

THE TIP

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Unique Features
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BEGIN MAIN TITLES

In a stylized opening sequence, we see a series of dynamic still images of KATIE LAWSON (late-twenties, kind) from afar.

She plays with her precocious son, DYLAN -- She sits on the porch of her trailer with her friend JULIET -- They all sit around a picnic table with another man, RICK.

Gradually, the images become more personal, invasive - she exits her car in a parking lot -- She walks into a store.

She runs her hand through her hair as she has a heated conversation on the phone -- She wipes a tear while on break behind a diner.

We watch Katie through the window of her trailer as she makes dinner for her son -- Then we see her in her bedroom, as she is changing clothes.

Finally, Katie turns, looking out the window, right back at us--

CUT TO BLACK.

END MAIN TITLES

FADE IN:

EXT. SEDONA DESERT - NIGHT

Moonlight illuminates jagged red rock mountains, reducing them to silhouette against the blue-grey shadow of night.

A black and yellow incision cuts through the darkened scrubland - a two-lane highway called route 89.

A pair of headlights appear at the horizon. They make their way toward the only sign of life - the Red Rock Diner.

EXT. RED ROCK DINER - NIGHT

A charming greasy spoon with a half full parking lot. It sits alone along the highway - rustic, quaint, isolated.

The headlights draw closer, revealing a BLACK SEDAN with tinted windows. It pulls into the parking lot and idles.

INT./EXT. BLACK SEDAN - CONTINUOUS

The silhouette of a DRIVER watches through the restaurant's picture windows as a waitress, KATIE LAWSON comes into view.

Her wide smile reflects a genuine pleasure as she takes an order. When she moves on to the next table, the car moves with her, keeping her in sight.

But suddenly, she pauses, looking out the window. She seems to stare right at the driver.

INT. RED ROCK DINER - CONTINUOUS

From KATIE'S POV, we see her view of the darkened parking lot. If the sedan is visible at all, it is faint.

She squints, struggling to see if something's there.

TREVOR (O.S.)

Miss?

Katie pulls her attention back to TREVOR, the leader of a raucous table of GOLF BUDDIES.

She hesitates, taking one more look at the parking lot, then proceeds to his table with a smile.

KATIE

Hi, can I get you Gentlemen anything else?

One of the guys leans over to his neighbor and whispers something in his ear. They both crack up.

Katie clocks this, biting her tongue.

TREVOR

Actually, we were wondering if you could settle a bet for us...

Trevor places his hand on the small of Katie's back and the guys all snicker.

Katie looks down at Trevor's hand, disdainful.

KATIE

You may not want to do that. My kid threw up all over me this morning - head to toe. Do you have kids?

Trevor straightens up, uncomfortable, and removes his hand.

TREVOR

Two girls.

KATIE

Yeah, so you get it. Thankfully it wiped right off.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)
 But I didn't have time to wash
 these clothes or anything.

Trevor looks down at his hand, disgusted. The other men have
 all shut up, severely grossed out.

KATIE (CONT'D)
 Anyway, what was the bet about?

TREVOR
 Uh... nevermind.

KATIE
 Oh. Okay. Have a good night then.

Katie smiles wide, then heads off, leaving the table in a
 dead silence.

As she goes, she smirks, pleased with herself. A pregnant
 waitress, CHELSEA, approaches her.

CHELSEA
 That was inspiring. I mean it. I'm
 thinking of naming this little
 chicken after you.

Chelsea places a hand on her swollen belly and Katie watches,
 almost envious for a beat. She quickly recovers, joking--

KATIE
 Well, if your goal is for her to
 repel men, then I say go for it.
 (then)
 Hey, have you seen Eileen?

CHELSEA
 (cringing)
 You gonna have the talk?

KATIE
 I've been here for a year and a
 half. I don't think it's that crazy
 to ask for a raise.

Chelsea smiles, trying to be enthusiastic.

CHELSEA
 Good luck. I'll let you know if I
 see her.

Katie gives a tight grin as she continues on, but then her
 phone begins to ring.

She looks at the caller ID and her smile evaporates - *HOME*.

She peers around the restaurant, then sneaks outside.

EXT. RED ROCK DINER - CONTINUOUS

Katie exits into the parking lot, answering the phone. As she does, we see the BLACK SEDAN idling in the background.

KATIE
Is the trailer on fire?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - SAME

Katie's precocious ten-year-old son, DYLAN, paces back and forth in a spare, but lovingly decorated bedroom.

DYLAN
No.

KATIE
Have you contracted some kind of
flesh-eating virus?

DYLAN
No.

KATIE
So it's some other kind of
emergency then?

DYLAN
Yes.

KATIE
Because you know you're not
supposed to call me at work unless
it's an emergency.

DYLAN
I know.

KATIE
Okay... so what's the emergency?

Dylan peers into the living room at JULIET FITZGERALD, an eccentric 45-year-old former rocker who paints at an easel.

Dylan turns away from her, whispering.

DYLAN
Juliet won't let me rent a movie.

Katie's head sinks - *she was clearly expecting something like this.*

KATIE

And Juliet's right. You can find something on YouTube.

DYLAN

But I want to watch *Zootropolis*.

KATIE

I don't know what that is.

DYLAN

It's only four dollars.

KATIE

Okay, but if you do that a couple of times a month it can add up. We're on a budget here.

DYLAN

Pleeeeeease. Dad used to let me rent movies all the time.

This subject clearly pains Katie, but she does her best to move through it.

KATIE

Dylan, do you remember what I said about us needing to be a team right now? Well this is where I need your help, buddy. Can you just find something else to watch? When Zoo-- *whatever* comes on cable we'll watch it till our eyes fall out. I promise.

Dylan pouts, but eventually gives in.

DYLAN

Okay.

KATIE

Thank you. I'll be home late tonight, but I'll see you tomorrow. I love you.

Katie hangs up. But she isn't quite ready to go inside - she takes a moment.

Then, with a deep sigh, she turns back toward the restaurant...

... but after a few steps she stops, looking back over her shoulder.

The BLACK SEDAN sits idle in a parking spot behind her. She can just barely make out the silhouette of the DRIVER... and it looks like they're staring right at Katie.

MYSTERY POV

The SILHOUETTE inside the car peers right back at Katie as she strains to see.

BACK OUTSIDE

Katie takes one more look, then continues into the restaurant, on edge.

INT. RED ROCK DINER - CONTINUOUS

Katie enters, still a little apprehensive. But she shakes it off and makes her way toward the server station where she gets to work at the computer.

After a moment, she notices something out of the corner of her eye - a well put together, but off putting man, PATRICK TRESDEN (30) enters and takes a seat at an open booth.

Katie stares at him, appraising, until he looks up, locking eyes with her.

She jerks her gaze down to the counter, acting busy. After a beat she peaks back up at him - he's looking at the menu.

EILEEN (O.S.)

Katie!

She snaps to attention as her petite, but formidable boss, EILEEN NORRIS (45), calls out to her.

KATIE

Yes ma'am.

EILEEN

You looking for me?

Katie lights up.

KATIE

Yeah. Do you have a sec?

EILEEN

Sure. Come to my office.

Katie swallows hard, wipes her sweaty palms on her uniform and follows her.

As she goes, she passes Chelsea. They both cross their fingers, hopeful.

Katie then glances back toward Patrick - he watches her as she turns the corner.

Her brow furrows, unsettled.

INT. RED ROCK DINER, EILEEN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Katie and Eileen enter the tiny back room office and sit.

KATIE

Thanks for seeing me. I don't know if you know, but I'm coming up on about a year and a half here, and I know that in the past, a lot of people have gotten raises around this time. So, I was wondering if maybe... I could too?

Eileen sighs deep, rubbing the bridge of her nose.

EILEEN

Katie... you know that's not an official policy, right?

KATIE

Yeah, no, I know that. I just thought, maybe if I'd been doing a good job...

EILEEN

It's not about that. It's just about how the business is doing.

KATIE

Okay... how *is* the business doing?

EILEEN

Not great.

Katie reels, taking this in.

KATIE

Okay, so... what does that mean?

Eileen shakes her head.

EILEEN

Now's not the time.

Gut-punched, Katie tries to recover.

KATIE

Is there anything I can do? I mean, if there's a problem, I can work on it.

EILEEN

No, you've been great. We just haven't been hitting our numbers.

KATIE

Are you sure? Cause honestly I could really use the money. I'm behind on rent, I have creditors busting down my door.

EILEEN

I'm sorry, Katie. I really am.

KATIE

What if I took on more shifts? It wouldn't be a raise, I'd just be working more. I'd take anything.

Eileen just shakes her head, sorrowful.

EILEEN

You know I can't do that, not without taking shifts from someone else.

Tears start to well in Katie's eyes.

KATIE

Eileen, please, I'm all alone out here. All I want, is to take care of my son, but I'm struggling. Please...

Eileen swallows hard - this is tough on her too.

EILEEN

I'm sorry.

Katie can only sit there, defeated. After a beat, she pries herself out of the seat and moves to the door.

INT. RED ROCK DINER, BACK AREA - CONTINUOUS

Katie exits, emotional. She tries to fight it, but the tears come and she RUSHES to the REST ROOM.

But when she gets there - *crap!* The door is locked.

There's no use trying to hold it, the flood gates open and she collapses back against the wall, sobbing. She covers her eyes as wretched, horrible tears choke out of her.

Slowly, she manages a few deep breaths, pulling herself together. She opens her eyes... and FREEZES--

Patrick, the man from the diner, stands at the entrance to the bathroom area. He just waits there, watching her.

Katie quickly wipes her eyes, embarrassed.

KATIE

Sorry.

Patrick grabs some napkins and brings them to her.

PATRICK

Here.

Katie takes them, gracious, and cleans herself up.

KATIE

Thanks.

PATRICK

Are you alright?

KATIE

Yeah, I'm fine.

PATRICK

Are you sure?

She can't help it. The tears well up again and she has to work to keep them down.

KATIE

I'm sorry, I just...

(then)

I've been having this dream lately where I'm in the middle of the desert. I have no idea where I am, or how I got there and I'm completely alone. But then, I get the feeling that something's coming for me. Something dangerous. So I try to run... but I can't. My legs won't move. I try so hard, but I can barely even lift them. And this *thing* keeps getting closer and closer, and I try so hard to get away from it, but I just fucking can't.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)
 (then)
 Do you ever get that?

Patrick watches Katie with an intensity that is unnerving.

PATRICK
 Every night.

They lock eyes for a pregnant beat, but then -- the bathroom door opens and the OCCUPANT exits. Katie rights herself, gives Patrick a parting smile and then goes in.

KATIE
 Thanks for the napkins.

Katie closes the door, leaving Patrick behind. He waits there, alone, his face inscrutable as he watches the door.

INT. RED ROCK DINER - LATER

Katie returns to the SERVER STATION where Chelsea is waiting, smiling wide, hopeful.

CHELSEA
 Sooo... ?

Katie shakes her head - *no*.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)
 (sympathetic)
 Oh, Sweetie.

Chelsea gives her a hug.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)
 You'll figure something out, right?

KATIE
 (unconvincing)
 Yeah...

Over Chelsea's shoulder, Katie spots Patrick return to his table. She cringes.

KATIE (CONT'D)
 Anyway you could take table eleven for me? The guy saw me crying outside the bathroom. It's embarrassing.

Chelsea regretfully places her hand on her pregnant belly.

CHELSEA

I wish I could, but I'm exhausted.
Can I help you find somebody else?

She thinks about it, then...

KATIE

Nah, that's okay, I got it.

She sighs, resigned, then heads to...

PATRICK'S TABLE

... where she slinks up next to him, trying to act upbeat.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Hello again. Do you see anything
you'd like?

Patrick watches her, concerned, but pushes through.

PATRICK

Uh... what's good?

KATIE

Depends on what you're in the mood
for. Everything's about how you'd
expect it to be. The grilled cheese
tastes like a grilled cheese. The
vegetable soup is vegetable soup.

PATRICK

How about the tuna melt?

KATIE

Oh, that actually tastes like a
blueberry pancake.

Patrick attempts the faintest smile.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I'm kidding. It's great. You'll
love it.

PATRICK

Okay...

Katie jots down his order.

KATIE

Anything else?

