin kicks Theo once again.

Stanley breaks out of the circle... running over toward Mr. Sir. He then tries to TACKLE him... but Mr. Sir quickly knocks Stanley to the ground.

He then places his BOOT onto Stanley's throat... closing off his windpipe.

Stanley struggles to free himself... but he is quickly suffocating.

ZERO

Let him go!

Zero then rushes toward Mr. Sir. Alan then follows... and it appears for a moment that a MUTINY is about to explode.

Mr. Sir quickly puts the end of his gun to Stanley's head.

MR. SIR

Come any closer and I'll shoot him.

Zero does not budge... Stanley is almost unconscious. Theo is still coughing... in serious pain.

MR. SIR (cont'd)

Get back in line!

X-RAY

Do it, Zero! Step back!

Zero and Alan retreat... and finally Mr. Sir lifts his boot up from Stanley throat... leaving him gasping for air.

The Warden walks over to them.

WARDEN

(to the group)

Because of this unfortunate setback, we will now dig two holes a day.

(right into Stanley's face)

Thank you Stanley. Thank you for providing us with this opportunity to grow.

And then the Warden is gone.

MR. SIR

You heard the Warden. Get your shovels! Let's go!

The circle disbands as people rush back to get their shovels. Stanley struggles to his feet... and then goes over to Theo.

STANLEY

I'm so sorry. Theo, I'm so sorry.

THEO

You're forgiven, Stanley. You're forgiven.

He then reaches out his hand... pulling Theo up to his feet.

INT: MAIN BUILDING SUPPLY ROOM -- NEXT

Pendanski approaches Mr. Sir... who is taking inventory in the supply room.

He then slams him up against the wall.

PENDANSKI

What do you want? Haven't these kids been through enough already?!

MR. SIR

I serve the Warden. I obey the rules.

PENDANSKI

He's never going to find it! There's nothing out here! Can't you see that?

Mr. Sir smiles at Pendanski.

MR. SIR
Oh they'll find it all right... you
just wait.
(beat)
You just wait and see.

Pendanski storms off angrily.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- DAYS LATER

Mr. Sir is delivering water from the water truck. Stanley waits in line to have his Canteen filled.

As he gets to the front of the line... Mr. Sir takes his Canteen and places it under the water spigot... filling it up.

MR. SIR
Thirsty?

STANLEY
Yes, sir.

Once the Canteen is filled... Mr. Sir holds it out to Stanley. But before Stanley can retrieve it from him... Mr. Sir pulls it back, turns it on its side and dumps the water out onto the sand.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- DAYS LATER

Stanley is once again digging... almost finished with his hole.

NARRATOR
They say that coincidences are God's way of reminding you that he is still around.

Suddenly... Stanley's shovel hits metal.

He pauses... looking down into the dirt curiously.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
And once again... Stanley was reminded of this.

He reaches down into the dirt and pulls out an UNUSUAL METAL OBJECT that is about the size of a HAMMER. It has many facets and ATTACHMENTS on it... hinting that it was once attached to something much larger.

STANLEY
What the hell...

Stanley looks over at Zero... who is quietly digging several yards away. There are large BLACK CIRCLES under his eyes.

STANLEY

Hey Zero... come check this out.

Zero walks over and begins to examine the Hammer object with Stanley.

ZERO

Looks like a spark plug.

STANLEY

Yeah... but a spark plug to what?

ZERO

I don't know... but it looks like it came off something complicated.

(beat)

You gonna turn it in?

STANLEY

I can't. I made a deal with X-Ray... remember?

ZERO

He's all the way over on the west sector.

STANLEY

Then I'll just give it to him for tomorrow.

Stanley then puts the Hammer object in his pocket. He then carves his code into the sand next to the hole.

SOL 112

INT: MESS HALL -- THAT NIGHT

Stanley and the others are eating dinner quietly.

STANLEY

Hey X-Ray... you want a little present?

X-RAY

What you got?

Stanley hands him the Hammer underneath the table.

STANLEY

This is what you're gonna dig up tomorrow.

X-Ray's face lights up.

X-RAY
Aw yeah! Stanley you're the man!

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- THE NEXT DAY

We see X-Ray digging... halfway through his hole. He then pulls the Hammer out from his pocket... and throws it down casually. He then shovels it back out... just as Pendanski comes by in the water truck.

X-RAY
Hey Pendanski! I found something!

Pendanski approaches... carrying his digital clipboard.

PENDANSKI
Well I'll be goddamned... Your little punk ass might just get a day off.

He takes the Hammer and examines it.

X-RAY
Hell yeah!

PENDANSKI
What the hell is this... was it attached to something?

X-RAY
Naw. Just that.

Pendanski looks down at the sand next to X-Ray's hole... noting the registration number.

PENDANSKI
YFJ 176.

He types the information into the clipboard.

INT: WARDEN'S OFFICE -- NEXT

The Warden sits behind his desk. There are LARGE TOPOGRAPHY MAPS covering the wall behind him. There are THOUSANDS of thumb tacks covering them... marking every hole that has been dug.

There is a knock at the door.

WARDEN
Come in.

Pendanski enters.

PENDANSKI
Sir... may I have a moment?

WARDEN
Yes you may... what is it?

Pendanski holds the Hammer out toward the Warden.

PENDANSKI
Does this interest you?

After putting on his glasses, the Warden takes the Hammer from Pendanski... examining it closely.

The Warden's eyes widen... IN RECOGNITION.

WARDEN
Where was this found?

Pendanski walks over to the WALL MAP... pointing to a SPECIFIC AREA on the SOUTHWEST SECTOR.

PENDANSKI
H34, southwest sector.

WARDEN
Excavation. Ten men. Full surveillance.

PENDANSKI
Yes, sir.

WARDEN
And Pendanski?

PENDANSKI
Sir?

WARDEN
This is it. Don't ever betray me again... or I will bury you.

Pendanski nods his head... and then leaves.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- WEST SECTOR -- DAY

Dozens of Campers turn their heads as Mr. Sir and another COUNSELOR drive by in their trucks toward the west sector.

Over by X-Ray's hole, campers have begun to assemble as word of the excavation team has spread throughout the camp.

X-RAY
Excavation!

X-Ray raises his hands in glorious victory.

Pendanski approaches.

PENDANSKI

Pick your team... X-Ray. Make it quick... the Warden is coming.

CUT TO:

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- WEST SECTOR -- NEXT

X-Ray is surrounded by Stanley, Zero, Alan, Anthony and Theo... as they all carefully dig around the edges of his hole.

Pendanski and several other COUNSELORS approach... and one points out that there is another truck approaching.