Patrick hesitates more than is necessary as he answers.

PATRICK

Uh... no.

KATIE

Okay, I'll have this out shortly.

Katie starts to walk away, but Patrick GRABS her wrist, JOLTING her to a stop.

PATRICK

Wait.

She looks back at him - *what the fuck?!* Patrick releases her arm, apologetic.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

Sorry, I just... I want to make sure you're okay.

Katie rubs her wrist, apprehensive, but then allows a soft smile.

KATIE

I'm fine. Thank you.

PATRICK

Are you sure?

KATIE

Yeah.

Katie turns away, but then--

PATRICK

Cause you seemed really upset.

Katie stops, takes a beat to compose herself, then slides into the booth across from him, smiling politely.

KATIE

Listen, I'm sorry about earlier. That was unprofessional. And you are so sweet to worry about me, but please... don't.

Katie fixes Patrick with a kind, but firm gaze. He gives a weak nod.

PATRICK

Okay.

Katie smiles, then rises and heads toward the kitchen. As she does, she can't help but rub her wrist where he grabbed her.

Patrick never takes his eyes off Katie.

INT. RED ROCK DINER - LATER

In the KITCHEN, Katie grabs a dish bin from beside the sink and takes it into the...

RESTAURANT

... which is now mostly deserted. She rounds a corner, and gives a sigh of relief when she sees Patrick's table empty.

She approaches and sees his BILL sitting amongst the plates. She reaches out for it, when --

EILEEN (O.S.)

Katie!

Katie JUMPS, startled. She holds her hand over her heart as she turns to see Eileen by the door.

KATIE

Hey. You heading out?

EILEEN

Yeah... sorry, I didn't mean to scare you. I just wanted to check in on you before I left.

KATIE

Oh. Okay.

EILEEN

You know I'm here, right? If you want to talk, or anything.

KATIE

Yeah, sure. Thanks, Eileen.

EILEEN

You're welcome.

Eileen gives Katie a tight smile, then heads out.

Katie rolls her eyes, then starts to move back toward Patrick's BILL, when--

CHELSEA (O.S.)

What a bitch.

KATIE

Oh, come on.

CHELSEA

I mean it. It's bad enough she doesn't want to give you the raise, but now she wants you to make her feel better about it too?

KATIE

It's not her fault. I get it.

CHELSEA

Well, doesn't mean you can't be pissed off.

(then)

What're you gonna do?

Katie just shrugs, at a loss.

KATIE

Honestly, I have no idea.

CHELSEA

Yeah...

Chelsea tries to say more... but there's nothing. She gives Katie a smile, then heads out the door.

Katie watches Chelsea as she walks outside. A MAN in a pickup truck meets her, kissing her lips, and then her belly. He guides her to the passenger side door and then helps her in.

Katie swallows hard as she watches this sweet moment, then turns back to Patrick's BILL. She opens it up... and her heart sinks--

KATIE

Oh, come on...

A *slash* mark hovers over the tip line. Katie scoffs - *unbelievable*.

She slaps the bill shut and shoves it in her apron. She starts grabbing his dishes, but then notices something else - a THICK WHITE ENVELOPE resting beside his plate.

She picks it up, and sees a note, "*Hope this helps :) - Patrick*"

She opens it up - then HURLS it back on the table!

-- SMASH! -- The envelope knocks a glass over and it SHATTERS on the floor!

A BUS BOY looks up, concerned. Katie quickly composes herself.

KATIE (CONT'D)
It's fine. Everything's fine,
sorry.

The bus boy continues on.

When he's gone, Katie looks back at the envelope in disbelief.

Slowly, she reaches out for it, like she's handling a snake.

She opens it up and we see what's inside - a thick wad of bills with a money band wrapped around it - \$10,000.

She can't believe it. She has to cover her mouth to keep from screaming.

MYSTERY POV

OUTSIDE, someone watches her through the window as she celebrates.

INT./EXT. KATIE'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Katie smiles wide as she drives through the desert night, alone along the darkened highway.

As she goes, the smile slowly falls out of her eyes, and then fades away completely.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

A sprinkling of double-wides tucked amongst ponderosa pines. Katie pulls up in front of a pair of well kept trailers, with a picnic table and a rickety playset between them.

Katie takes a moment to collect herself, looking again at the envelope, concerned.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Katie enters her lovingly decorated trailer to find JULIET, who we saw on the other end of Dylan's phone call, still painting a canvas in the living room.

JULIET
Ah, just in time! Check it out.

Juliet steps aside revealing an obscenely kitsch landscape painting of Arizona.

JULIET (CONT'D)
(proud)
Isn't it awful?
(MORE)

JULIET (CONT'D)
It's like Arizona vomited on a
canvas. The tourists will love it.

Katie tries to engage, but she can barely focus.

KATIE
Uh... yeah.

JULIET
What's the matter with you? You
look like you got run over.

Katie just laughs - *that's one way to put it.*

KATIE
Is Dylan asleep?

JULIET
Yeah. What's up?

Katie takes a beat, considering. Then...

KATIE
Do you have any wine?

Juliet cocks her head to the side, intrigued.

EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Juliet and Katie sit in lawn chairs on the trailer's deck, a
box of wine between them.

Juliet runs a thumb through the cash, in awe, then fixes her
eyes on Katie.

JULIET
You know I am in no position to
judge, but honey? What kind of
service you giving over there?

KATIE
Nothing! Just, normal! I don't
know!

JULIET
Well, who was this guy?

KATIE
No idea. I'd never seen him before
in my life.

JULIET

And he just gave you a ten thousand dollar tip... he wasn't... *expecting* anything?

KATIE

No... I don't think so. He just left the money and was gone.

(then)

What am I supposed to do? I can't keep this, can I?

Juliet's face twists, askance.

JULIET

Can't keep it? What do you mean, can't keep it?

KATIE

I mean, I can't just take it. It's way too much.

Juliet takes a deep, exaggerated breath.

JULIET

I'm going to pretend like I didn't just hear that. You're keeping the money.

KATIE

No, I--

JULIET

(interrupting)

Listen to me. I'm going to ask you some questions and I want you to answer them honestly. Number one: would this money help you and Dylan?

KATIE

Well, yeah. Ten thousand dollars would get us out of this hole and then some.

JULIET

Okay. Number two: will you use the money in a responsible way?

KATIE

I'm not going to buy drugs with it if that's what you mean.

JULIET

Great. Number three: why the hell are we still having this conversation?! Take the damn money!

Katie laughs, bemused, then leans back in her chair.

KATIE

I don't know, I can't explain it. This just doesn't feel right. There was something... off about him.

JULIET

Well, yeah! Normal people don't leave ten thousand dollar tips. But Katie, what other choice do you have? How many months are you behind on rent for this place? How many nasty colored bills do you have piled up inside?

(then)

How long before Dylan needs to go to the emergency room? You know how rambunctious that kid is, what are you going to do if he gets hurt?

Katie sinks - she doesn't have a good answer for that.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Don't you think you've had enough trouble? Let yourself have this, if not for you, then for that little hellion you've got inside, sleeping in some stranger's hand-me-down pajamas.

Katie eyes her, reluctant, but then cracks a smile.

KATIE

I guess we could use a few new things around here...

Juliet grins wide.

JULIET

You bet your ass you could.

MYSTERY POV

From afar we see Katie and Juliet clink their glasses together, cheersing. With that, MUSIC TAKES US TO--

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, KITCHEN - DAY

Katie's phone rings and the caller ID reads "CREDITOR DO NOT ANSWER". Katie cheerfully accepts the call.

KATIE

Hello, this is Katie Lawson.

(pause)

Yes, I'd love to discuss my payment options.

EXT. MANAGER'S TRAILER - DAY

Katie bounces up the steps to the trailer door and slides an envelope into the box marked RENT.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Katie applies a fresh coat of paint to the cracked living room walls.

INT. DISCOUNT SHOE STORE - DAY

Katie and Dylan look over a limited selection of kid's shoes.

KATIE

See anything you like?

Dylan shrugs, not that into it. Katie squishes her face.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Yeah. Me neither.

INT. UPSCALE SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Dylan grins from ear to ear as he SAILS out the entrance of a Foot Locker, loving his new pair of HEELYS. Katie follows him, getting a huge kick out of his joy.

As he zooms by a crowd of SHOPPERS, Katie catches a glimpse of someone in the crowd and FREEZES - holy shit, is that Patrick!?

She does a double take, searching the area where he was... but he's gone.

She pushes through the crowd, looking for him, and finally spots a MAN from behind. It looks like it could be him.

She moves toward the man, but then he bends down to pick up a YOUNG GIRL, revealing his face - it's someone else.

She looks around again, searching the crowd, but then--

DYLAN (O.S.)
Mom! Look!

Katie pulls her attention back to Dylan just in time to see him TAKE OFF on his Heelys down a wheelchair ramp.

She rises, panicked.

KATIE
Dylan!

Katie RUSHES over as he SHOOTs down the incline.

He loses control and heads straight toward a down escalator, but Katie gets there just in time and stops him.

She holds him close, panting.

DYLAN
That was fun. Can I do it again?

Katie looks at him like he's crazy, then pulls him in even closer.

MYSTERY POV

Someone watches from the crowd as Katie holds Dylan tight.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL, PARKING LOT - DAY

Katie and Dylan walk toward their car through the crowded parking lot.

DYLAN
How about a skateboard?! Can I get a skateboard?

KATIE
Are you kidding?

DYLAN
How about a Playstation?

KATIE
You know, children with birthdays coming up shouldn't be asking these sorts of questions.

Dylan smiles wide and skates along side her.

DYLAN
Is Dad coming back?

She reacts, gut punched.

KATIE
Um... Dylan...

DYLAN
You said he was busy cause he was working, but maybe we have enough money now so he can come back.

Katie grits her teeth, reigning in her emotions.

KATIE
We'll see, okay?

DYLAN
That's what you said before, but--

KATIE
(snapping)
Dylan, I said we'll see! Drop it!

Dylan cowers, retreating into a shell.

DYLAN
Okay. Sorry.

Dylan takes off on his Heelys toward their car, leaving Katie behind - she immediately feels like shit.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - DAY

Katie sits cross-legged in her bed, still regretful, as she swipes through a series of photos on her phone.

-- Katie, Dylan and her handsome husband, JEREMY (27) sit on a picnic blanket, taking a selfie -- in the next picture they all stick their tongues out.

A bittersweet smile appears at the corner of her mouth and she keeps scrolling.

-- At an arcade, Dylan and Jeremy hold realistic looking handguns as they play a shooting game -- next they stand back to back, holding their guns up like spies.

Katie laughs, and continues swiping, but then her face falls.

-- She looks at a picture of a car with massive amounts of damage on the side.

Katie quickly turns off her phone and puts it down.

She bites her lip as she wrestles with the emotions this brings up.

Then, she gets out of bed and moves quickly to a nearby closet. There, she reaches onto a high shelf and pulls down an UNMARKED CARDBOARD BOX.

She opens it, and inside we find a black, compact, Smith & Wesson M&P Bodyguard Revolver. *Katie has a gun.*

After a beat, she closes the box, and returns it to the high shelf.

EXT. RED ROCK DINER - MORNING

Katie exits her car, slings her purse over her shoulder and makes her way into the diner.

INT. RED ROCK DINER, KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

She enters through the kitchen's back door and moves to her locker. As she places her purse inside, Chelsea approaches, sympathetic.

CHELSEA
Hey, how you holding up?

KATIE
Me? I'm good.

Chelsea smiles, relieved.

CHELSEA
Oh good. I thought you might still be upset about the raise.

Katie's eyes widen - *oh yeah, that.* She subtly changes her demeanor.

KATIE
Yeah, you know, I'm just trying to stay positive.

CHELSEA
Good for you.
(then)
Well, I'm glad you're feeling okay, cause your friend's out there asking for you.

KATIE
My friend?

CHELSEA
You know, Mr. Table Eleven. The guy from the bathroom.

Katie freezes, stunned.

KATIE
Wait, he's here?

CHELSEA
Yeah. You want me to get rid of
him?

KATIE
No! No, I got it. Thanks.

Chelsea shrugs and moves into the restaurant.

CHELSEA
Alright, well I'll see you out
there.