X-RAY

I found it, boys. I found what we're looking for.

THEO

Be quiet. The Warden is coming.

ANTHONY

What did you say it looked like?

X-RAY

A hammer. It looked like a hammer.

Stanley looks over at Zero with a concerned expression. He raises his finger to his lips... shaking his head as if to say: *keep quiet*.

Zero nods his head in agreement.

The Warden's truck arrives and he gets out of the cab. He motions for Pendanski. We see that the Warden is now wearing MILITARY FATIGUES.

WARDEN

Anything else?

PENDANSKI

Not yet.

WARDEN

Watch them like a hawk. Expand the perimeter... ten feet down.

PENDANSKI

Yes sir.

(to the campers)
Expand the perimeter... ten feet down.

The Campers re-establish their positions around the hole... expanding it.

Alan looks at the Warden's clothes... surprised.

ALAN
(to Anthony)
The Warden's military. We've been digging for the military.

ANTHONY
Tell me something I don't know.

ALAN
You knew? How'd you know?

ANTHONY
Think about it. Digging for character?
You really bought that shit?

DISSOLVE MONTAGE

The hole is now twice as big... but the campers still have not found anything.

The Warden paces around... barely hiding his anxiety.

WARDEN
Wheelbarrow team... six men.

DISSOLVE MONTAGE

There are now SIX CAMPERS taking piles of dirt away in wheelbarrows to another DUMPING SECTION... allowing for the hole to expand further out.

As they dump the EXCESS DIRT... the COUNSELORS sift through it to see if anything has been missed.

In the distance engines can be heard... as THREE MILITARY TRUCKS approach.

Stanley looks up and sees this... glancing over at Zero as if to say: *holy shit.*

X-Ray is now exuberant.

X-RAY
I told you so! I found it!

THEO
(terrified)
Be quiet. You don't know what you found.

The MILITARY OFFICERS get out of their trucks... and approach the Warden... saluting him.

OFFICER

Sir, full lighting, excavation equipment is on standby.

WARDEN

Set up the lights. We switch up at sundown.

DISSOLVE MONTAGE

The hole is now more than twenty feet across in diameter. The sun has begun to go down... leaving the sky purple and red... approaching sunset.

WARDEN

We will dig into the night... at sundown... we switch up... and again at sunrise.

The OFFICERS have begun to setup large KLEIG LIGHTS in the back of the trucks.

There are now more than TWO DOZEN CAMPERS digging the hole.

Stanley and Zero are digging on the south end. Both appear EXHAUSTED... dumping their shovels full of dirt into the wheelbarrows... which are then taken up an UPHILL PATH that has been established on the north end of the hole.

STANLEY

(whispering)

Hey Zero... what are you thinking?

ZERO

(looking over his shoulder)

I'm thinking we've got some information that the Warden might be interested in.

STANLEY

Geographic information?

ZERO

Yep.

They dig silently for a moment.

STANLEY

I'm thinking I still want to keep that information to myself right now.

ZERO
 (long beat)
 Until we can discuss things a little further... I can keep a secret, if you can.

STANLEY
 Just you and me... we're the only ones that know.

Suddenly... an OFFICER is standing above them on the edge of the hole.

OFFICER
 Hey!

Stanley and Zero look up at the officer.

He then JABS the butt of his gun into Stanley's stomach. He falls to the ground in pain. Zero looks up at the officer... terrified that he heard their conversation.

OFFICER (cont'd)
 Nobody stops until sundown! Keep digging!

Zero helps Stanley to his feet and then quickly jabs his shovel down into the dirt.

SUNDOWN

The KLEIG LIGHTS now illuminate the hole... which is more than FORTY FEET ACROSS... and FIFTEEN FEET DEEP.

The Warden paces around the perimeter with a MEGAPHONE in his hand. Mr. Sir is with him. He is also wearing military fatigues... and his head has been shaved into a crew cut.

WARDEN
 (into megaphone)
 ROLL CALL IN FIVE! DAY CREW ONLY!

MR. SIR
 YOU HEARD HIM! LET'S GO!

All of the exhausted Campers walk up the WHEEL BARROW PATH to the surface.

Stanley, Zero and the others all have black circles under their eyes.

Alan looks down at his hands and sees that they are RED and BLISTERED. He looks over at X-Ray.

ALAN
 (to X-Ray)
 What the hell did you find, X-Ray?

X-RAY
 I told you... some kind of Hammer!

One of the officers knocks X-Ray to the ground with the butt of his gun, sending him reeling into the dirt.

OFFICER
 NO TALKING!

X-Ray slowly gets back to his feet... joining the line of Campers.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- WEST SECTOR -- LATER THAT NIGHT

From above... we see the diggers expanding the hole under the harsh glare of the kleig lights. Several more MILITARY TRUCKS have arrived... as the hole is now more than forty feet across.

The Warden continues to pace around the perimeter obsessively.

INT: REC ROOM -- NEXT

Stanley and Zero are the only ones in the room. Both look exhausted. Stanley walks over to the jukebox and shuffles through the CDs... choosing LED ZEPPELIN'S "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN".

As the music blares they walk over and sit on the couch.

[NOTE: The following dialogue scene is played out in SUBTITLES, due to the intentionally loud music].

STANLEY
 (whispering)
 We have to whisper.

ZERO
 I know.

STANLEY
 Should we tell the Warden?

ZERO
 Do you want to tell the Warden?

Stanley thinks for a moment.

STANLEY
 No.

ZERO

Me neither.

They are both silent for a moment.

STANLEY

But... how long will they dig before they figure out that it isn't there?

ZERO

I don't know. But it looks like they're prepared to dig straight to the center of the Earth.

STANLEY

This could go on forever.

ZERO

They'll never be able to find it without us, Stanley.

(beat)

What if we tell them... but demand that they parole us first?

STANLEY

We both know they would beat the truth out of us. We're not in a position to negotiate.

ZERO

I'm up for parole next week. This could be my last chance to live a normal life. This could be our ticket out, Stanley. They don't care about us, they just care about what's buried out there.

STANLEY

But if we tell, then we admit to lying... to throwing them off on purpose. What if that is cause for punishment and not reward?

ZERO

Sounds like either way we could be screwed.

STANLEY

Either way, you're right about one thing.

ZERO

What's that?

STANLEY

The Warden doesn't care about us.
Either way we're slaves. Disposable...
interchangeable... and replaceable.

They are silent for a moment.

ZERO

There is one more option.

STANLEY

And what is that?

ZERO

Run like hell.