Alone, Katie reels - *what is he doing here?* After a beat, she checks herself out in the mirror, straightens out her uniform and exits the kitchen.

INT. RED ROCK DINER - CONTINUOUS

Katie steps into the crowded diner and looks toward the entrance. Sure enough, PATRICK TRESDEN sits in a folding chair by the door. When he sees her he stands and gives a little wave.

Katie plasters on a smile and walks over to him, trying hard to seem enthusiastic.

KATIE
Hello! It's Patrick, right? So good
to see you again.

PATRICK
You too.

Patrick leans in for a hug, taking Katie off guard.

KATIE
(surprised)
Oh.

Katie obliges, hugging him back, awkwardly. When they part, she waits, but he doesn't say anything.

KATIE (CONT'D)
So, listen, I can't thank you
enough for what you did for me and
my son, it was incredibly generous,
but... it was really too much. I
don't know if...

PATRICK
I was happy to help.

Patrick cuts her off with a smile.

KATIE
And it did, really, but...

PATRICK
Katie, the money's yours.

Katie stops, relenting, and gives a smile.

KATIE
Well, thank you, really, you have
no idea how much it helps.

PATRICK
Good. I'm glad.

Patrick smiles, sincere, but doesn't continue.

KATIE
So... what brings you by?
(then, quickly)
Not that I'm not glad you're here.

PATRICK
I wanted to give you something.

Patrick reaches into his bag and starts digging around.

KATIE
Oh, no, you've already given me too
much, I--

Katie stops when she sees what he has - a cheap, grocery
store greeting card.

Katie takes it, and looks it over, confused.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Oh, uh... thank you. This is...

PATRICK
It's for tax purposes. I was
worried if you claimed the money as
a tip, you'd have to pay a
percentage on it. This is so you
can treat it like a gift.

KATIE
(surprised)
Oh! Okay.
(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

I hadn't even thought of that.
Thanks.

(then)

That's why you came by? To give me
this?

PATRICK

Yeah.

Relieved, Katie smiles wide.

KATIE

That's really thoughtful of you,
Patrick, thank you so much. And I'm
glad I got a chance to thank you in
person. My son and I are really
just so grateful.

(then, reluctant)

I'm sorry, but I should probably
get to work.

Katie scrunches her face, disappointed.

PATRICK

Are you spoiling him at all? Your
son?

Katie hesitates, thrown off.

KATIE

Uh... just a little. I got him this
new pair of shoes and he loves
them. They have these little wheels
in them so you can skate around and
he's just been cruising all over
the place.

PATRICK

Sounds like quite the sight.

KATIE

Oh it is, you should see it.

PATRICK

I'd love to.

Katie stops, completely caught off guard.

KATIE

You'd love to... what? See him
skate?

PATRICK

Sure. I mean, if it's okay.

Katie struggles, clearly thrown.

KATIE

Uh... yeah... of course it's okay.
That would be great.

PATRICK

Are you sure?

KATIE

Totally. You should come over. He'd
love it.

PATRICK

Okay, thanks. How's tomorrow? Maybe
around six?

Katie smiles wide, though her discomfort is plainly visible.

KATIE

That's perfect.

PATRICK

Great. I'll see you then.

Patrick turns to leave, but as he does Katie realizes
something--

KATIE

Wait, do you need my address?

Patrick stops... then chuckles - *how silly of me.*

PATRICK

Oh yeah, that would be helpful
wouldn't it?

Katie laughs it off... but she's clearly disturbed.

EXT. SEDONA FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

TOURISTS weave through a smattering of white tents displaying
regional crafts and foods.

Katie and Juliet sit behind her booth where dozens of tacky
landscape paintings hang in the stall.

KATIE

I couldn't help it, it just
happened.

JULIET

You invited him on a playdate with your son - that doesn't just happen. What were you thinking?

KATIE

I don't know... I mean, what was I supposed to do? The guy gave me ten thousand dollars, I can't exactly tell him to take a hike.

JULIET

You absolutely can. You don't owe him anything. You know that, right? You didn't ask for that money.

KATIE

I know...

JULIET

Katie, I need you to say that again, but I need to actually believe you this time.

Katie looks her in the eye.

KATIE

I don't owe him anything.

(then)

And he hasn't asked either. The only reason he stopped by was because he wanted to make sure I didn't have to pay taxes on the tip.

RICK (O.S.)

You don't really believe that, do you?

A burly middle-aged man, RICK CARTER, leans over from a neighboring stall featuring portraits of noble stallions and cowboys.

JULIET

Sweetie, what did I tell you about eavesdropping?

RICK

I'm a cop. I know a little something about stalkers.

KATIE

He's not a stalker.

RICK

He's certainly shown some warning signs - he gave you an inappropriate gift, he showed up at your work place. Those are red flags, Katie. Has he tried to reach out to you in any other way?

KATIE

(dismissive)

No. Never.

RICK

You ever seen him anywhere strange?

Katie's eyes flicker.

KATIE

Uh... I don't think so...

RICK

How about personal details? Did he know anything about you that he shouldn't have?

This hits Katie hard, but she shakes it off, hiding behind a broad smile.

KATIE

Guys, I appreciate the concern. Really. But it's not a big deal.

Juliet and Rick exchange a skeptical look.

KATIE (CONT'D)

What?! It's not!

JULIET

If it's not a big deal, why'd you come all the way out here to talk about it?

Katie's stumped, not sure how to answer that.

KATIE

Look, he's just stopping by. That's it. And with that in mind, I should head out. I have a shift tonight, so I should get some rest before he comes over.

Katie rises, but Juliet takes her hand, stopping her.

JULIET

Katie, we're just trying to look out for you. But if you say everything is okay, then we'll trust you.

(to Rick)

Right?

Rick takes a second, but then nods, reluctantly agreeing.

Katie thinks for a beat, doubt creeping in, then smiles wide.

KATIE

Everything is okay.

Juliet nods, taking her at her word.

JULIET

Great.

Katie smiles and squeezes Juliet's hand, then heads out into the crowd. As she goes, she looks worried.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Katie runs down an empty desert highway. She breathes hard, pushing herself, until she finally has to stop.

As she catches her breath, she looks around, noticing how empty the road is. An unease grips her.

The wind picks up, carrying an ominous sound from the distant horizon. She squints, looking in that direction and sees a SILHOUETTE barely visible in the distance.

Katie tries to run again... but she immediately falls to the ground. She looks at her legs - they won't move.

Panic grips her and she looks back down the highway - the SILHOUETTE is much closer and we can just barely make out who it is - Patrick.

She uses all of her strength to pull on her legs, until they literally stretch, like taffy and we CUT TO:

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - DAY

Katie wakes with a start in her bed. She looks around, not sure where she is. After a minute she gets her bearings and relaxes, breathing a sigh of relief.

She looks at her clock - 4:00pm.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BATHROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Katie stands under the shower head, eyes closed, letting the water run down her face.

She hears a THUMP come from the other room.

She opens her eyes, listening.

KATIE

Dylan?

No reply.

She shakes it off, putting her head back under the water. As she runs her hands through her hair we see several horizontal scars along her wrists - remnants of self-harm.

-- THUMP! The sound comes again.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Dylan, is that you?

Still nothing.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Katie steps out of her bedroom wearing shorts and a tank top. She moves down the hallway, tentative -- THUMP -- she hears it again. Her heart races.

KATIE

Hello?

Katie steps into the living room and FREEZES.

Patrick stands alone in her living room, looking at her.

PATRICK

Hi.

Katie can't move - she is petrified.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to scare you.

THUMP! The noise comes again from behind her and she wheels around.

DYLAN (O.S.)

Found it!

Dylan runs out of his room carrying a WRIST CAST.

Katie watches, confused, as he delivers it to Patrick.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

See? I got this when I fell out of a tree. I broke my arm in three places.

PATRICK

Wow. You should probably be more careful.

DYLAN

Yeah. Probably. I'm gonna go show Juliet and Rick!

Dylan runs OUTSIDE where Katie watches him meet up with Juliet and Rick at a picnic table.

She looks back to Patrick, struggling to get her bearings.

KATIE

... what...

PATRICK

Sorry, I know we said six, but something came up this evening, so I thought I'd drop by early - I didn't realize you'd be asleep.

Patrick smiles, but Katie still looks confused.

KATIE

... yeah...

PATRICK

Well. Take your time. We'll be outside when you're ready.

With that, Patrick heads back outside and Katie watches him as he joins the others.

She has to take a second - *what the actual fuck is going on?*

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - LATER

Katie slips into a shirt then puts on her shoes. She hears a ROAR of laughter outside and stops. She shakes her head, still a little thrown, then heads out.

EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Katie exits the trailer and approaches the picnic table where Patrick, Juliet and Rick are mid-conversation, while Dylan plays elsewhere.

RICK
So, where you from, Patrick?

PATRICK
All over, really.

RICK
Oh yeah? I been there. Which part
of "all over"?

Patrick laughs, nervous and Juliet gives Rick a playful swat.

JULIET
Rick, stop being such a cop.

Patrick reacts slightly to that, and Rick notices.

PATRICK
You're a cop?

RICK
Yeah, that make you nervous?

PATRICK
No, I'm just surprised. I thought
Juliet had better taste.

There's a brief, icy silence, but then Juliet laughs, and Rick and Patrick join in.

JULIET
I know. I tell my friends he's a
tattoo artist.

Soon, Patrick catches sight of Katie and smiles.

PATRICK
Hey! There she is!

Katie slinks in, grabbing a seat at the table. She smiles a little too wide, clearly uncomfortable.

KATIE
Hey guys.

Juliet notices Katie's look and mouths, "You okay?"

Katie rights herself, forces a smile and nods. She turns to Patrick, polite.

KATIE (CONT'D)
So, you met Dylan, right?

PATRICK

Yeah. He's a great kid. It took him a little while to warm up, but we're pals now.

JULIET

He said thank you all on his own. I didn't even have to remind him. You'd be very proud.

KATIE

Oh, good.
(looking around)
Where'd he go?

PATRICK

I have him off looking for some Wild Heliotrope.

KATIE

You're kidding.

Patrick laughs as he picks through a collection of wild flowers on the table.

PATRICK

Yeah, he's got a knack for it. So far we have Rattlesnake Weed, Hedgehog Cactus and some Lupines.
(then)
I always find these so remarkable. We're practically in the desert here, the environment is completely inhospitable, but somehow these beautiful things manage to thrive.

Patrick looks up at Katie as he says this.

DYLAN (O.S.)

Patrick! Come see!

Patrick raises his eyebrows.

PATRICK

Sounds like he found another one. I'll be back.

Patrick races off after Dylan.

Katie watches him, concerned.

JULIET

So... he seems nice.

Katie scoffs.

KATIE

Yeah... thank you guys for entertaining him. I hope it wasn't too much trouble.

JULIET

Not at all.
(then)
How you doing?

Katie wavers.

KATIE

I'm fine. I'm glad Dylan got a chance to meet him... and I'm glad he's just stopping by. Hopefully he'll be off soon and then...

Dylan comes sprinting up to them.

DYLAN

Mom! Can Patrick take us hiking tomorrow?

Katie's eyes widen, panicked and she looks back and forth between Juliet and Rick.

Patrick arrives soon, jogging behind Dylan.

PATRICK

I'm so sorry. I think I got him excited. I told him about a hike I went on the other day at Doe Mountain.

DYLAN

I want to go!

KATIE

Okay. Well, maybe Patrick can tell us where it is and I can take you.

DYLAN

No! I want Patrick to take us.

Katie laughs nervously.

KATIE

Sweet heart, I'm sure Patrick's busy.

PATRICK

Not really, actually. I'd be happy to.

She swallows hard, trying to mask her reaction.

KATIE

No, that's okay. You don't have to do that. We can manage.

PATRICK

I really don't mind. I can show you all the good spots.

Dylan tugs on Katie's shirt.

DYLAN

Please, Mom? Can Patrick take us?

Katie struggles for an excuse... but fails. She grits her teeth, forcing a smile.

KATIE

Sounds great. Let's do it.

Dylan jumps into the air.

DYLAN

Yes!

As he continues celebrating, Katie makes eye contact with Juliet - neither of them sure what to do.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, KITCHEN - LATER

Katie and Juliet clean up the dishes while the others hang out outside.

JULIET

Katie, if you don't want to do this, you don't have to.

KATIE

Did you see how excited Dylan was? Of course I have to.

JULIET

Okay, so go on the hike... and then tell Patrick it's over.

Katie stops what she's doing, distraught.

KATIE

You think I actually have to have the conversation with him?

JULIET

He hasn't taken the hint so far.

Katie cringes, miserable.

KATIE

Oh my god. You're right. I can't believe I have to break up with a guy I'm not even dating.

Katie scoffs, bemused... but then her face starts to fall. She grows serious.

Juliet clocks this.

JULIET

What is it?

KATIE

Juliet... why don't I want this?

JULIET

What do you mean?

KATIE

Why don't I want to see where this goes? The guy's handsome. He's nice. My son likes him. He's obviously got money.

JULIET

(agreeing)

He looks like he'd be pretty good in bed.

Katie shoots her a look.

JULIET (CONT'D)

What? It's been like two years since you've had sex. I'm just looking out for you.

Katie laughs.

KATIE

Yeah, I guess there's that too.

(then)

I mean, I know the way we met is a little weird, but he seems okay, doesn't he?

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

When you think about it, the whole thing with the tip could actually be a pretty cute story.

JULIET

Totally.

KATIE

So, why am I so anxious to get rid of him?

Katie starts to tear up and Juliet wraps her arms around her.

JULIET

You and Jeremy were together for a long time. You have a son together. It's not something you just get over.

KATIE

It's been a year and a half. And I'm the one who left.

JULIET

Yeah, but he didn't give you much choice.

KATIE

(angry)
No, he didn't!
(takes a breath)
So why don't I want to give this a shot? I should want this. I want to want this. I came here to start a new life... why can't I?

Juliet rubs her shoulder, sympathizing.

JULIET

Maybe you can try?

Katie takes a minute, miserable, then shakes her head.

KATIE

Not yet.
(then)
I'll tell him. We'll go on the hike, and then I'll tell him not to come around anymore.

Juliet nods, understanding.

EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - SAME

Patrick stands below the window, listening with dead eyes as they talk about him.

EXT. DOE MOUNTAIN, TRAIL - DAY

Katie walks alone down the breathtaking trail. Sedona's signature red rock blends with the lush green scrubland.

A few steps ahead, Patrick pulls an ARROWHEAD out of his pocket and hands it to Dylan.

PATRICK

Here, this is for you.

DYLAN

What is it?

PATRICK

It's an arrowhead. Native Americans used these to hunt, but it's also good luck. It's made from the same kind of rock as these mountains, so if you keep it close, they'll watch out for you. Keep you safe.

DYLAN

Woah. Thanks.

Patrick looks back at Katie, checking on her. She attempts an enthusiastic smile, but it's obviously strained. Patrick notices and slows down.

PATRICK

Hey, Dylan, why don't you go on ahead, and keep an eye out for a good walking stick. Something about *this* long.

Patrick holds out his hands, indicating a good length. Dylan nods and runs off, leaving Patrick behind with Katie.

They fall into step, ambling up the trail together.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

So... have you and Dylan lived in Sedona long?

KATIE

No. A little over a year. We... needed a change of pace. You?

PATRICK
No, I'm here for work.

KATIE
(a little too hopeful)
Oh, really? You're leaving?

PATRICK
I don't know actually. Maybe not.
There's a lot to like here.

They keep walking as Katie tries to parse that out.

Up ahead on the trail...

DYLAN

... bends over to pick up a walking stick. But as he does,
something catches his eye.

Two TEENAGERS grab hold of the CLIFF FACE and start to CLIMB.
They laugh, having a ball, as they hang off the side.

Dylan watches them, enthralled. After a beat, he looks back
toward his mom, mischievous.

She's busy talking to Patrick.

Dylan smiles wide and rushes toward the teens.

BACK ON PATRICK AND KATIE

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Dylan's a pretty great kid. You've
done a good job with him.

KATIE
Yeah, I think I'll keep him.

PATRICK
No, I mean it. I know it couldn't
have been easy. My dad wasn't
around either when I was growing
up, and my mom had a tough time...
she certainly didn't do as well as
you.

KATIE
Well, hey, you turned out okay.

Katie laughs, joking, but Patrick only returns an obliging
smile.

PATRICK
I don't know about that.

Katie falters, thrown off, and tries to recover.

KATIE
Well, look, I'm certainly no mother
of the year.

Patrick laughs.

PATRICK
See? That right there? That's what
I'm talking about. That's the mark
of a truly great parent.

KATIE
What is?

PATRICK
That nothing is ever good enough
for your child... not even you.

That kindness hits Katie, hard. She doesn't know what to say.

But before she can fully digest this, Patrick's face changes.
It twists with panic as he spots something behind her.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Oh my god.

Patrick SPRINTS past Katie, up the path.

She turns and gets the wind knocked out of her - Dylan CLINGS
to the side of the cliff face, fifteen feet in the air.

KATIE
Dylan!

She RUSHES over, panicked.

EXT. DOE MOUNTAIN, CLIFF BASE - CONTINUOUS

Katie meets Patrick at the base of a tall cliff face. Dylan
hangs above them.

PATRICK
Dylan, what are you doing up there?
Come down!

DYLAN
No!

KATIE
Dylan, come down right now, I mean
it.

DYLAN
No! I wanna do it!

The two TEENAGERS lean over the top of the cliff and look
down.

TEENAGER 1
Oh, shit.

PATRICK
What the hell is going on?

TEENAGER 2
He must have followed us up. Sorry,
Dude.

Patrick bites his tongue, furious.

KATIE
Dylan, please, come down, it's not
safe.

DYLAN
No! Let me do it!

Dylan reaches for a high hand hold, but his foot SLIPS and he
almost falls, just BARELY managing to hang on.

KATIE
Oh my god.

Katie reflexively turns away - she can't watch. Patrick
crouches and reassures her.

PATRICK
He's going to be fine, okay? Stay
down here, I'm going to go get him.

Katie nods, trying desperately not to panic.

KATIE
Okay. Please be careful.

Patrick takes a breath... and starts to climb. It's a little
dicey, but he makes quick progress.

Katie watches from below, completely beside herself. Soon,
Patrick meets up with Dylan and they start talking.

Katie watches on bated breath as they trade words.

Finally, Patrick calls back down to Katie.

PATRICK
I think we should go on up.

KATIE
What!?!

PATRICK
He's almost there. At this point
it's safer for him to just finish
so he can rest at the top before
coming down.

KATIE
Are you sure?!

PATRICK
Yeah, it'll be fine, I've got him.

Katie can barely watch as Patrick guides Dylan up the rest of the way. He slips, but Patrick is there to catch him.

Together, they scramble over the top and disappear.

Katie waits for a moment before Patrick pops his head over the side.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Well... come on up.

KATIE
What? Are you serious?

PATRICK
Sure. Don't you want to see what
all the fuss is about?

Katie hesitates, but then gives a little shrug.

KATIE
Okay... but I'm finding another
way.

EXT. DOE MOUNTAIN, OVERLOOK - MOMENTS LATER

Patrick helps Katie scramble up to the top of the rock outcropping. Dylan and the Teenagers stand at the edge looking over. Katie and Patrick join them and are immediately blown away.

They look out onto the lush greens and reds of the Sedona valley. Fields of wild flowers cover the ground. The Jurassic Park score would not be out of place here.

DYLAN
Pretty cool, huh?

Katie smiles and pulls Dylan in close. She then shares a smile with Patrick before looking back over the vast landscape.

KATIE
Yeah. Pretty cool.

OFF this happy group, enjoying a perfect moment.

EXT. DOE MOUNTAIN, TRAILHEAD - EVENING

Patrick lifts a sleeping Dylan into the back seat of his car and fastens the seatbelt.

As he closes the car door, Katie notices a hole in his shirt.

KATIE
Oh no! Your shirt must have gotten caught on one of the rocks, I'm so sorry.

Patrick looks down at it, unfazed.

PATRICK
Don't worry about it, I brought an extra one.

Patrick removes his t-shirt and starts digging through his bag.

Katie's jaw drops a little as he does - she can't help but admire his physique.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
This might be a little rude, but...
what's the story with Dylan's dad?
Is he still in the picture?

Patrick slips his new shirt on and Katie pulls her attention back to the conversation.

KATIE
Uh... no. Not anymore.

PATRICK
What happened?

KATIE
(hesitant)
It's complicated

Patrick backs off, respectful.

PATRICK

Okay.

Katie waivers, unsure whether to continue. Then...

KATIE

We grew up together. We both had it pretty rough. His parents were addicts, mine were... not great either. It was hard. When we got older, we never thought any of that would happen to us. We were smart. We were gonna be different...

(a beat)

But then Jeremy got in a car accident. He had to start taking pain medication. Doctors give that stuff out like candy. We tried to be careful, but when the prescription ran out he said he needed a little more... it went downhill from there.

Patrick nods, understanding.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I know it's a hard thing to get out from under, so I tried to help him, but... things got pretty bad. He never laid a finger on either of us, but... sometimes it seemed like he wanted to. He started getting jealous... possessive. And then one morning Dylan found him passed out with a needle in his arm and that was it. I knew we had to leave. I couldn't risk Dylan being around that. I couldn't risk him growing up like we did.

PATRICK

Sounds like you made the right decision.

Katie shrugs.

KATIE

Jeremy's not a bad person. He just got caught in a bad situation. It happens a lot where I come from.

PATRICK

You're awfully generous to the guy.
It takes a special kind of person
to forgive that.

They ruminate on that for a beat.

KATIE

It's getting late. We should get
back.

Patrick nods and they move toward the car.

EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Patrick pulls up in front of her trailer, with Katie in the
front seat and Dylan in the back.

She gets out, then pulls the sleepy Dylan from the back seat
and deposits him on the ground.

KATIE

Okay, Bud. Go on inside, brush your
teeth and put on your PJs.

DYLAN

I'm tired.

KATIE

The sooner you do it, the sooner I
can tuck you in. Now go. I'm timing
you.

Dylan trudges off toward the trailer.

She turns to Patrick as he comes around the side of the car.

KATIE (CONT'D)

It may not look like it, but that
is a walk of pure joy. I don't
think he's had that much fun in
awhile. Thank you.

PATRICK

You're welcome. I had a lot of fun
with him too... and with you.

Katie looks away, bashful, but then returns her gaze to meet
his.

KATIE

Yeah... me too.

They stare into each other's eyes for a moment, and just when it seems they may lean in close--

DYLAN (O.S.)

DAD!!!

Katie and Patrick look up to see Dylan RACE into the arms of JEREMY LAWSON.

Katie freezes in place, completely stunned.

Patrick looks back and forth between the two of them.

PATRICK

Is that... ?

KATIE

Yeah...

Katie just stares at him, still processing.

PATRICK

Did you know he was coming?

Katie shakes her head - *no*.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

If you don't want him here, I can--

KATIE

No. I can handle this.

PATRICK

Are you sure? You don't have to--

KATIE

I'm sure.

Patrick hesitates, but backs down, and Katie continues forward toward Jeremy, fierce.

Jeremy sees this, then sets Dylan down and urges him inside.

JEREMY

Go on and get ready for bed.

Dylan complies, and Jeremy moves tentatively toward Katie.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Hey, Ka--

-- *SLAP!!!* -- Katie strikes Jeremy hard across the face.

KATIE

What the hell are you doing here?

Jeremy rubs his cheek and looks down at his feet, chastened. After a beat, he digs into his pocket and pulls out a small COIN.

JEREMY

I wanted to give you this.

Katie takes it with a shrug.

KATIE

What is it?

JEREMY

It's from N.A. One year clean and sober, if you can believe it.

This effects Katie but she tries to maintain her facade.

KATIE

Oh... okay.

JEREMY

You have every right to be angry with me. Apologizing won't change what I did. This chip doesn't change what I did. Not even close. But, I knew if I ever wanted to have any chance of making things right, I had to start here.

Katie looks down at the chip, inspecting it, emotional.

Jeremy looks to her, then to Patrick, whose eyes burn with fury. Jeremy steps toward him, extending his hand.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm--

PATRICK

(interrupting)

I know who you are.