Stanley silently admits to himself that running might be the only viable option they have left as the music blares on.

INT: TENT D -- NIGHT

Stanley and Zero are lying in their beds... both awake. X-Ray approaches them.

X-RAY

Hey Stanley...

Stanley looks around to see if any of them can hear them.

STANLEY

What?

X-RAY

What should we do?

STANLEY

Nothing. We're damned if we do, damned if we don't. The Warden will make an example out of both of us for lying. He will never reward a liar... no matter how much he benefits from one.

X-Ray nods his head... and then goes back to his drink.

We move over to THEO'S cot... and we see that he is wide awake... having heard their entire conversation.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- WEST SECTOR -- SUNRISE

AS the sun comes over the horizon... the day crew of campers passes the night crew as they trudge out of the GIGANTIC PIT.

It is now more than seventy feet across... and fifteen feet deep.

NARRATOR

After the first night... all that had been found was a body.

We see a full skeleton... laid out on a sheet with the tattered rags of clothing next to it.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

He was an auto mechanic named Gordon Barclay.

We see the Warden scraping the mud off of his TEXAS DRIVER'S LICENSE... with his muddy wallet in his other hand... where there is a TEXACO ID CARD. He then turns to Mr. Sir, who is standing with Anthony and several other campers.

WARDEN

Take it to the incinerator.

They begin to cart the body off.

NARRATOR

As we suspected... Gordon Barclay wasn't what the Warden was looking for.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- WEST SECTOR -- LATE AFTERNOON

Anthony is now tearing at the side of the pit wall with a PICK AXE. He begins to chip at what looks like CONCRETE.

Suddenly... a stream of WATER sprays out of the pit wall.

Anthony jumps back in surprise.

ANTHONY

Water!

Suddenly... a large section of the pit wall COLLAPSES... and HUNDREDS OF GALLONS OF WATER come crashing into the pit.

Campers begin to run away from the furious torrent of water, some of them falling to the ground.

On the to ledge of the pit... one of the MILITARY OFFICERS turns suddenly, noticing the onslaught of water filling the pit.

In his right hand he is holding a LIT CIGARETTE, and he quickly throws it down into the pit without thinking.

As the water spreads into the center of the pit... we see it flow into channels of dirt toward the lit cigarette.

When the water collides with the cigarette... we see that the water suddenly CATCHES ON FIRE.

Pendanski is the first one to discover this... and he turns and runs up toward the perimeter of the pit.

PENDANSKI
(screaming)
GET OUT OF THE PIT!! IT'S GASOLINE!
GET OUT OF THE PIT!!

Seeing the fire spread toward the source... Campers begin to scramble desperately to get away from the fire.

One Camper barely makes it out of the ankle deep flow before his PANTS become engulfed in flames. He falls to the ground... and Pendanski throws a blanket on top of his legs, distinguishing them just in time.

As Pendanski pulls the camper from the spreading fire... others DESPERATELY SCRAMBLE TO THE EDGE.

Eventually the fire spreads into a GIGANTIC BLAZE... covering the entire bottom of the pit... sending black smoke up into the purple sky.

The Warden, Military Officers and Campers stare down into the fire in awe... as if what they are witnessing is some sort of miracle.

Stanley and Zero look at one another in shock.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

EXT: TEXACO STATION -- DAY

We see GORDON BARCLAY standing down in the pit underneath a PICKUP TRUCK suspended above him. He reaches up for a WRENCH from another MECHANIC... and we see the GAS PUMPS on the TARMAC beyond the GARAGE.

NARRATOR
We imagined Gordon Barclay as a ghost left to haunt this reservoir of fire... ready to explode in a fury of revenge.

From beyond the TARMAC, we see the SKY EXPLODE INTO WHITE.

CUT TO:

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- WEST SECTOR -- SUNSET

As the fire RAGES ON... the WARDEN screams at the Campers to begin throwing dirt down onto it.

As they follow the Warden's orders... throwing shovel after shovel of dirt onto the fire, the Warden stares down in a furious rage before the glowing Kleig lights, knowing that something is most certainly wrong.

Stanley and Zero are digging next to Theo... who looks over at them with a suspicious glare.

NARRATOR

It took us four hours to put out the fire.

The BURNED CAMPER is laying down on a STRETCHER... surrounded by Officers... who apply dressings to his legs.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Mickey Johansen suffered second degree burns to his legs... but it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to him. He got his parole eight months early.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- COURTYARD -- NIGHT

As Stanley, Zero, X-Ray and the others walk back toward Tent D, Theo places his hand on Stanley's shoulder.

THEO

(looking straight into his eyes)

Everything happens for a reason. The fire was no coincidence. It was God, Stanley. It was God... showing us the way home.

And having said this, Theo turns and walks off... alone into the night.

NARRATOR

And that was the last time that we ever saw Theo.

Stanley, Zero, Alan and X-Ray watch as he walks away from him... not knowing what to say.

INT: WARDEN'S OFFICE -- NEXT

The Warden sits alone behind his desk with his jaw clenched... staring back at his maps... where the PIT DIMENSIONS are now obsessively drawn out.

There is a KNOCK at his door.

WARDEN

Come in.

The door opens... and Mr. Sir steps into the office with Theo.

MR. SIR

Sir, this gentleman has something that he wants to share with you.

Theo walks up to the Warden... his face white and his eyes bloodshot. He looks as if at any moment he could burst out into tears.

The Warden then takes Theo's hands into his... and flips them over... revealing the deep scars on his wrists.

And then the Warden nods his head to Theo... knowing that the truth will come sooner than he expected.

INT: TENT D -- EARLY THE NEXT MORNING

Stanley is wrestled from his dreams by Mr. Sir... who stands over his cot with his gun drawn. He turns and sees that Zero and X-Ray are also already awake. He sees that Theo's bunk is empty.

MR. SIR

Get dressed. Now.

Alan sits up in his bunk... watching his three best friends walk out of the tent, somehow knowing that he will never see any of them again.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- SUNRISE

Stanley, Zero, and X-Ray are now sitting in the back of Mr. Sir's DODGE PICKUP TRUCK... driving out into the east sector across the sand.

They stare at one another silently with their faces to the wind.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- MOMENTS LATER

The truck arrives out in a remote section where the Warden is standing next to Theo on the edge of a freshly dug hole.

Mr. Sir motions for them to get out of the cab... and they follow one another toward the Warden, who assesses them silently.

WARDEN

Good morning.

(beat)

I understand that the three of you have some information regarding our current excavation.

None of them respond.

WARDEN (cont'd)

Once again, if you have any information regarding the current misguided excavation, please speak now.