Patrick doesn't take his hand, and Jeremy pulls it back, rebuffed.

JEREMY

Anyway. I didn't mean to interrupt, I just wanted to... yeah. I'll be here for a few days... if you want to talk.

With that, Jeremy starts to walk away, but Katie stops him.

KATIE
Jeremy...

He looks back, waiting.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I'm proud of you.

Jeremy swallows hard, and smiles, then continues on to his MOTORCYCLE. Patrick eyes him as he hops on and rides away.

When he's gone, Patrick looks back toward Katie.

PATRICK
Katie...

Katie squeezes her eyes closed, as if trying to block him out.

KATIE
Can I talk to you later?

PATRICK
Katie, I really think--

KATIE
Please.

Patrick hesitates, as if waiting for her to change her mind. But when Katie doesn't move, he relents.

PATRICK
Okay. I'll call you tomorrow.

Patrick turns and moves back to his car. A million thoughts fly through Katie's head.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER - LATER

Katie softly closes the door to Dylan's room and tip toes down the hall where she finds Juliet waiting.

JULIET
Is he asleep?

KATIE
Finally. Poor guy. He's had a rough night.

JULIET
He'll be alright.

Katie nods for a second, then grits her teeth, seething.

KATIE

What the fuck was Jeremy thinking?
He can't just show up like this.

JULIET

I know. He's a piece of shit, fuck
him.

(then)

Was it kind of good to see him
though?

Katie reacts, surprised, but then she lets out a laugh.

KATIE

I don't know... I knew I'd have to
see him again one day, but I didn't
know it would be like that. It all
just came rushing back.

JULIET

Which part? The part where you want
to rip his head off or rip his
clothes off?

Katie smirks.

KATIE

Both?

(then)

You know what the worst part is? I
actually had a good time with
Patrick today. But of course, as
soon as I start to think that maybe
things could go back to normal,
Jeremy comes around and blows it
all up.

Juliet squeezes her tight, comforting.

KATIE (CONT'D)

What am I going to do?

JULIET

I don't know what you're going to
do tomorrow, but I know what you're
going to do tonight.

Juliet jogs to the kitchen and pulls a tequila bottle down
from above the fridge. Katie smiles, touched.

KATIE

You always know exactly what to say.

EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - SAME

From deep in the woods, a MYSTERY POV watches Katie and Juliet as they pour shots of tequila.

REVEAL, PATRICK watches them, sitting up against a tree, peeling an apple with a BOWIE KNIFE.

INT. RED ROCK DINER - DAY

Katie rubs her temples, fighting off a head ache as she stands at the SERVER STATION.

Her phone BUZZES and she rolls her eyes before looking down. There are multiple TEXTS from PATRICK - "Hey", "Are you okay?", "Sorry about last night", "Can we talk?"

Katie mutes the phone, then puts it back in her pocket. Chelsea arrives and slides her a cup of coffee.

KATIE

Oh my god, that's the nicest thing anyone's ever done for me.

CHELSEA

Rough one last night?

KATIE

You could say that. My ex showed up unannounced.

CHELSEA

Oof, is that who keeps texting you?

KATIE

No, actually, that's someone else.

CHELSEA

Yikes. I'm glad I put whiskey in there.

Chelsea gives her a wink and then continues on.

Katie sniffs at the coffee cup, surprised. Then she gives a shrug and takes a big sip.

She puts the cup down, then takes a step out from behind the server station but then stops in her tracks - PATRICK stands by the door, looking around.

He catches sight of her, then gives a wave and approaches. Katie tries her best to act cheerful, but it's hard.

KATIE

Patrick, hi. What are you doing here?

PATRICK

I'm sorry about just dropping in, but I wanted to see how you were doing.

Patrick looks around at the eavesdropping WAITRESSES.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

Is there somewhere we can talk?

KATIE

Now's not really a good time, lunch rush is about to start and we're understaffed. Can we talk later?

PATRICK

Sure. How about tonight?

Katie waivers, hesitant.

KATIE

Maybe. I'll have to see what time I get off.

PATRICK

Seven. I saw the shift schedule. Should I pick you up?

Katie struggles, trying to find the words.

KATIE

Patrick...

PATRICK

Katie, please, we should talk.

Katie hesitates for a moment more, but then gives up, dropping the pretense.

KATIE

I can't. I'm sorry. I had a great time with you yesterday, but my life is just too crazy right now. I'm sorry.

Katie tries to move past him, but he steps in her way.

PATRICK
Please. Just give me five minutes.
You owe me that.

Katie's mouth hangs open, shocked.

KATIE
Wow. There it is. I was wondering
when that tip would come due.

Patrick winces, knowing he screwed up.

PATRICK
I didn't mean it like that.

KATIE
Didn't you?
(then)
I have to get to work. Goodbye,
Patrick.

She tries to get past him again, but he GRABS her arm, hard.

PATRICK
Katie. Listen to me, you shouldn't
see that guy.

Katie tries to pull away, but he holds her tight - his
fingers digging into her skin.

KATIE
Let go of me.

PATRICK
He's bad for you.

Katie pulls harder, but he won't let go. She swings her free
hand at him, but he catches her wrist, squeezing it too.

KATIE
Let me go, Patrick.

PATRICK
Promise me you won't see him again.

Katie's lip trembles... she's terrified.

EILEEN (O.S.)
You need to leave.

Eileen, Chelsea and the other waitresses circle around.
Patrick doesn't take his eyes off Katie.

PATRICK
Promise me.

EILEEN
Now!

Patrick grinds his teeth, seething, then glances around, registering the prying eyes. He looks back to Katie.

PATRICK
I won't let him get to you.

With that, he lets Katie go and plows through the crowd toward the door.

Katie hangs on to her composure for another beat, but then breaks, bracing herself against the counter. Eileen and the others descend.

EILEEN
Are you okay?

CHELSEA
Should I call the police?

KATIE
I'm fine.

EILEEN
Are you sure?

Katie nods, taking a deep breath.

KATIE
Yeah. I'm fine.

Katie trembles as she glances back toward the door.

JULIET (PRELAP)
That's it. I'm not going.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Juliet leans against the counter in Katie's kitchen, her arms crossed over her chest.

KATIE
You have to go. You've been prepping for this art show for a month.

JULIET

I don't give a shit. You think I'm going to leave you here alone while that psycho is running around in some kind of jealous rage.

KATIE

He's not in a rage, he's just... I'll be fine, really.

Katie turns toward Rick, pleading.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Rick, tell her she has to go.

Rick just shrugs.

RICK

She's got a point, Katie. The man assaulted you and he knows where you live.

JULIET

Thank you.

KATIE

Guys, I appreciate it, really, but you know you can't miss this. You'll make more money tonight than the whole rest of the year.

JULIET

So?

KATIE

So, are you really going to give that up to babysit me? I'm a grown woman, I can take care of myself.

Juliet and Rick share a look, begrudgingly giving an inch.

JULIET

At least let Rick tell his buddies at the force to swing by.

KATIE

And do what? Patrick grabbed my arm. Somehow I doubt they'll call out the SWAT team.

Juliet looks to Rick for back up, but he frowns.

RICK
I can try to call in some favors,
but...

KATIE (CONT'D)
(insistent)
I'll be fine.

Juliet stews, chewing her lip, before finally giving in.

JULIET
Alright.
(then, firm)
But you call us the second you need
anything, okay?

KATIE
Okay.

Juliet gives Katie a big hug, then moves with Rick to the door. Katie smiles wide, reassuring.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Go.

They comply, leaving Katie alone. Slowly, her expression changes - a hint of fear creeps in.

She locks the door, then pulls on it to make sure it's secure.

She thinks for a beat, then moves to the windows and pulls on them as well, double checking.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, DYLAN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Katie peeks into Dylan's room, where he sleeps soundly in his bed, a nightlight spraying images of dinosaurs on the walls.

She smiles at the boy, but then frowns when she sees his window is OPEN. She moves quickly to the window and closes it, waking Dylan up.

DYLAN
Don't, it's hot.

KATIE
I'm sorry, Buddy. It's just for
tonight.

Dylan grumbles as he rolls over, already back asleep.

Katie eyes the window one more time then leaves.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Katie finishes checking the windows in her bedroom, then looks toward her closet. She chews her lip, debating, then crosses towards it and reaches up to the top shelf, pulling down the gun.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, KITCHEN - LATER

Katie watches an instructional video for her revolver on YouTube.

ON SCREEN a TEXAN shows how to operate the gun and Katie follows along.

TEXAN (ON SCREEN)

To open the cylinder, depress here
on the thumb piece.

Katie jumps as she pops the cylinder open, revealing five empty holes.

TEXAN (CONT'D)

You can see here the gun is not
loaded.

He snaps the cylinder back in. Katie does too, kind of enjoying herself.

TEXAN (CONT'D)

A neat feature of the M&P is the
crimson trace laser built-in right
on top. You turn it on by pressing
this red button here.

Katie presses the button, sending a red targeting laser out the front. Impressed, Katie shines it around the room.

As she swings it across the living room, it lands right on Dylan!

KATIE

Dylan!

Katie THROWS the gun down and SLAMS the laptop shut.

DYLAN

Is that a gun?

KATIE

No, it's--
(then)
What are you doing up?

DYLAN
I had a bad dream.

Katie frowns, sympathetic.

KATIE
Oh, Buddy. I hate those.

Katie goes over to him and gives him a big hug.

KATIE (CONT'D)
It was just a dream. You're totally safe.

She says this automatically, but as the words come out, it's clear she's not so sure.

She squeezes him tight, then lets go.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Okay. Go on. Back to bed.

Dylan nods, then trudges off. Katie watches him go.

Then, she turns back to the table, where she sees the gun sitting out. She stares at it for a beat, thinking, then pulls out her phone and makes a call.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Hey... it's me.

EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Katie unlocks the front door and steps out, meeting JEREMY. They both struggle to find the right words.

JEREMY
Hey.

KATIE
Hey.

They stay there for a beat, then Jeremy sees something on Katie's arm - the BRUISE from where Patrick grabbed her. He leans in to take a look.

JEREMY
Does it hurt?

KATIE
It looks worse than it is.

Katie laughs to herself.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have called.
I'm fine, really, you don't have to
stay.

JEREMY

Katie, it's okay to be a little
freaked out after what happened.

KATIE

I know, but it's stupid. I really
don't think Patrick's going to do
anything.

JEREMY

You're probably right. But I'm
still staying.

KATIE

You can't. This whole thing is so
confusing for Dylan. If he sees
you...

JEREMY

He won't. Don't worry. I'm just
going to go sit in that chair over
there and wait until your friends
come home. And then I'm going to
take off. That's it. Dylan won't
even know I was here.

KATIE

I can't ask you to do that.

JEREMY

You're not asking. I'm offering.
(then)
Katie, you're acting like I'm going
above and beyond here. That's my
son in there. You're my family.
This is what you do for your
family.

Katie thinks on this for a moment, then nods.

KATIE

Okay. Thank you.

JEREMY

You're welcome.
(then)
Now, go on and get to bed. I know
you have an early start tomorrow.

KATIE
Okay. Good night.

JEREMY
Good night, Katie.

They share another smile, then Katie goes inside.

Jeremy watches her through the window as she walks to the kitchen table and picks up her gun, putting it back in the box, cleaning up.

His brow furrows, then he looks away, taking up his post in the chair.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - LATER

Katie exits her bathroom, ready for bed. Her headboard sits against the wall next to a window which overlooks the front porch.

Outside, we can see Jeremy sitting in his chair, keeping watch.

Katie cracks the window to talk to him.

KATIE
Are you good? You need anything? A blanket? Something to drink? A book?

JEREMY
I'm good. Thanks Katie.

Katie turns off the lights and slips into bed. She rests against the head board so that she and Jeremy lean back to back, with the wall separating them.

They sit like that for a moment, in silence, then...

JEREMY (CONT'D)
When did you buy that gun?

This question upsets Katie, but she tries to play it off.

KATIE
A little while ago.

JEREMY.
Before this thing with Patrick?

KATIE

... yeah.
(then)
You know. For protection.

JEREMY

Protection from what?

Katie doesn't answer, a tear coming to her eye.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Protection from me?

Katie lowers her head, wiping away the tear.

KATIE

Yes.

They marinate on that for a moment, as Katie composes herself.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I never really thought you'd hurt me or Dylan. But the way you were acting. The drugs, the... everything.

Jeremy swallows hard - *this is tough to hear.*

KATIE (CONT'D)

You'd been doing a lot that I never thought you'd do.

Jeremy takes this in for a beat. Katie wipes away another tear.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Say something.

Jeremy takes a breath, gathering himself.

JEREMY

What do you want me to say? *I'm sorry* feels a little hollow. I don't know how you can ever forgive me for making you think I was capable of that. For making you think you needed protection. For disappointing you.

(then)

But I hope that you do.

Katie breathes deep, trying to keep the tears from coming.

KATIE
I'm sorry too, Jeremy.

JEREMY
What are you sorry for?

KATIE
For leaving you like that. We were supposed to be a team. I just left you there. I didn't even know if you were alive.

Jeremy nods, fighting through his emotion.

After a moment, Katie slides under the sheets, and rests her head against the pillow.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Thank you for being here, Jeremy.
Thank you for coming back.

Jeremy swallows hard.

JEREMY
Don't you forget it.

They both smile. After a moment, Katie closes her eyes, and they settle in for the night.

INT./EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - VARIOUS

OUTSIDE, Jeremy watches the tree-line, alert despite the late hour.

INSIDE, the LIVING ROOM stands quiet.

Nothing moves in the KITCHEN.

The empty HALLWAY almost looks peaceful on this deceptively serene evening.

DYLAN sleeps fretfully in his room, tossing and turning under the sheets.

KATIE sleeps more soundly, sprawled out in her double bed.

A CLOCK ticks away the minutes.

DYLAN tosses more, throwing off the sheets. He marches to the window, but just as he is about to open it, something outside catches his eye.

KATIE's eyes start to twitch, as if disturbed by bad dreams.

DYLAN peers out the window, into the near perfect darkness - *is something out there?*

Frightened, he grabs the ARROWHEAD Patrick gave him off of his nightstand.

He holds it close to his chest and returns to the window, focusing on what's outside.

All we can see is the faint silhouettes of trees. But then, something moves! A FIGURE steps out from behind a tree - it's Patrick!

He looks through the window at Dylan who stands there, in shock. Patrick looks at him for a beat, then raises his finger to his lips - *shhhh.*

With that, he takes off, running away from the trailer, into darkness.

Dylan stares outside for a moment longer, confused, then--

DYLAN

Mom?

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Katie's eyes burst open as Dylan comes into her room.

KATIE

What? What is it?

DYLAN

What's Patrick doing here?

KATIE

What?!

DYLAN

He was outside my window. He ran that way.

Katie leaps out of her bed and embraces Dylan.

KATIE

I need you to go into the bathroom and lock the door, right now.

DYLAN

What? Why? What's going on?

KATIE

Just do it, please. I'll be close.

Katie ushers him into the bathroom and closes the door.
She rushes to the open window.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Jeremy. Jeremy, are you out there?

No response. She grabs a robe and races out the door.
Her gun remains behind on the nightstand.

EXT. KATIE'S TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Katie steps out onto the front porch - Jeremy's chair is empty.

KATIE
Jeremy?

She looks around. He's nowhere to be seen.
She cautiously makes her way off the porch, eyes peeled.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Patrick?

She moves into the trees, feeling her way through the darkness. She can't see a damn thing.

Katie's nerves tense and she clinches the robe at her throat. Her pace quickens, moving faster through the moonless night.

She arrives at Dylan's window and surveys the area. There's nothing there. She looks around, desperate, when--

SNAP! Katie spins around - *what was that?*

A SHADOW flickers on the other side of the trailer. She pats herself down.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Shit!

She looks in through her bedroom window and sees the GUN sitting on her nightstand

She swallows hard, then inches toward the shadow, shaking.

Tension builds as she closes in on the trailer's edge. She rounds the corner and--

SLAM!

-- Katie runs straight into RICK.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Rick!

RICK

Katie! What's going on?

KATIE

Where is he?!

Juliet arrives from the other side of the trailer.

JULIET

Who?

Katie looks around, disoriented.

KATIE

Patrick... Dylan said he saw him.

RICK

When?

KATIE

Just now, outside his window...
where's Jeremy?

JULIET

We sent him home a few minutes ago.

Katie's brow furrows, worried.

JULIET (CONT'D)

What is it?

KATIE

... if Patrick was here, and he
left right after Jeremy...

RICK

What are you thinking?

KATIE

It's just... at the diner, what he
said... it was like he wanted to
keep me and Jeremy apart.

They all think about this for a second as the implication
sets in.

JULIET

How far do you think he'd go?

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER, KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Katie paces back and forth, the phone to her ear, listening as it rings. Juliet and Rick stand by, anxious.

KATIE
Come on, Jeremy, pick up...

EXT. RURAL ROAD - NIGHT

Jeremy rides on his motorcycle down the wide open road. His phone starts to ring in his pocket, and he uses his left hand to silence it.

As his bike continues on into the distance, we see a familiar car following behind him, with its lights off - Patrick is at the wheel.

He puts his foot on the gas, bearing down on Jeremy.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER - SAME

Katie speaks into the phone, nervous.

KATIE
Jeremy, it's me... give me a call back.

Katie hangs up, trying to hide her concern.

KATIE (CONT'D)
He's probably still on his bike.
I'll try him again in a few.

Her tone can't hide her quivering chin or her bouncing knee. She is a bundle of nerves and Juliet notices.

JULIET
That's it. We've got to call the police.

KATIE
What?!

RICK
Jeremy could be in danger, Katie.
It's time.

Katie tries to retort, but she can't. After a beat, she nods.

KATIE
Okay. Make the call.

EXT. SEDONA SPRINGS LODGE - NIGHT

JEREMY parks his motorcycle and walks to his room. As he does he pulls out his phone and checks the messages.

PATRICK's car parks a few spaces down and he gets out.

JEREMY fumbles for his room keys while he calls Katie back.

PATRICK moves quickly towards him.

INT. KATIE'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Rick wraps up his call while Katie and Juliet watch on.

RICK
(into phone)
Okay. Thanks, Mike.

He hangs up and turns to Katie and Juliet.

RICK (CONT'D)
They're sending a squad car to his motel.

Katie's phone starts to ring and she breathes a sigh of relief.

KATIE
Oh, thank God. It's Jeremy.

Katie answers and puts the phone on speaker.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Jeremy, hey, are you home?

She waits for a response, but her face sours when nothing comes.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Jeremy?

Through the phone we hear the faint sounds of a struggle. Juliet's hand flies to her mouth.

JULIET
Oh god.

KATIE
Jeremy?!

After a beat, Jeremy's voice comes through raspy and faint.

JEREMY (ON PHONE)
 ... katie...

Katie's eyes go wide with panic.

INT. SEDONA SPRINGS LODGE, ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy's eyes flicker as he lies on the ground, a pool of blood around his head.

His phone lies nearby and we can hear Katie's voice through it.

KATIE (ON PHONE)
JEREMY!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Katie and Rick barge into the waiting room. She flies to reception, while Rick goes to a security guard.

Juliet follows close behind, carrying Dylan.

KATIE
 Jeremy Lawson. He should have come
 in a few minutes ago.

The RECEPTIONIST types quickly on the computer.

RECEPTIONIST
 Yes... uh... hold on a second...

The Receptionist picks up a phone.

KATIE
 What?! What's going on? Is he okay?

RECEPTIONIST
 (into phone)
 Yes, I have a...

KATIE
 Katie Lawson. I'm his wife!

RECEPTIONIST
 Katie Lawson here, to see Jeremy
 Lawson.
 (a beat)
 Okay. Understood. Thank you.

The Receptionist hangs up and looks toward Katie.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
Someone will be out to speak with
you in a moment.

KATIE
For God's sake will you just tell
me if he's alright?!

RECEPTIONIST
I'm sorry, ma'am. Someone will be
out shortly.

Katie has to step away, completely beside herself. Juliet
steps to the counter, fierce.

JULIET
Listen to me very carefully. You--

RICK (O.S.)
Juliet!

They turn to see Rick enter from the back area with a
detective, MIKE and a uniformed cop, STEVENS. They look
worried.

MIKE
You need to come with us. Now.

Katie and Juliet freeze, petrified.

INT. HOSPITAL, BACK HALL - MOMENTS LATER

They plow through the hospital doors, walking briskly down a
back hallway.

MIKE
Your husband's going to be fine.
The EMTs were able to patch him up
at the scene. They're taking him
directly to the safe house.

KATIE
Safe house? What? What's going on?

RICK
After what happened at the diner, I
ran Patrick's finger prints through
the system. Normally it can take
weeks to get results. But a call
just came in from the Phoenix Field
Office of the F.B.I.

KATIE
The F.B.I.?

MIKE

They found a match for the prints.
They didn't have his picture or his
name, but apparently they've been
looking for the man you know as
Patrick Tresden for a few years.

KATIE

A few years? Why?

They reach a back exit and Stevens opens the door for them.

EXT. HOSPITAL, BACK ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Rick and Mike lead Katie, Juliet and Dylan outside where a
squad car waits for them.

RICK

Katie, I want you to know, you
don't need to worry. Okay? We're
doing everything we can to find him
and until we do, we're going to
keep you safe.

KATIE

Safe from what? What did he do?

RICK

Katie--

KATIE

Rick! Tell me! Why is the F.B.I.
looking for Patrick?

Rick struggles to find the words, looking back and forth
between Katie and Juliet. Mike steps in.

MIKE

He's wanted in connection with four
different homicides.

This knocks the wind out of them - *holy shit.*

KATIE

Four? Patrick killed four people?

Katie struggles to breathe as this all hits her.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Are you saying he's some kind of
serial killer?

Rick puts a hand on Katie's shoulder, urging her toward the
car.

RICK
 You really need to get going. Leave
 this to us.

Juliet steps forward, concerned, still holding Dylan tight.

JULIET
 Us? You're not coming?

RICK
 They need me here.

Worried, Juliet embraces Rick with her free hand. They hold each other for a moment, then Rick steps away.

RICK (CONT'D)
 Okay. It's time.

INT./EXT. SQUAD CAR - NIGHT

Katie and Juliet sit in the back seat, with Dylan asleep in between as Stevens drives them deep into the desert.

Katie stares out the window, looking like a wreck.

KATIE
 I never should have taken that
 fucking money.

JULIET
 Katie--

KATIE
 I let this happen. I let him into
 my home. I let him near my son. I
 almost... this is my fault.

Juliet takes her hand, forcing Katie to look at her.

JULIET
 This is *his* fault. No one else's.

Katie looks doubtful.

JULIET (CONT'D)
 Listen to me, Katie, you didn't do
 anything wrong. Do you understand
 that?

Katie gives a weak, unconvincing nod, and returns her gaze out the window. Juliet squeezes her hand harder.

JULIET (CONT'D)

We're going to get through this. I promise.

Katie returns her gaze to Juliet, then smiles and leans in toward her. They rest their heads together and close their eyes.

The car sails away from civilization into the barren desert night.

EXT. DESERT HOME - NIGHT

They get out and survey the impressive and secluded home, tucked amongst fields of cacti and red rock mountains.

Jeremy is there to meet them. His face is lightly bandaged, but he looks okay. They embrace, relieved to finally be together.

INT. DESERT HOME, ENTRY WAY - MOMENTS LATER

Stevens ushers them inside of a palatial entry foyer.

STEVENS

We seized this place from a mobbed up financial planner a few months back. He built it for his family with security in mind - only one dirt road coming in. If anyone tries to drive here we'll see their dust cloud a mile away.

JEREMY

And if they walk?

STEVENS

There's nothing but twenty miles of desert in any direction.

(then)

You'll be safe here. Try to get some rest. I'll be out in the car if you need anything.

Katie and the others smile, actually feeling a bit relieved, then make their way into the house.

INT. DESERT HOME - LATER

JULIET sleeps in a beautiful suite with enormous windows.

DYLAN sleeps soundly in a small, but elaborately decorated kids room.