(beat)

Or else.

STANLEY

Sir, may I speak freely, sir?

The Warden approaches Stanley slowly.

WARDEN

Yes, you may.

STANLEY

Sir, what are we digging for?

WARDEN

(long beat)

Something important.

STANLEY

No shit, sir. What is it?

WARDEN

Something more important than you. Do you know where the rest of it is?

Stanley is quiet for a moment... and he glances over at Zero.

STANLEY

Sir, it is irresponsible for me to answer that question unless I know the repercussions.

The Warden nods his head to Mr. Sir, who jabs his gun into Theo's stomach... sending him onto the ground.

Stanley winces at this.

WARDEN

There will be repercussions either way.

STANLEY

Sir, I can't be held responsible for what might happen if what you're looking for is something dangerous. I cannot live with that guilt.

The Warden nods his head once again to Mr. Sir... who then kicks Theo once again in the stomach. Mr. Sir then shoves Theo over, and he falls into the hole with a thud.

From down inside... you can hear him crying.

Zero looks as if he is on the verge of tears. X-Ray simply stares down at the ground.

WARDEN

Because of your actions, the innocent have already suffered, have they not?

STANLEY

(fiercely)

No sir, they have not.

WARDEN

Tell me, did you dig your sister's grave before you killed her?

Stanley's face is rigid. He does not respond.

The Warden nods once again to Mr. Sir... who then takes a shovel and begins to throw dirt down onto Theo.

X-RAY

Tell him Stanley! For Chrissakes tell him!

The Warden pulls out a piece of paper and holds it up in Zero's face.

WARDEN

You see this? This is a pardon. This document guarantees your parole. If you tell me where it is, you'll be out of here tomorrow.

Mr. Sir continues to throw piles of dirt down onto Theo, burying him alive.

X-RAY

Tell him! Just tell him where you found it!

Stanley looks over at Zero, as if to say: please don't.

ZERO

I found it. It was over a month ago. QDD 209. Southwest sector.

The Warden looks at him long and hard.

He then takes the pardon slip and TEARS IT INTO LITTLE PIECES. Zero's eyes slowly close.

WARDEN
 Tomorrow, all three of you will be
 sent south to the camps.
 (to Mr. Sir)
 Lock them in the incinerator room.

Mr. Sir turns his back on the hole and approaches them.

MR. SIR
 You heard him. Let's go.

And then suddenly, Zero turns around and RUNS SOUTHWEST
 AS FAST AS HE CAN.

X-RAY
 Zero! Don't do it!

He keeps running... and he doesn't look back.

Mr. Sir draws his gun, putting his eye up to the SCOPE...
 placing the CROSSHAIRS directly on Zero's back.

MR. SIR
 I've got him.

WARDEN
 Take him out.

MR. SIR
 Yes sir.

We see Mr. Sir lock the CROSSHAIRS right between Zero's
 shoulder blades... and his finger touches the TRIGGER...
 ready to pull...

...when suddenly THEO emerges from his hole like DAVID
 with a LARGE ROCK and BASHES MR. SIR in the back of the
 head.

Mr. Sir falls to the ground... his gun falling out of his
 hands onto the dirt.

Almost immediately... Stanley has the gun in his hands...
 and he has it pointed at the WARDEN.

Theo falls to his knees... the rock falling from his dirt
 covered hands.

WARDEN
 (putting his hand on his gun
 holster)
 Put it down.

STANLEY
 Don't think I won't kill you!

The Warden flinches... pulling his hand away from his holster.

STANLEY (cont'd)
(to X-Ray)
Get the keys to the truck!

X-Ray pulls the keys to the truck off of Mr. Sir's belt and jumps into the cab.

X-RAY
Come on!

STANLEY
Theo... come with us!

Theo, still dazed turns his head toward Stanley.

THEO
I... can't, Stanley. I have to stay here. God meant it to happen just this way.

Stanley slowly nods his head.

Stanley backs away from the Warden... the gun still aimed at his chest. He then hops into the back of the pickup truck.

STANLEY
(the gun still aimed)
I bet you wish you knew if Zero was telling the truth.
(beat)
Good luck finding it, sir.

X-Ray starts the engine and steps on the accelerator... sending the DODGE lurching forward in a cloud of dust.

Once the truck gets up to full speed, Stanley crawls through the back window into the cab.

INT: DODGE PICKUP -- NEXT

Stanley adjusts himself into his seat... putting his seatbelt on.

STANLEY
There he is! Pull up behind him!

The truck begins to slow down just as Zero can be seen through the windshield... still running as fast as he can.

Suddenly... a gunshot can be heard. Stanley sees that there is now a BULLET HOLE in the windshield.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- EAST SECTOR -- NEXT

The Warden has his gun raised and he is firing at the truck.

With all of the strength that he has left, Theo lunges at the Warden. The Warden quickly rebounds, and knocks Theo to the ground.

THEO
(crying)
It was supposed to happen! It was supposed to happen this way!

Theo raises his hands in the air as if to beg for mercy.

The Warden slowly raises his gun, aiming it at Theo... and with no emotion whatsoever he pulls the trigger.

INT: DODGE PICKUP -- NEXT

Zero jumps into the front of the cab and X-Ray steps on the gas, sending them once again southwest at full speed.

ZERO
(heavy breathing)
What the hell happened!

STANLEY
Theo saved us.

X-RAY
Where am I going? I don't know where to go!

ZERO
Southwest. Just drive southwest toward the border. We have to go to Mexico.

EXT: TEXAS DESERT -- HELICOPTER SHOT

We see the TRUCK crest a small incline... dust billowing out behind it... catching air on the other side.

INT: DODGE PICKUP -- NEXT

The three of them look out through the windshield when suddenly the desert begins to COLLAPSE BENEATH THEM. The truck skids off toward the left into some sort of ditch... and then SMASHES INTO A CONCRETE PYLON buried in the sand.

In an instant the driver and passenger AIRBAGS deploy... in a whiplash motion their bodies thrust forward into them.

EXT: TEXAS DESERT -- NEXT

Sand pours down over the truck... as it is now nestled into the ditch channel... the front end completely totaled.

INT: DODGE PICKUP -- NEXT

Stanley struggles to get his seatbelt off, coughing from the smoke.

STANLEY

Hey... is everybody alright?

ZERO

I think so.

But then X-Ray begins to cough up BLOOD onto his airbag.

STANLEY

X-Ray... are you OK?

But he does not answer. He only continues to cough.

X-RAY

The steering wheel. Hit me in the stomach hard.

STANLEY

We have to get out. Come on.

Stanley gets the passenger side door open and steps out. Zero pulls back X-Ray's airbag... and then reaches around... reclining X-Ray's seat so that he can slip out from behind the steering wheel.

He then helps pull him free... guiding him out of the passenger side door.

EXT: DITCH CHANNEL -- NEXT

The truck is almost completely buried in the sand, camouflaging from view.

Stanley examines the CONCRETE SLAB that they collided with, as Zero helps X-Ray lay down on the sand.

ZERO

I think you might have broken a couple of ribs. Lay down and take deep breaths.

STANLEY

There's an opening here. There something behind this pylon.

We see that there is a three foot wide crack in the CONCRETE SLAB... and only darkness beyond.

Stanley runs back to the REAR CAB AREA of the truck and removes a DUFFEL BAG and FIRST AID KIT.

Stanley rifles through the bag and pulls out a LARGE HALOGEN FLASHLIGHT.

He turns it on... shining it into the black opening

STANLEY

Oh my God. You're not gonna believe this.

ZERO

What is it?

STANLEY

It's an underground parking garage. There must be two hundred parked cars in there.

X-Ray begins to cough more severely.

STANLEY (cont'd)

Come on... we have to go inside. They'll be coming to look for us.

INT: UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE -- NEXT

Led by the bright FLASHLIGHT BEAM... they walk into the garage... and we see dozens of PARKED CARS. They are remarkably well preserved... parked uniformly in their spots.

Stanley shines his light onto an OLDSMOBILE STATION WAGON... and sees that the driver's door is ajar... and laying next to it on the concrete is the SKELETON of the woman who was driving it.

X-RAY

Theo was right about you, Stanley. You find things. That's your gift.

STANLEY

Seems like almost all the cars should be empty.

Stanley shines the light across a CHEVY LUMINA... a HONDA PRELUDE... and a TOYOTA COROLLA. They are all empty.

He then shines the light down the center aisle... and he sees two SKELETONS on the concrete next to one another. He walks over to them and sees that there is a MACY'S BAG on the ground between them.

He picks up the shopping bag and looks inside, retrieving TWO MEN'S SWEATSHIRTS. He then finds the CREDIT CARD RECEIPT and WALLET, and he hold it up to the flashlight.

The name on the drivers licence is MONA STEINER.

STANLEY (cont'd)

Her name was Mona Steiner. She bought us some sweatshirts. You boys want some clean clothes?

X-RAY

Hell yeah.

Zero walks X-Ray over to a RANGE ROVER that is parked next to an EMPTY SPOT.

CUT TO:

INT: UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Zero has found a LARGE ROCK... and he uses it to smash through one of the back windows of the RANGE ROVER in order to get the doors unlocked.

He then puts X-Ray into the passenger seat of the Rover.

ZERO

Now you're riding in style, boy.

X-RAY

Always wanted to ride in a Range Rover.

ZERO

We need to tape up those ribs.

Stanley comes by with the sweatshirts and a second FLASHLIGHT.

STANLEY

Here's another flashlight. I emptied out the truck. It's all buried in the sand. I don't think anyone will see it.

ZERO

(whispering)

He's hurt real bad. I... don't know what to do, other than keep him still, tape up his ribs.

Stanley looks over at X-Ray, who is holding his stomach... his eyes closed.

STANLEY

Listen... it's gonna get real cold in here tonight. I'm gonna go walk around, try and find some blankets.
 (setting down the duffel bag)
 There's enough food in here to last us for a little while.

ZERO

I'll watch him... check through these cars.

STANLEY

I'll meet you back here.

And then Stanley walks off into the dark garage.

INT: UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Stanley crosses down into the lower section of the garage... sweeping the halogen flashlight over the rows of cars.

At the end of the parking level he shines the light onto an EXIT DOOR that reads:

SEARS/PARKING LEVEL 1

Stanley walks through the doorway.

INT: UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR -- NEXT

Stanley walks to the end of the corridor and finds himself at the entrance to the BASEMENT LEVEL of SEARS.

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

Stanley shines his light into the darkness... revealing the HOUSEWARES and FURNITURE department.

The aisles... covered in dirt are remarkably well preserved. Stanley passes through the ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT... sweeping the light across a row of BASEBALL BATS and BASKETBALLS.

He removes one of the basketballs from its cardboard container... and goes to dribble it on the floor. When it hits the ground... it deflates with a SPLAT.

Stanley moves through to the middle of the department where there is a PAIR OF ESCALATORS rising up into the rubble.

Packed onto the escalators and covered from some of the fallen debris from above are nearly a DOZEN SKELETONS and their CLOTHING.

Stanley then turns and shines his light into the FURNITURE SECTION... where there are FOUR COUCHES set up as a FAUX LIVING ROOM.

STANLEY

Jackpot.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

Stanley now has a KEROSENE HEATER sitting in the middle of the Faux Living Room setup. There are two cans of CHILI sitting on top of it, also providing additional warmth and illumination for the room. X-Ray is now laid out on one of the couches, wrapped up in blankets. Zero walks into the living room area with boxes of BOARDGAMES.

ZERO

I've got Scattergories, Sorry, and Trivial Pursuit.

X-RAY

Trivial Pursuit!

X-Ray then breaks into a fit of coughing.

ZERO

Calm down. You have to stay still.

(to Stanley)

You sure it's alright to put gasoline in a kerosene heater?

STANLEY

I don't know. We'll find out.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

Stanley and Zero are now sitting on the floor next to the heater... with the Trivial Pursuit Millennium board set out on the carpet in between them.

STANLEY

How many minutes did the average American need to reach the nearest McDonald's, in 1998?

ZERO

Ten minutes.

STANLEY

Is that your final answer?

ZERO

Yeah.

STANLEY

Wrong. Four minutes.

X-RAY

God, I would do anything for some McDonald's right now.

ZERO

How long do you think it would take us to walk to the nearest MacDonal'd's right now?

Stanley and X-Ray think for a moment.

STANLEY

Two weeks.

X-RAY

No way. A month. And when we got there it would be closed down.

They are silent for a moment.

X-RAY

Sorry I wrecked the truck.

STANLEY

It's not your fault. It would have happened if either one of us was driving.

X-RAY

Are we gonna die down here, Stanley?

STANLEY

No one's going to die. We just have to figure out what to do next. Tomorrow we'll figure out a plan.

X-RAY

Just me then. You two will figure it out. I don't see how I can move, anyhow. My insides are all busted up.

ZERO

(new question)

What's the second-most common object of phobias, after spiders?

X-RAY

Snakes.