STEVENS sits outside in his squad car, sipping a cup of coffee, keeping watch. He spots KATIE in a bay window and raises his coffee in salute.

INT. DESERT HOME, DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Katie returns a little wave to Stevens, then looks out into the darkness. She's obviously distraught.

After a beat, she tears herself away from the window and goes to her overnight bag - her REVOLVER sits inside in its case. She stares at it, considering.

JEREMY (O.S.)

Hey.

Katie quickly zips the bag back up and turns around.

KATIE

Hey. You can't sleep either?

JEREMY

The only way I'm sleeping is if someone else bashes me over the head.

Katie's jaw drops in disbelief.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

What? Too soon?

She can't help but smile as she moves back to the window.

KATIE

Way too soon.

Her smile fades and she looks outside. She takes it in for a beat.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I can't stop thinking about it.
He's out there, somewhere.

JEREMY

You don't have to worry about him.
I promise.

KATIE

I wish I could believe that.

Katie sighs, looking forlornly out the window.

JEREMY

Why don't I go check in with
Stevens, see if there's any news?

He moves toward the door, but Katie stops him.

KATIE

Actually, do you mind staying? I'm
sure he'll let us know if he hears
anything. And I could kind of use
the company.

Jeremy smiles for a beat, but then continues toward the door.

JEREMY

I'll be right back.

Without another word, he exits, leaving Katie behind. She
stares after him, a little confused.

EXT. SEDONA SPRINGS LODGE - NIGHT

The motel where we last saw Patrick following Jeremy, is now
a crime scene. Rick exits Jeremy's room and approaches Mike,
concerned.

RICK

Mike, come check this out.

Rick goes back inside and Mike follows quickly behind him.

INT. SEDONA SPRINGS LODGE, ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter into Jeremy's motel room, where a few other COPS
linger around.

Rick points to a pool of blood on the carpet.

RICK

This is where they found Jeremy
Lawson, right?

MIKE

Right.

Rick then points to the corner of the room's chest of drawers
- a large BLOOD SPLATTER adorns the wood.

RICK

And this is likely where he
sustained his head injury.

MIKE

Yeah, Patrick probably came up from behind, and slammed his head onto the chest.

RICK

Does that seem right to you? If Jeremy had his back turned, how did he even know it was Patrick who attacked him?

MIKE

Maybe they struggled before hand?

Rick points out a quarter full water bottle sitting on a nearby desk, and a painting hanging on the wall.

RICK

You're telling me that two grown men had a struggle in here without knocking over a water bottle, bumping into this painting or in anyway disturbing the room.

Rick waves a hand around - *it is pretty tidy.*

RICK (CONT'D)

And why leave him like that? Why not kill him?

MIKE

What are you saying? You think Jeremy did this to himself?

RICK

I don't know. Something's not adding up. If you ask me, it seems very unlikely that what Jeremy Lawson said happened in here, is actually what happened in here.

INT. DESERT HOME, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy enters through the front door and closes it softly behind him.

JEREMY

Stevens says everything looks good out there.

Katie nods, still a little guarded.

KATIE

Good.

Jeremy enters the dining room, and starts looking through cabinets. Katie watches him.

JEREMY

You know what I've been thinking about? That last Christmas before my mom left. Remember how bad she and my dad got into it that night?

Katie's face softens, sympathetic.

KATIE

Yeah... it was awful.

Jeremy nods, then continues to another cabinet.

JEREMY

My mom wanted to leave, but she wouldn't go without me, remember? So you and I ran as far into the woods as we could and we hid. She came looking for us, but Dad found her first.

KATIE

(sympathetic)

Jeremy, you can't blame yourself for what happened. You were a kid.

JEREMY

Oh, I know. It wasn't my fault... it was hers.

Katie reacts, taken aback.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Ah, here we go.

Jeremy pulls a bottle of whiskey from the cabinet and plants it on the table. Katie stares at it in shock.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Rick exits an unmarked police sedan and approaches an AirBnB townhouse surrounded by police cars.

A heavy set policeman, LOUIS, approaches with an iPad.

LOUIS

We found these on a jump drive inside his water heater.

Rick looks down at the iPad and sees a collection of surveillance photos of Katie.

RICK
Patrick took these?

LOUIS
Yep. A week ago.

Rick looks up, surprised.

RICK
A week ago? He was following Katie before they met? Before he left that tip?

LOUIS
That's how it looks. You think he was stalking her? Maybe she was supposed be his next victim?

RICK
Maybe. Or maybe we're looking at this the wrong way. Maybe he's not a serial killer.

LOUIS
No? What else do you call someone who kills four people?

RICK
A professional.

Louis thinks about this for a second as it sinks in.

LOUIS
You think someone hired him to kill Katie Lawson? Then, why didn't he?

Rick scrolls through the pictures - as they progress, the pictures get closer and closer on Katie's face.

RICK
These pictures... they don't make sense. The first ones are fine, they're surveillance shots, he's familiarizing himself with the locations. But as they go on, they're just pictures of her. They serve no tactical purpose.

Realization dawns on Rick as he processes this.

RICK (CONT'D)
These are for him.

LOUIS
What? You think he fell for her?

RICK
Yeah...
(then)
This whole time... Patrick wasn't
going after Katie. He was
protecting her.

LOUIS
From who?

Rick's eyes go wide with panic and he RUSHES OFF SCREEN.

INT. DESERT HOME, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy pours himself a finger of whiskey and raises the glass to Katie in salute.

JEREMY
To one year sober.

Jeremy downs the glass, relishing it. Katie tenses, unnerved.

KATIE
What are you doing?

JEREMY
Oh, come on. I think I can make an
exception tonight, don't you?

Jeremy pours himself another, taller glass, then joins her at the table. She swallows hard as she watches him.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Do you remember how bad my dad hurt
my mom that night? I don't know how
he explained it to the ER doctor,
she was in rough shape.

Jeremy gives a little laugh at the memory, sending a chill down Katie's spine.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
For the longest time I hated him
for that. But I was wrong. I see
that now. She brought it on
herself.

Katie looks up at Jeremy, unable to believe what he's saying.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

He worked his ass off, everyday,
but the moment he did the slightest
thing wrong, she exploded. She
never appreciated what he was going
through. She only ever thought
about herself. I don't blame him
for being pissed off.

Katie's lip starts to quiver.

KATIE

Jeremy... why are you telling me
this?

Jeremy looks her dead in the eye - all she can see is hate.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Rick sprints to his police car and grabs the radio through
the window.

RICK

Stevens, this is Rick, come in
please.

He breathes heavily, waiting for a reply that doesn't come.

RICK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Stevens! Do you have eyes on
Katie?! She's in danger!

Fear overtakes him and Rick SCREAMS into the radio.

RICK (CONT'D)

Goddamnit, Stevens!

EXT. DESERT HOME - NIGHT

RICK (ON RADIO)

Come in!

The radio blares out, but no one is there to hear it. STEVENS
lies dead in the driver seat, his THROAT SLIT.

INT. DESERT HOME, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy plants a GLOCK onto the dining room table with a THUD.

It sits there for a beat as Katie takes it in.

JEREMY

I didn't want to have to be the one
to do it.

(MORE)

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I knew it had to be done, I
couldn't just let you get away with
all this, but I really didn't want
to have to do it myself.

Katie grits her teeth, trying to contain her emotion.

KATIE

What is it, exactly, I'm supposed
to be getting away with?

JEREMY

This! All of it! Everything!
(then)
You promised we'd look out for each
other. You promised we'd always be
together. And you lied.

KATIE

That's what this is about? You're
upset because you got dumped?

Jeremy flies into a RAGE, leaping from his chair and PRESSING
the gun into Katie's temple.

JEREMY

I'm upset because I needed you and
you weren't there!

(then)

How many times did I hold you as
you cried through the night? When
things got really bad with your
parents, who was the one who got
you out of there? But when I needed
you...

Jeremy holds the gun against her head, his finger hovering
over the trigger, but after a beat he forces himself to take
a deep breath, and steps away, pacing.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I could get past all of that.
Really, I could. But, Katie, you
took my son away from me. You tore
our family apart.

(then)

I can't forgive that. I can't let
you get away with that.

Jeremy finally gets himself under control, and sits back down
at the table.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I'm not going to enjoy this. I hope you know that. I really didn't want to do it myself. I paid Patrick ten thousand dollars to provide a service, but I think you know what he actually did with that money.

(then)

I should have known. That's what you do. You get in people's head. You make them think you care about them, but you only care about yourself.

Katie trembles, trying to stay strong.

KATIE

Th--that's not true. I--

Jeremy slams the gun on the table, silencing her. After a beat, he stands.

JEREMY

Come on. Let's go outside. I don't want Dylan to have to see you after.

Katie straightens herself up, trying to be brave.

KATIE

You won't get away with this.

JEREMY

I will. You think I didn't have a plan? You think I didn't know Patrick would follow me? I was ready for him. I have him somewhere safe, for now. When this is over I'll make it look like a suicide. In a few days the cops will find his body, and everything will fall on him.

Katie's mind reels, scrambling for a solution... she glances at her overnight bag - her gun only a few feet away.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

I'll give Dylan a good life. I promise. Juliet and Rick can still be a part of it. You don't need to worry.

Jeremy starts to tear up again.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Goddamnit, Katie, why did you have to do this? Do you think I want to raise him alone? Do you think I want to do this without you?

KATIE
You don't--

JEREMY
I do! You made that choice. You!

Katie sets her jaw, as angry as she is terrified. She looks to the overnight bag again.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Now come on, let's get this over with.

Jeremy makes his way toward the back of the house.

With his back turned, Katie positions herself toward the overnight bag, ready to make a move.

But then Jeremy turns back. He tilts his head, urging her to follow.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Come on. I'm going to let you say goodbye.

Katie looks again at the overnight bag, then back to Jeremy. He raises the gun toward her.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Please.

Katie stares daggers at him, hate burning in her eyes.

But, after a beat, she pushes herself up and continues toward him, walking right past the bag.

INT. DESERT HOME, DYLAN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Katie kneels down beside Dylan's bed, admiring her sleeping child. She runs a finger through his hair and he slowly wakes up.

DYLAN
Mmmm. What time is it?

KATIE
It's late. Go back to sleep.

Dylan looks at his mother, noticing the tears.

DYLAN
What's wrong?

Katie smiles wide through her tears, shaking her head.

KATIE
I'm just so proud of you. That's
all. I love you so much.

Dylan looks at his mother, still a little groggy, then wraps his arms around her.

She can't help but let out another round of tears as she hugs him tight, memorizing this moment.

As it goes on, Jeremy steps forward.

JEREMY
I think we should let him sleep.

Katie bites her tongue, not letting him ruin this. She gives Dylan one more squeeze, then lets go.

Dylan lies back down, and closes his eyes.

DYLAN
Good night, Mama.

KATIE
Good night, Baby.

Katie kisses Dylan on the forehead, holding her lips there for an extra moment.

She then rises and follows Jeremy out the door.

When they're gone, we stay on Dylan - he opens his eyes. He reaches for his arrowhead and starts to rub it.

INT. CAR TRUNK - NIGHT

Patrick wakes with a start in the dark, enclosed space. His hands and feet are bound and his face is bruised and bloodied - he's in bad shape.

He pulls hard at the rope around his wrists, trying to break free, but it's no good. They're too tight.

Patrick takes a deep breath, then squeezes his hands together, hard, until -- *SNAP!* The bone in his thumb BREAKS.

He winces, in incredible pain, but he is able to wiggle his hands out of the ropes.

EXT. SEDONA SPRINGS LODGE, BACK PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Patrick rolls out of the trunk of the black sedan and falls onto the pavement in a secluded part of the parking lot, far from the crime scene.

He gasps for breath, in total agony. After a beat, he manages to take his phone out of his pocket, careful not to put pressure on his broken thumb.

He opens an app which shows a map of the area. A blinking blue dot glows in the middle of the desert.

Patrick pushes himself to his feet, then looks toward Jeremy's MOTORCYCLE, which still sits parked in it's space.

He sets his jaw and moves toward it.

EXT. DESERT HOME, BACK PATIO - NIGHT

Jeremy leads Katie out the back door into the desert night. She shakes uncontrollably as he prods her along.

JEREMY

Don't worry. It'll all be over soon.

JULIET (O.S.)

God. I hope so.

Katie and Jeremy freeze.

They turn to see Juliet sitting at a small patio set, looking out at the desert.

JULIET (CONT'D)

I mean, what a nightmare.

Katie glances back at Jeremy and he looks at her expectantly - she thinks fast.

KATIE

Well, you should probably go back in there and get some rest, don't you think? It's late.

JULIET

Believe me, I would if I could.

(then)

What are you guys up to?

Katie hesitates, and Jeremy steps in.

JEREMY

We were gonna go for a walk. Check out the stars. You should come.

Katie panics, rushing her answer.

KATIE

No, no, it's okay. I'm sure Juliet would rather sleep.

JEREMY

She just said she couldn't.

Juliet clocks Katie's fearful expression. She stiffens, uncomfortable.

JULIET

You know what, maybe I *should* try to get some rest.

JEREMY

Nah, you should come with us. The stars really are something.

Juliet gets up and makes her way to the door, nervous.

JULIET

No, no, you guys go on. I'll--

CLICK!

Juliet freezes at the sound of Jeremy cocking his weapon.

JEREMY

Come with us, Juliet.

Juliet turns around, terrified. Katie meets her eye, agonized. She mouths, "*I'm sorry*".

INT./EXT. SQUAD CAR - NIGHT

Rick rides shotgun as an OFFICER speeds down the desert highway. Several other SQUAD CARS RACE behind them.

Rick holds his phone to his ear, but then tears it away, frustrated.

RICK

Damn it!

OFFICER

Nothing?

RICK

It's a dead zone. The nearest antenna's ten miles from there. How far are we?

OFFICER

Twenty minutes.

Rick grits his teeth. Then, after a beat, he tries his phone again.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - SAME

As the squad cars continue on, we see PATRICK riding behind them on Jeremy's motorcycle with the lights off.

He glances down at the blinking blue dot on his phone, then turns off the highway, driving out across the open desert.

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Jeremy marches Juliet and Katie deep into the desert. They both try to stay strong, through their terror.

JEREMY

Alright, here's fine.

Juliet and Katie stop, shaking as they turn back toward Jeremy.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Juliet, I didn't want you to get pulled into this.

JULIET

P-please...

JEREMY

I'm sorry. There's no getting around it.

Jeremy raises the gun, but Katie steps forward.

KATIE

Wait! Jeremy, listen to me. You don't have to do this. Things can go back to how they were. I still love you. I always loved you. Leaving you was the hardest thing I've ever done, but then you came back, and I saw you were better, and I knew--

BOOM! Juliet crumbles to the ground. A red pool of blood expanding from her stomach.

Katie GASPS in disbelief, then drops down beside Juliet, cradling her.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Juliet! Oh my god, hang on! Hang on!

She presses against the wound, but it's no use. Juliet looks terrified as she slowly loses consciousness.

JEREMY
I don't think things are going to go back to normal, Katie.

Katie can't breathe. She gapes, utterly distraught over Juliet's body.

Jeremy levels the gun at Katie, taking aim. A tear runs down his cheek.

She stares back up at him, defiant.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
I'm going to miss you.

Katie stares him in the eye, refusing to look away. But then, something distracts her -- a small red dot appears on Jeremy's shirt - *huh?*

Jeremy clocks her confusion, then looks down and sees the light.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
What the--

They both turn to see Dylan aiming the revolver at him - *holy shit!*

Jeremy SWINGS the gun towards Dylan -- *BANG!* Dylan pulls his trigger first, hitting Jeremy in the shoulder and sending his gun flying.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Ah! Goddamnit!

Jeremy charges toward Dylan, but Katie is faster. She LEAPS at Jeremy, TACKLING him to the ground.

KATIE
RUN, DYLAN! RUN!

Dylan takes off running back towards the house.

Katie scrambles to her feet quickly, trying to get away. But Jeremy grabs her ankle, yanking on it, hard - *SNAP!*

KATIE (CONT'D)

AHH!

Katie screams as her ankle breaks. Jeremy drops down on top of her. She tries to fight back, but it's not enough. He soon overpowers her, pinning her to the ground.

WHAM! Jeremy *SLAMS* Katie into the ground, hitting her head hard and knocking her out. He gets off of her and searches in the darkness for the gun, but he can't find it.

He looks up to see that Dylan is halfway to the house. He curses under his breath then runs as fast as he can after Dylan.

EXT. DESERT HOME - CONTINUOUS

DYLAN sprints towards the house. He looks back to see Jeremy BEARING down on him.

JEREMY

Dylan, buddy, I know this is scary,
but I can explain.

Dylan points the gun back, and FIRES!

JEREMY ducks for cover.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Jesus!

DYLAN keeps going, finally making it to the house where he YANKS on the door - but it's locked! FUCK! He pulls harder, but it's no use. He looks back - his dad is getting close.

Dylan looks down and sees a DOGGY DOOR set in the wood. He gets onto his knees and sticks his arms and head through, but his shoulders don't fit.

He pushes, struggling to get through, but as he does, he DROPS the gun, and it SKITTERS out of reach - *damnit!*

He gets out to try again, but then looks back - his dad is really close now. FUCK!

JEREMY (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'm not going to hurt
you.

Dylan turns from the door and runs out into the desert.

Jeremy veers off course, following after him.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Dylan! Stop! I mean it!

Dylan continues on. Jeremy goes after him, but soon he has to take a break. He feels at his wound, wincing at the pain. As he pulls his hand away he sees it covered in blood.

Jeremy curses, then continues after Dylan, gaining on him quickly.

Up ahead, Dylan spots a patch of Cholla Cactus. He charges hard for it as Jeremy gets closer and closer.

Just as Jeremy is about to catch up, Dylan makes it to the cactus patch. He's small enough to move through them easily, without skipping a beat, but they stop Jeremy. He has to slow to make his way through.

EXT. DESERT CLEARING - NIGHT

KATIE lies in the sand, slowly coming to.

JEREMY (O.S.)

DYLAN!

Hearing Jeremy's voice, she wakes with a start. She turns toward the noise and makes a run for it.

But as soon as she puts weight on her ankle she collapses. She tries again, but falls a second time, screaming from the pain - she can't run.

She lies there, on the ground, desperate. But then, she takes a beat, summoning all of her strength. She gets up on her good leg, and pushes off.

She finds her rhythm, limping quickly into the desert.

EXT. DESERT CLIFF - SAME

JEREMY makes his way through the cactus patch and finds Dylan standing still fifty yards ahead of him. On one side is the edge of a canyon, on the other a wall of rock - Jeremy has him cornered.

JEREMY

Dylan, listen to me. I'm your
father. I just want to be with you.
We can be a family.

Dylan looks toward his father, then up at the rock wall. He takes a beat, then charges at the wall and starts climbing!

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Son of a bitch.

Jeremy sprints toward Dylan and gets to the base of the wall a moment too late. He leaps up, but Dylan's foot is just out of reach.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Dylan, get down from there! It's not safe.

DYLAN
Fuck you!

Jeremy's face hardens, furious. He grabs a rock and HURLS it at Dylan, barely missing him.

JEREMY
I said come down!

Dylan climbs more quickly and Jeremy reluctantly goes after him.

Dylan climbs as fast as he can, but his legs and arms just aren't long enough and he doesn't have the reach.

Even with one arm, Jeremy is faster. He ascends quickly, getting closer and closer to Dylan.

Dylan gets a hand over the top of the wall, but Jeremy GRABS his foot at the last second.

Jeremy pulls as hard as he can as Dylan tries to get his foot loose. As they struggle, Dylan kicks some dirt into Jeremy's eyes, momentarily blinding him and allowing Dylan to get free.

Jeremy shakes it off and climbs quickly to the crest of the wall.

When he gets to the top, his eyes go wide - KATIE is there, waiting! She levels his GLOCK at him.

KATIE
Stay away from my son.

Katie FIRES and Jeremy DROPS over the side of the cliff!
She stays frozen in the same spot, aiming the gun, waiting.

DYLAN (O.S.)
Mom!

Katie drops to one knee and embraces Dylan

KATIE
Oh my god, Dylan. Are you okay?

DYLAN
Yeah.

They hug each other tight, but Katie quickly pulls away.

KATIE
Stay here.

Katie moves away from Dylan, toward the cliff's edge. She inches toward it, then looks over, searching for Jeremy's body down below... but there's nothing there.

She turns back toward Dylan, curious, then SLAM! Jeremy's hand reaches out over the cliff's edge and grabs her by the ankle!

He pulls her to the ground and she FLIES toward the edge. She scrambles, BARELY gaining purchase on a nearby rock.

Dylan RUSHES over and holds her arm, pulling her tightly.

Below, JEREMY holds onto Katie's foot for dear life, yanking on her with all his strength.

KATIE tries to hold on, but it's nearly impossible.

She slips further toward the edge and Dylan slides with her.

Finally, Katie looks into Dylan's eyes. Despite everything she manages to smile.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I love you, Baby.

DYLAN
No!

KATIE
You have to let go.

DYLAN
No! I won't!

Dylan hangs tight, but his grip is slipping. He tries and he tries... but it's no use. She slips out of his hands...

Katie slides away, going over the edge.

But then -- SLAM! -- Another HAND grabs her wrist! It's Patrick!

PATRICK

Hang on!

He holds her tight.

With this new purchase, Katie looks back down at Jeremy - he looks afraid.

JEREMY

No, don't--

Katie grits her teeth, then -- *BAM!* -- Katie KICKS him, hard. He loses his grip.

Jeremy's arms flail as he falls -- *BOOM!* -- he hits the ground, HARD.

Katie stares down at the desert below. As the dust clears, she sees Jeremy's body lying in a heap, twisted and mangled. He's not coming back.

Slowly, she grabs hold of the rock wall, and with Patrick's help she climbs back up over the ledge.

Dylan bear hugs her and they squeeze each other tight.

Katie then looks back at Patrick, who stands nearby. Katie holds Dylan tighter, protective. This breaks Patrick's heart a little.

PATRICK

I'm not going to hurt you.

Katie hesitates, but then loosens her grip on Dylan.

It's a pregnant moment as they lock eyes, neither sure what to say.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

I should have told you - who I was... who he was. I should have never let this happen.

(then)

I'm sorry.

We hear the sounds of SIRENS in the distance as a train of police cars TEAR up the driveway toward the safe house.

They both look at it, and then back at one another.

Patrick lingers for another moment, then turns and walks away.

KATIE

Patrick...

He stops, and turns around.

But Katie just sits there. There's nothing to say.

Patrick gives her a small, forlorn smile, then turns once again, disappearing into the night.

After a moment, Katie turns to Dylan, and kisses his forehead.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's go home.

They rise from the ground as the police circle the property in the distance.

She puts her arm around Dylan and they make their way toward the house - just the two of them, together, forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RED ROCK DINER - DAY

Just another busy day at the Red Rock Diner.

COOK

Order up!

Katie grabs a tray of food off the counter.

KATIE

Yeah, I see it, I see it.

Katie takes the food and brings it to a booth, where Dylan and Rick sit, coloring.

KATIE (CONT'D)

(to Dylan)

Chicken fingers for you...

DYLAN

Thanks Mom!

KATIE

(to Rick)

And a pork chop for the cop. You know, you really shouldn't play to type so much.

RICK

I know. I can't help it.

JULIET (O.S.)
Oh! That slice of cake's for me.

Juliet limps into the other side of the booth using a forearm crutch.

KATIE
This is your lunch? Didn't the doctors tell you to eat healthy?

JULIET
Hey. I almost died. Let me live a little.

They laugh as Juliet slides into the booth. Katie admires the group as they dig into their food, then continues on to a different table.

But she stops when she sees something OUTSIDE.

A BLACK SEDAN enters the parking lot and crawls into a parking space. She watches it, on bated breath...

... but then a FAMILY OF FOUR exits and rushes into the diner.

She deflates, going back to her business... but she stops again when something else catches her eye.

Sitting on the table in front of her, leaning up against the menus is a plain white envelope.

Katie looks around the restaurant - *who left that?*

She grabs the envelope and sees a note scrawled on the front - "*Katie, hope this helps :)*"

Katie smiles wide as she opens the envelope...

THE END