ZERO
Is that your final answer?

X-RAY
Yeah.

ZERO
Wrong.

X-RAY
Well what is it then?

ZERO
People.
(beat)
They'll be looking for us. I know
that. And if they find us, then what?
I think the longer we stay here the
better.

STANLEY
We have no food and barely any water.
He needs a doctor, and he can't walk.

X-RAY
(getting delirious)
Don't leave me alone down here. Please
don't leave me.

STANLEY
(new question)
What hairy cud-chewers served as
caddies at the 1996 Vermont
Invitational Celebrity Golf Tourney?

Everyone is silent for a moment.

ZERO
Hairy cud chewers?

X-RAY
What the hell is cud?

STANLEY
Like... grain schmeg. I don't know.

X-RAY
Beavers.

STANLEY
Is that your final answer?

X-RAY
Yeah, cause I'm gonna die soon. I know
it.

STANLEY

Wrong. The answer is Llamas. And wrong. You're not going to die down here.

ZERO

Do they sell guns at Sears?

STANLEY

No. I already checked. We've got the one gun... and the bullets from the truck. We can defend ourselves if we have to.

ZERO

The safest way to accomplish anything, is if we do it at night.

X-RAY

Please don't leave me. Sit this out with me, and then bury me up top. Don't let me be laid to rest down hear.

(beat)

I hate Sears. My mom used to buy my clothes here.

Stanley closes his eyes... trying to conceal his panic.

ZERO

What Beat writer started appearing in Nike ads three years before he died, at the age of 83?

STANLEY

William S. Burroughs.

ZERO

Is that your final answer?

STANLEY

Yes. And I know I'm right.

X-RAY

You know what the worst regret is? The worst part about it?

ZERO

What?

X-RAY

I'm still a virgin. I ain't never been laid.

X-Ray coughs up more blood.

X-RAY (cont'd)
Tell me what it feels like.

Zero and Stanley look at each other.

STANLEY
It's the best feeling in the world.

ZERO
It can't be described with words.

STANLEY
(new question)
What Nancy Sinatra song did the FBI
play at high volume in an effort to
flush David Koresh out of his Waco
compound?

X-RAY
Boots are made for walkin'.

STANLEY
How'd you know that?

X-RAY
Mom's favorite song. One hit wonder.
(beat)
Why did you kill your sister, Stanley?

Stanley is silent for a moment... looking down at the
Trivial Pursuit cards in his hands.

STANLEY
(ignoring the question)
What does the slang term "all day and
all night" mean to a prison inmate?

ZERO
A life sentence.
(beat)
Why did you kill your sister, Stanley?

Stanley is still looking down at the Trivial Pursuit
cards when he finally begins to talk.

STANLEY
We got separated from our Mom and Dad
right after the first blast.
(beat)
For the next few months we moved from
camp to camp, raided what's left of
the supermarkets, learned to love
Puppy Chow.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

INT: SUPERMARKET -- NIGHT

Stanley and Rebecca stand in a COMPLETELY DESERTED AISLE of the Supermarket. All that is left on the shelf in front of them is a bag of PUPPY CHOW.

EXT: SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Stanley and Rebecca sit on the curb in front of the entrance, eating handful after handful of dog food.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

X-RAY

Kibbles N' Bits is better.

STANLEY

We just kept trying to find them.
Rebecca started to get sick. Just like everybody else.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

EXT: WOODS -- NIGHT

We see Stanley carrying his sister through the woods... her coughing has now grown worse.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

Stanley now speaks very softly.

STANLEY

Eventually we made it to this military hospital, if you could call it that. They had it set up in this elementary school.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

INT: SCHOOL HALLWAY -- NEXT

Stanley carries his sister down a hallway lined with lockers. There are SICK PEOPLE everywhere. People screaming for help, armed Military Personnel blocking doorways to CLASSROOMS, family members pleading to be admitted.

Someone pulls a gun... trying to get through... but he is immediately tackled by several Military Guards.

Stanley maneuvers through the panicked masses and comes to the entrance to the school gymnasium. There is a WOMAN desperately pleading with the guard to get inside.

WOMAN

Please! I know he's in there! His name is Walter Murray!

GUARD

I'm sorry Mam. We have no one by that name here. There is no room left. You have to look somewhere else.

WOMAN

Please!

Stanley approaches the Guard with Rebecca in his arms. She is now HYPERVENTILATING.

Stanley looks at the Guard desperately.

STANLEY

Please. She's starting to hyperventilate.

The Guard looks at Stanley for a long moment... unable to deny that Rebecca is not in good health.

GUARD

Name?

STANLEY

(writing on his clipboard)
Rebecca Kramer.

GUARD

Age?

STANLEY

Eight.

The Guard moves to the side... allowing Stanley through. The Woman behind him begins to scream again.

INT: SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -- NIGHT

Inside the Gymnasium there are dozens of COTS laid out in rows on the floor. There are sick people everywhere, and just TWO VOLUNTEER DOCTORS.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

STANLEY

We were there for maybe two days...
and then her throat started to close
up.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

INT: SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -- NIGHT

Stanley is laying on the wood floor next to Rebecca's
cot... when he is awakened by harsh breathing sounds.

He rises up to meet her face... and we see that she is
desperately holding her throat.

Stanley takes her hand... his face filled with panic.

STANLEY

Doctor! We need a doctor!

But no one comes.

STANLEY (cont'd)

We need some medicine.

WOMAN

There isn't any. There's nothing you
can do but wait now.

Stanley turns his head and sees that it is the woman who
was trying desperately to get into the gymnasium before.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

STANLEY

Finally... they gave her a
tracheotomy... and she was breathing
through this straw.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

INT: SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -- NIGHT

Rebecca is now laying there with the tracheotomy tube
sticking out of her throat. Her eyes are barely open.

Stanley is next to her, holding her hand once again.

STANLEY

It will be alright. Soon everything
will be alright.

CUT TO:

EXT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

STANLEY

I sat there with her for three weeks.
And each day things got a little
worse. It got so she couldn't talk.
She could barely open her eyes they
were so swollen. Her tear ducts were
all dried up.

Tears have begun to roll down Stanley's cheeks.

STANLEY (cont'd)

You think that they'll finally reach
this threshold. Where a person...
can't suffer anymore than they already
know. You think that when it gets so
bad the body will just surrender...
and put the mind to rest... put the
pain away because it's got nothing to
do but just sit there day after day
and repeat the same thing.

(beat)

But it doesn't. It just repeats
itself. And repeats itself.

(beat)

You can only look at someone suffering
for so long, until you have to finish
what God started. You have to take
responsibility, and do what you think
will best provide for the person who
suffers more than you do.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

INT: SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -- NIGHT

Stanley is crying, holding his sister's hand. He slowly
reaches his hand out and touches Rebecca's swollen
face... and then moves his hand down to her throat, and
slowly removes the Tracheotomy tube.

We pull back slowly from Stanley as he lowers his head to
her chest... listening as the breath finally leaves her
body.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

STANLEY

But somebody saw me do it.

(beat)

I don't know who, but somebody saw me do it... and before I knew it, they were taking me away.

CUT TO: [FLASHBACK]

INT: SCHOOL GYMNASIUM -- NIGHT

A hand grabs Stanley by the arm as he sits over Rebecca's body... pulling him up to his feet.

Her HAND falls from his, limp... now touching the floor.

CUT TO:

INT: SEARS UNDERGROUND LEVEL -- NEXT

Stanley looks up from the Trivial Pursuit card in his hand. He has not stopped crying.

STANLEY

I guess they figured I was valuable.
Young, healthy man.

(beat)

So that's why I killed my sister.

They are all silent for a moment. X-Ray has grown very weak.

X-RAY

(almost gone)

You don't have to worry, Stanley. I'll tell Rebecca that you said hi.

(beat)

I'm not cold. I'm not cold anymore.

(beat)

You see I'm lucky compared to her. I got Mona Steiner's sweatshirt on. She bought this one special for me... so I'd been nice and warm.

(beat)

You see... I got X-Ray vision. I can see through space and time. I can see her right now.

We pull back to a wide angle of the sporting goods department and ESCALATORS... and they SLOWLY MORPH BACK IN TIME... where the store is now bathed in light, with shoppers everywhere.

X-Ray, Stanley, and Zero watch from the Faux Living Room as MONA STEINER and her sister, another plump, older woman, come down the escalator carrying the MACY'S SHOPPING BAG... deep in conversation.

X-RAY (cont'd)

I can hear them talking. She bought it for her son. To keep him warm. She's glad that it got put to good use.

Mona Steiner slowly turns her head and GAZES OVER AT THEM WITH A SMILE.

When she and her sister reach the bottom... they turn and walk through the Sporting Goods Department toward the exit.

X-RAY (cont'd)

You were my friends.
(beat)
You were my best friends.

They watch her silently, from the future, with a sense of longing for the past that has been lost.

EXT: TEXAS DESERT -- SUNSET

Stanley and Zero stand over X-Ray's GRAVE... which they have just filled back up, adjacent to the ditch channel.

ZERO

That's the last hole I'm ever going to dig, Stanley.

STANLEY

Me, too.
(beat)
Never again.

With the duffel bag, flashlights, and the gun in hand, Stanley and Zero begin to walk east in the direction from which they came... the sky slowly turning from purple into black.

NARRATOR

Stanley and I walked back toward camp green lake... knowing that the only logical solution was to finish what we started... and then... depending on the direction of fate... either suffer or benefit from the consequences.

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- SOUTHWEST SECTOR -- NIGHT

Stanley and Zero maneuver through the darkness between the sea of holes. Beyond them... the lights from the camp can be seen in the distance.

NARRATOR

It was a fact known by everyone at Camp Green Lake that Stanley had a knack for finding things.

Stanley and Zero look down at the hole that is the epicenter of their destination.

The letters and numbers stare back at them from the sand.

SOL 112

They jump down into the hole and begin to DIG INTO THE SOIL WITH THEIR BARE HANDS.

They dig for a minute or so until Stanley's hands brush against something.

STANLEY

(whispering)

I feel metal.

They dig around the outline of what appears to be a RECTANGULAR METAL BOX.

The LATCH is undone.

ZERO

The latch is undone.

STANLEY

We have to open it.

They stare silently down at the box.

ZERO

Are you scared, Stanley?

STANLEY

No. We've got nothing to be scared of.

After a moment's hesitation, Stanley leans down and opens the lid to the box.

He then steps back... and they stare blankly down at its contents.

They stare for a long time... saying nothing.

ZERO
What do you think it is?

Stanley looks closer.

STANLEY
(long beat)
It looks like a housing. A housing for
what we found before.
(beat)
And there are twenty-three more of
them.

We finally see that inside the box is this:

There is an INTRICATE METAL HOUSING with twenty three of
the SPARK PLUG HAMMERS plugged into it on FOUR PARALLEL
ROWS. In the upper left corner... one of the SPARK PLUG
HAMMERS is missing.

ZERO
Do you think it's a weapon?

STANLEY
I think that it's twenty-three loaded
weapons. This thing ejects them...
once they've been used up.
(beat)
I think the first one... started all
of this. Started the war.
(long beat)
Right now I wish that I had a Trivial
Pursuit card that could tell me all of
the answers.

Suddenly... footsteps can be heard from above. Stanley
and Zero turn quickly away... Zero reaches for the gun
that sits in the corner of the hole.

VOICE
Don't move.

The voice belongs to Mr. Sir. He has his gun aimed down
at them.

MR. SIR
Get out of the hole. Right now.

Stanley and Zero slowly make their way to the surface.
Once they are up... they see that the Warden is waiting
for them.

The Warden assesses the two young men for a long
moment... and then slowly approaches them.

WARDEN

Thank you for serving your country.

(beat)

May God have mercy on your souls.

From behind the Warden, TWO HEADLIGHTS approach from the distance.

The Warden then, without a trace of emotion, nods his head to Mr. Sir.

Stanley and Zero glance quickly back at one another... knowing that this is it.

Mr. Sir then raises his PISTOL to Zero... his finger on the trigger...

...WHEN SUDDENLY THERE IS A LOUD ELECTRICAL SNAPPING SOUND. MR. SIR'S HEAD FLINCHES SLIGHTLY... HIS EYES SUDDENLY FILLED WITH HORROR... JUST BEFORE HE FALLS DOWN FACE FIRST ONTO THE GROUND.

Stanley and Zero look down in shock at the back of Mr. Sir's head... and see the BLADE OF ONE OF THE SPARKPLUG HAMMERS IS IMBEDDED IN THE BACK OF HIS SKULL.

Silence.

The lights from the approaching truck are now getting closer.

The Warden slowly turns his head toward the hole... and before he has had the chance to reach for his gun...

...THERE IS ANOTHER ELECTRICAL SNAPPING SOUND... AND ANOTHER SPARKPLUG HAMMER EJECTS FROM THE HOLE... TURNING END OVER END UNTIL IT IMBEDS ITSELF INTO THE WARDEN'S CHEST.

The Warden falls to the ground... holding onto the device buried deep within his chest cavity.

BLOOD GUSHES FROM HIS MOUTH.

Stanley slowly approaches the Warden like a cat.

The headlights from the truck grow closer...

Stanley leans down to the Warden... taking his hand.

The Warden's eyes are filled with nothing but terror.

STANLEY

(whispering)

May God forgive you for the suffering that you have caused.

The Warden's eyes widen.

We approach Zero... who looks just as terrified as the Warden... staring down into the hole with tears in his eyes.

NARRATOR

In that moment I realized the great interlocking connection that had been made by this thing... buried beneath me...

MONTAGE OF IMAGES:

JONATHAN GAINES... RUNNING AWAY FROM THE CAMP JUST AS ZERO HAD.

MR. SIR... PULLING THE TRIGGER...

JONATHAN GAINES FALLING TO THE GROUND.

NARRATOR

I was reminded of Jonathan Gaines... and Mr. Sir.

MR. SIR'S DEAD EYES FACE DOWN AGAINST THE SAND.

DIANE PENDANSKI... SMOKING HER CIGARETTE AT THE BASEMENT ENTRANCE FOR BOB'S BIG BOY.

HER BONES... LAID OUT ON THE BLANKET BEFORE THE INCINERATOR.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

...of Diane... and the man who lost her...

PENDANSKI... LAYING ON HIS BUNK... STARING AT HIS WIFE'S WEDDING BAND.

GORDON BARCLAY... GRASPING THE WRENCH IN THE PIT OF HIS TEXACO STATION.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

...of Gordon Barclay... and his sea of fire...

THE FIRE RAGING FROM THE PIT... AS THE CAMPERS WATCH.

MONA STEINER... GAZING ACROSS THE SEA OF TIME AND SPACE ON THE SEARS ESCALATOR.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

...of Mona Steiner... and her gift to her lost son...

X-RAY... HIS EYES CLOSING SLOWLY ON THE COUCH IN THE FAUX SEARS LIVING ROOM.

THEO... LYING DESPERATELY ON THE GROUND CRYING... HOLDING HIS HANDS UP AGAINST THE WARDEN IN FEAR.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
...of Theo... and his faith in God...

REBECCA... WRAPPED IN HER TOWEL, STARING WITH A SMILE AT HER BIRTHDAY CAKE...

NARRATOR (cont'd)
...of Rebecca... and her brave heart...

STANLEY... CARRYING REBECCA'S BIRTHDAY CAKE.

STANLEY... PULLING THE TRACHEOTOMY TUBE FROM REBECCA'S THROAT.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
...and the Warden... and his secret...

THE WARDEN... STANDING AMONG A GROUP OF MILITARY OFFICERS IN THE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM... LOOKING ACROSS AT STANLEY AS HE KILLS HIS SISTER.

THE WARDEN... EYES AND BLOODY MOUTH IN A GRIMACE OF TERROR... STARING UP AT STANLEY'S ANGELIC FACE.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
...and Stanley...

STANLEY... JUMPING OFF THE EDGE OF HIS DIVING BOARD INTO THE BLAST.

ZERO... LOOKING DOWN AT THE HOLE IN SHOCK... HIS FACE COMPLETELY WHITE.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
...the one who was good at finding things. Things buried in the earth now revisited... from the future back into the past... and then buried once again. Buried beneath my feet in this strange connection.

Stanley holds the Warden's hand as the life passes from him... the light from the approaching truck bathing them in a white glow.

As the MILITARY TRUCK comes to a stop, Stanley and Zero look up and see that it is PENDANSKI who steps out.

He is now wearing a military uniform... his head shaved into a crew cut.

He approaches them slowly... assessing the scene. Judging the aftermath. Deciding what to do next is the thing that they have been doing for so long.

PENDANSKI

Start digging. There isn't much time.

CUT TO:

EXT: CAMP GREEN LAKE -- SOUTHWEST SECTOR -- NIGHT

Stanley, Zero and Pendanski stand over the filled holes where the Warden and Mr. Sir now rest.

From SOL 112 they then retrieve the Metal Box containing the remaining 21 sparkplug hammers... and they place it carefully into the back of the Military Truck.

Pendanski then grabs a stack of FATIGUES... and throws them at Stanley and Zero.

PENDANSKI

Put these on. You've been drafted.

INT: MILITARY TRUCK -- NEXT

Stanley and Zero sit in the cab of the truck as Pendanski drives.

They drive back through the camp for the last time... ignored entirely by the scores of military personnel moving throughout. They approach the entrance, where the arched sign stares back at them:

WELCOME TO CAMP GREEN LAKE

As they pull up to a stop... there is an ARMED MILITARY GUARD standing there.

Stanley looks over and sees that the Guard is actually DEREK. His hair has also been shaved into a crew cut.

PENDANSKI

(to Derek)

Laundry duty.

Derek looks briefly over at Stanley and Zero... nods his head... and then waves them through.

The Truck then drives off into the desert night... leaving the camp behind forever... with its precious cargo in tow...

CUT TO:

EXT: OCEAN -- DAY

We pull back from ocean waves into the WAKE of a LARGE CIVILIAN TRANSPORT SHIP.

EXT: TRANSPORT SHIP -- NEXT

Stanley, Zero, and Pendanski emerge from a group of people on the REAR DECK of the ship. They are dressed like civilians in WINTER PATAGONIAS.

As we get closer... we see that Stanley and Zero are carrying both ends of a HUGE BLUE DUFFEL BAG.

As they carry it to the edge of the railing that overlooks the back of the transport ship... they pause for a moment... resting the duffel bag on the back of the railing.

Pendanski stands behind them... looking down at the wake forming in the water.

PENDANSKI

Whatever it is... it did what it did for a reason.

(beat)

And now it wants to be buried.

(beat)

Or it wouldn't have let us come this far.

Stanley and Zero look at one another.

ZERO

Bury the past.

Stanley nods in agreement.

STANLEY

Bury the past.

And with that, they tip the duffel bag over the railing... and it PLUNGES INTO THE OCEAN.

They stare back for a moment... and Stanley's eyes widen suddenly... his face filled with some wondrous realization.

NARRATOR

And then we were filled with a great and strange wisdom. We went to a place where we could bury our regret. That same regret that had imbedded itself, without choice, in the hearts of those who were no longer around to show us the way. With this knowledge we sailed forth on a new path, through the architecture of this immense planet, its mysteries still unsolved.

(beat)

And we haven't looked back since.

And with that... the ship trails away from us... gaining speed into the horizon.

FADE OUT: