

# TREMBLE

by

Larry Lasky

## **THE CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE:**

Everyone knows about the San Andreas faultline, made popular by numerous pieces of disaster fiction and speculation.

But while the world has been watching San Andreas, the real danger has been right next door, completely undetected until just the last few years: Cascadia.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone sits at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, where the seabed meets the North American tectonic plate. It stretches across 700 miles of the Pacific Northwest.

On **January 26, 1700**, Cascadia caused the largest earthquake to ever hit North America.

At some point in our lifetime it will happen again. And when it does, this will be the greatest natural disaster in the history of the United States.

Ground zero for this inevitable crisis will be the Cascade Range ("The Cascades") -- the mountain range which extends from Washington through Oregon, and whose violent history is well-known throughout the region.

As part of the Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire, every volcanic eruption in the United States over the last 200 years has been from the Cascades, including the famed Mount Saint Helens.

Earthquakes. Tsunamis. Volcanic Eruptions.

If you're in the Pacific Northwest when the Cascadia Subduction Zone finally ruptures, nowhere is safe -- and these mountains are the last place to be.

But if you find yourself trapped in this disaster, cut off from any chance of help...

...Be careful of **who you're trapped with.**

FADE IN:

**EXT. CASCADE MOUNTAINS - DAWN**

Brutal destruction.

The once-beautiful CASCADE MOUNTAIN RANGE now a hellish, apocalyptic landscape.

Lava bursting and flowing from several mountains.

The trees and land on fire, burning to the ground. Over this imagery, the VOICE of a FEMALE NEWSCASTER--

FEMALE NEWSCASTER'S VOICE  
...Seattle devastated...reports  
flooding in from Portland, parts of  
California...

Sun blotted out. Patter of light rainfall. Huge swathes of forest barely visible beneath a cloud of toxic gas and ash.

**ON A SLOW-MOVING FLOW OF LAVA**

Steam rising with a hiss as rain drizzles from the sky.

Finding a CHARM BRACELET on the muddy ground, just a couple feet away from the encroaching flow of lava.

A MALE NEWSCASTER'S VOICE--

MALE NEWSCASTER'S VOICE  
...The continued search for  
survivors....

The sense that each charm is specific and meaningful to whomever it belonged to.

The clasp broken. SPECKS OF BLOOD on the bracelet.

FEMALE NEWSCASTER'S VOICE  
...Unprecedented death toll...a  
catastrophic tragedy for our nation-

Hints of violence. Maybe even murder.

And then the charm bracelet disappears under the bubbling, red-orange flow of lava, as--

**SMASH TITLE: *TREMBLE***

**I/E. PICK-UP TRUCK/GAS STATION - MORNING**

An old pick-up being filled by a teenage ATTENDANT. Chipped pain, dented hood, it's seen better days.

INSIDE THE TRUCK

**HANNAH RHODES** (early '20s) is FACETIMING on her phone while she waits for the attendant to fill up the gas tank.

She wears an Oregon State University sweatshirt. College student. Bright eyes, put together, smart, and athletic.

**HANNAH'S AUNT SUSIE** ('30s), and kid sister **BECCA** (9) on the other end of the FaceTime screen.

AUNT SUSIE

You sure that thing's safe to drive?

**SUPER: 5 DAYS EARLIER. PORTLAND, OREGON.**

Hannah rolls her eyes, sarcastically.

HANNAH

Not this conversation again. She's a hunk of junk, but she's *mine*.

AUNT SUSIE

Hey, it's my auntly duty to worry.

HANNAH

And that's why we love you.

AUNT SUSIE

Have you talked to your mom yet?

Hannah's face says it all. Some unspoken tension.

AUNT SUSIE (CONT'D)

She'd want to hear from you.

HANNAH

I don't know. She didn't want me to go this year -- not alone. But after Dad...I...

BECCA

Hannah, I got something for you. Look in the glove box!

Hannah opens the glove box -- finding a CHARM BRACELET inside. The same bracelet seen in the opening.

Realizing now that what we saw is *Hannah's charm bracelet*.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
I picked out the charms. Aunt  
Susie paid.

Hannah puts the bracelet on her wrist, moved by the gift.  
Flashes it in front of the screen.

HANNAH  
It's perfect. I love it.

A lot of emotion between the sisters. Hannah "whispers" into  
the screen, conspiratorial.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
Next year, I'll take you camping.  
Just the two of us. Like me and  
Dad used to. Deal?

BECCA  
Deal! Bye Hannah!

Becca bounces off to go play. With her sister gone, Hannah  
looks more somber.

HANNAH  
I don't have to take this trip. I  
can turn around and head back.  
Maybe mom's right, and I should--

AUNT SUSIE  
It's your tradition. I *know* he  
wouldn't want you missing it.

HANNAH  
It just feels like I'm leaving  
Becca when she needs me the most.

AUNT SUSIE  
I've got her, Hannah. Her and your  
mom are fine. This one's for you.

Hannah looks unsure.

AUNT SUSIE (CONT'D)  
Besides, what's that corny thing  
your Dad used to say?

HANNAH  
Ugh, no...

They both laugh, some needed relief.

AUNT SUSIE  
 Hannah Abigail Rhodes. You've got  
 to say it. Tradition.

Hannah sighs, relents theatrically.

HANNAH  
 "All Rhodes Lead To Home." He was  
 sooooooo cornball.

AUNT SUSIE  
 This trip will do you good. I  
 promise.

The ATTENDANT knocks on her window, gives her the all-clear  
 to leave. Hannah nods thanks, then looks back to the screen.

AUNT SUSIE (CONT'D)  
 Just do me one favor. Talk to your  
 mom, okay?

A HORN blares behind her. Impatiently waiting to take her  
 spot at the gas pump.

HANNAH  
 I've gotta go. Love you.

Hannah signs off, and flips the other drive the bird as she  
 pulls the truck out from the station.

#### **SERIES OF SHOTS**

Hannah driving her pick-up through--

Portland.

Out past the city. Freeway surrounded by wilderness.

Crossing into WASHINGTON STATE.

Into Seattle. Pulling into a MOTEL for the night.

The next morning. Driving on the open road. Sunlit sky.  
 Reaching her destination--

#### **THE CASCADE MOUNTAIN RANGE**

A sweeping view from the base of MT. RAINIER. Majestic.

Hannah parks the truck, and climbs out.

Taking it all in, with a smile on her lips. *This is freedom.*

Her quiet serenity broken by the SQUAWKING of BIRDS.

She looks up, seeing the OVERCAST SKY BLANKETED WITH BIRDS flying away from the mountains.

All different types of birds. Whole flocks, pairs, some of them alone. Flying in every direction they can.

Too numerous to count. As if every single animal with wings decided to leave the mountain range at the same time.

Hannah looks hypnotized. Vaguely unsettled. Then--

She hears the engine and tires of an SUV. Snaps out of it. Turns, sees the vehicle approaching in the distance.

#### **OUTSIDE THE SUV**

Moments later. Parked. Hannah coming up as the three people inside begin to exit--

**RYAN** (mid-'20s) gets out first with his friends **NICO** ('20s) and **GWEN** ('20s) in tow, clearly a couple.

He sees Hannah and waves, friendly.

RYAN

They told us there'd be five more.  
I'm Ryan--

He gestures to Nico and Gwen, who are making out against the side of the SUV.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Those are my conjoined friends.

They all hear the sound of an approaching MOTORCYCLE. Pulling up next to them--

Coming to a stop. The driver takes off his helmet, checks out Nico and Gwen still going at it.

This is **JAVI** (19, Hispanic). Camping gear stored on the back of his bike. Gaze lingering on the couple, grinning.

Nico peels away from Gwen, flipping Javi the bird.

NICO

Shithead, we can see you.

Javi revs his bike, pretending he can't hear over the noise. Gwen playfully elbows Ryan, addressing Hannah.

GWEN

Gwen. That's my boyfriend, Nico.  
And Ryan's our tag-along.

HANNAH

I'm Hannah -- I think that's the  
rest of them coming now.

Two more vehicles pulling up. A CAR and an OLD PICK-UP.

**PHILIP** ('30s, Chinese) exits the car, arguing loudly with his  
wife **MEI** (late-'20s, Chinese) in MANDARIN.

RYAN

Well, they seem happy.

From the old truck, **WALT** (late '50s) climbs out, alone.

HANNAH

Hey, you the guide? I wanted to  
ask about the birds--

Walt shakes his head, talking as he grabs his gear from  
inside the back of the truck.

WALT

Walter. *Walt*. On the tour, sorry.  
Our guide must be running late...

HANNAH

He definitely should've been here  
by now.

As Walt collects his gear, Javi extends his hand to Hannah, a  
bit *too* enthusiastically.

JAVI

Javier Quevedo. Washington State.  
Call me Javi, everyone does.

Hannah shakes his hand as she responds.

HANNAH

Hannah Rhodes, Oregon State.

JAVI

OSU, huh? Maybe I should transfer.

Philip and Mei approach, a little uncomfortably. He speaks  
properly, a well-educated man. Every word measured, precise.

PHILIP

We're embarrassed about the way we  
arrived. It was...a long drive.

Mei says something to her husband, in Mandarin.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

This is my wife, Mei. I'm Philip. We're from Seattle. I'm afraid she only knows Mandarin, but I'm happy to translate. Is this everyone?

RYAN

Yeah, eight of us. Now that we're here, any idea where our guide is?

Walt pulls his phone out from his pocket.

WALT

I'll call into the service, make sure everything's okay. See if they've heard anything from--

His words cut off, by:

DECKER (O.S.)

You've all gotta leave.

Finding **SHANE DECKER** ('30s) approaching. Lean, commanding, physical presence. Backpack over his shoulders, mountaineer.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Tour's canceled.

Walt's got his cell phone to his ear. Phone ringing. Ends the call, but keeps the phone out.

Decker looks the group over, nobody sure how to respond.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Pack your shit back up and go.

Whispers -- "is he serious?" "This has to be a joke?" etc. as Walt speaks in a mediating tone.

WALT

I think you're confused, young man. Everyone's paid up.

DECKER

Do I look like I give a damn? I'm the guide and I say no. You'll all be refunded.

WALT

Son, that's not gonna be good enough.

Decker takes an intimidating step forward--

DECKER

That so?

WALT

I can get the service back on the line, but we're taking this tour.

Another step from Decker. Walt stands firm, the elder of this group, taking charge.

WALT (CONT'D)

They can send someone else up. I came a long way. And I bet these folks did, as well.

Decker gets into Walt's physical space...

WALT (CONT'D)

If you won't do it then find someone who--

--And cuts him off with a disarming grin.

DECKER

Relax, I'm just fucking with you.

Instant relief, though a few people still look agitated. Hannah gives him a sharp look, unimpressed.

HANNAH

That wasn't funny.

Decker's entire demeanor shifts, friendly, but unapologetic.

DECKER

Wasn't meant to be. Had to see how you'd respond under pressure. Shane Decker, pleased to meet ya'all.

He gestures over to the mountain.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Out there, everyone works together. High stakes, high stress.

His eyes intense, passionate as he speaks.

DECKER (CONT'D)

We're talking three days through the Cascades.

(MORE)

DECKER (CONT'D)

It's work, and it's not always  
gonna be fun. But I promise it's  
worth it.

Everyone coming around. Eager for the adventure. Decker  
looks at Hannah, senses she's the final holdout.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Time of your life. C'mon. We all  
go, or no one does.

A beat...

And Hannah finally nods, with a smile, the mood lightened.

HANNAH

I'll grab my pack.

**EXT. MT. RAINIER - TRAIL - DAY**

The group hiking up the mountain path.

Camping backpacks on each of them *except* for Mei.

Morning clouds have cleared up. The sun shining, a gentle  
breeze from the wind. A beautiful place. A beautiful day.

Hannah near the front of the group, lead by Decker. She  
abruptly freezes, grabs his arm--

HANNAH

Stop -- over there--

Gesturing to an abandoned backpack, torn, the strap caught  
and hanging from a tree branch.

BLOOD smeared on the outside of the backpack. Gets close,  
pulls it down. Everyone gathering.

WALT

We should report this.

Decker takes the backpack from Hannah. Opens it up--

DECKER

Empty.

Not a single item left behind.

DECKER (CONT'D)

No I.D., nothing in there.

Hannah eyes the blood smear.

HANNAH

So what do we do? They could need our help, or--

DECKER

I'll call the rangers soon as we've got reception. Leave this here for them, where you found it.

Decker hangs the backpack on the branch.

DECKER (CONT'D)

If it was serious, it'd have been reported by now.

HANNAH

You're sure?

DECKER

I'm sure. People get hurt out here all the time.

Beat.

DECKER (CONT'D)

I'll make the call. We've gotta move. It's a long way up.

They keep moving, upwards along the trail. As they go, Hannah glances once more behind her--

The blood-smeared backpack hangs from the tree like an ominous warning.

**LATER**

Everyone looking exhausted. Hannah's sweatshirt tied around her waist. Faces red, winded. Decker pushing them forwards.

HANNAH

Where are we going? Mister Decker?

DECKER

Heaven, darling.

**LATER STILL**

Almost sunset. The altitude and continuous hike starting to get to the tour group.

Mei leaning into Philip's arms. Sweat pouring from her flushed face. Doesn't look good.

PHILIP

Wait!

Everyone coming to a halt. Philip says something to her in Mandarin, and Mei responds reassuringly.

PHILIP (CONT'D)

My wife needs a minute.

DECKER

We're almost there.

HANNAH

I think everyone could use a moment.

He bites back his frustration. Then notices--

DECKER

Where's her pack?

PHILIP

She's pregnant. Three months. I'm carrying for us both.

DECKER

You've gotta be shitting me. Give her some water, and let's move.

Philip gently helps her sit on a rock.

JAVI

C'mon, man. Give us a break--

DECKER

I told you at the start, everyone pulls their weight. If that's too much, we can head back down now.

Philip gets in his face, aggressive.

PHILIP

We've been hiking for hours. My wife doesn't speak English, she needs a minute.

DECKER

And now she's had two. I suggest taking a step back.

Philip clenches his fists.

Walt immediately steps between them--

WALT

Easy there, son. I think you need  
to calm--

Philip pushes Walt back, and Javi catches the older man.

Decker is ready to attack Philip, his fist a split-second  
from striking, when--

The ground begins shaking.

Throws them all off balance. Decker raises his hands up.

DECKER

Okay, stay calm everyone! It's a  
little quake--

Mei stands up, quickly puts her hand on Philip's shoulder.

Fists unclench. Philip's face remains full of anger. Decker  
gives Mei a pointed look.

DECKER (CONT'D)

You, control your man.

Philip speaks to Mei in Mandarin, explaining the situation.  
All of them still as the small quake finally subsides.

Hannah looks to Decker for answers, breathless. Frightened.

HANNAH

That was an earthquake?

DECKER

Young lady, that was nothing. This  
whole range sits on a faultline  
stretching from here to Oregon.  
They say if it ever went off, it'd  
kill millions.

Gwen looks over to Nico.

GWEN

Did you know about this?

NICO

Hon, people have been talking about  
this for years. It's no big deal.

RYAN

It's not, right? I mean, does this  
happen a lot?

Decker looks the group over.

DECKER

Happens a lot more than it used to.

Lets his words sink in.

DECKER (CONT'D)

But if you're asking me, do we got  
anything to worry about? No.  
Least not more than usual out here.

He starts moving on. With or without them.

DECKER (CONT'D)

We're losing sunlight, people.

Everyone gets up, following, no real choice in the matter.

This time Hannah lets others pass as she hangs back near  
Ryan, Gwen, and Nico.

RYAN

Can you believe this guy? When  
this is over, I'm reporting him.

GWEN

He's a *psycho*.

Gwen looks at Nico, playfully angry.

GWEN (CONT'D)

You put us on a three-day hike with  
a *psycho*. On Earthquake Mountain.  
Good one, Nico.

#### **FURTHER UP THE TRAIL**

Everyone walking in silence. Severely fatigued. Sounds of  
heavy breathing, and the wind picking up.

They've reached a high point on the mountain. Decker comes  
to an abrupt stop, turning to face everyone.

DECKER

True facts. Mount Rainier is  
visited by nearly 1.3 Million  
people a year. And of those  
visitors, 62% stop off in a little  
valley called Paradise. That is  
*not* where I've taken you.

A beat.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
Paradise is easy. Anyone can go  
visit a paradise. But Heaven?

He steps aside. Letting everyone come forward--

DECKER (CONT'D)  
You've gotta work to see Heaven.

Hannah discovering that they've made it over the mountain  
pass, and are now overlooking--

### **A BREATHTAKING VALLEY**

The sun setting across their view, bathing the valley in its  
light. Lush greens. Flowers, trees. A river.

Stretching to the horizon. More mountains in the distance.

Everyone getting their cameras or smart phones out for  
pictures. Hannah finds Ryan. Holds her phone out.

HANNAH  
Can you?--

Ryan nods, takes the phone and snaps photos of Hannah, with  
the valley behind her.

DECKER  
Why don't you two get in there  
together?

Ryan looks surprised, but hands him the phone. Gets into  
frame with Hannah, as Decker takes their picture.

Decker hands the phone back to Hannah.

HANNAH  
Can I go down there?

DECKER  
Go ahead.

She walks past them, snapping more photos. Ryan still looks  
thrown by Decker's generosity.

RYAN  
Thanks...

DECKER  
Don't mention it. Wouldn't want  
you *reporting* me or nothing.

Decker pats Ryan on the shoulder, a little *rough*, before brushing past him.

Following Hannah down into the valley.

**EXT. MOUNTAIN VALLEY - NIGHT**

Hannah finishes setting up her tent.

Nearly everyone else has done the same, and gathered around a campfire.

Decker approaches, handing her a mug.

DECKER

Coffee. Tastes awful. But it'll warm you up.

She nods, grateful. Takes a sip. Winces.

DECKER (CONT'D)

I'm a lotta things, but I'm always honest.

HANNAH

Are you joining us?

Shakes his head.

DECKER

Not my speed. Have fun.

He walks past her.

Hannah studies him as he disappears into his tent. Not sure what to make of this guy.

Jolting as JAVI puts a hand on her shoulder.

JAVI

Oh, hey! Didn't mean to startle you. Saw Captain Creepy gave you some of his brew--

He pulls out a bottle of whiskey.

JAVI (CONT'D)

--But I've got a little something of my own.

Hannah shakes her head, declining. Javi shrugs.

JAVI (CONT'D)  
Suit yourself.

He takes a long swig. They walk to the campfire together.  
Hannah notes who *isn't* there.

HANNAH  
Where are Mei and Philip?

WALT  
I think he's still sore about  
earlier. You ask me, probably for  
the best they called it a night.

GWEN  
Our guide might be psycho, but he's  
right about them. Who lets a  
pregnant woman out here, anyways?

NICO  
Whoa, sexist. Maybe they just  
wanted one more adventure while  
they still can. You know, *before*  
bed rest, screaming baby, endless  
diapers. No sex again, ever.

GWEN  
He's such a romantic.

Gwen looks to Hannah, putting her on the spot.

GWEN (CONT'D)  
C'mon, Han. Back me up on this.

Javi passes the bottle around the group, letting Hannah  
deflect from the question.

WALT  
Easy there, Washington State.  
We've still got two nights left,  
you might want to ration.

Javi thinks on it, and snatches the bottle back from Nico.

NICO  
Hey! Thank you very much!

Nodding to Walt as he puts the cap on.

JAVI  
You are old and wise.

NICO

So what's your story, Walt? Don't take this wrong, but most guys your age are happy hiking a butte. They don't hike the whole Cascades.

WALT

Six words for you, children.

Walt unbuttons the top of his shirt, pulling it down to reveal a surgical scar running across his chest.

WALT (CONT'D)

Heart surgery. Long recovery. Bucket list.

Nico nods, impressed, as Walt buttons his shirt back up.

NICO

Respect. Mad respect.

JAVI

Forget crazy pants. I'm electing you our new leader.

Walt laughs, getting up, a little strained.

WALT

I couldn't lead your asses out of a corn maze. Now this old-timer has to get some sleep. I'll leave you all to it.

As Walt disappears toward his tent, Gwen whispers something into Nico's ear and they both immediately get up, too.

NICO

That's our cue. 'Night, all.

As he passes Javi, Nico takes the whiskey bottle back.

NICO (CONT'D)

It's for a good cause!

They scurry off to their tent. Nico squeezes Gwen's ass, and she giggles loudly.

RYAN

Subtle, right?

Javi stretches, standing up with a wry grin.

JAVI  
Joke's on him. I've got the tent  
next door.

And like that, he's gone. Just Hannah and Ryan now. Moment  
of awkward silence. She starts to rise--

RYAN  
Wait, you don't have to--

She stops, sits back down. He looks a little embarrassed.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
I just mean, it's still a little  
early. We could...drink coffee...

Knows he sounds stupid. Grimaces slightly. But she smiles.

HANNAH  
Coffee sounds nice. Here--

Hannah passes him her mug.

He takes a sip, and immediately spits it out. She laughs.

RYAN  
Jesus!

He dumps the rest of it on the ground.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
I'm doing you a favor. Do not  
drink that. Nobody should drink  
that.

HANNAH  
I've had worse. Not my first  
rodeo, you know?

RYAN  
So you've done this trip?

HANNAH  
Not this one. But my Dad and I go  
off every year to a different  
place, different group. Always  
before school starts. He's been  
taking me since I was a kid. It's  
kind of our thing.

RYAN  
Why didn't he go with you this  
year? If you don't mind my--

HANNAH

...He died. Three months ago.

RYAN

Oh my God. Hannah, I...

Hannah shakes her head.

HANNAH

No, it's -- it's okay. He had a brain aneurism. It just *happened*. Like one minute he was fine, then he was gone. I came out here this year because I felt like I needed to get my head on straight, you know? Away from my family.

She wipes a couple tears from her eyes. Just talking about it is hard. Ryan puts his hand on top of her hand.

RYAN

I get that.

HANNAH

Okay so how about you? What's the story between your friends?

RYAN

This is actually my first camping trip in years. I think Nico and Gwen just didn't want to be alone.

HANNAH

They have a funny way of showing it.

RYAN

They're overcompensating. Between us, they almost broke up a couple months ago. This trip is supposed to be like their big reset.

As they continue talking--

We find DECKER watching from the distance.

Ryan says something which makes Hannah laugh. Decker continues to observe, his expression impossible to read.

**INT. HANNAH'S TENT - MORNING**

HANNAH is shaken awake in her sleeping bag -- literally, as the earth rumbles.

Gentle at first, and then growing in intensity. Coming to, she quickly realizes that--

**Something is wrong.**

Everything pulsing and rocking around her, she pulls her boots on while rushing out of the tent--

**OUTSIDE**

Everyone either already out of their tents or climbing out at the same time she has.

RYAN

It's just another earthquake! Stay together and--

He stops. All eyes watching in stunned terror as they see TREES TOPPLING in the distance. The earth splintering.

WALT

I've felt a lot of quakes. But this is different.

Far off, an ENTIRE MOUNTAIN CRUMBLES, SHATTERED LIKE GLASS.

Sounds of the group panicking. Gwen freaking out. Philip and Mei talking in their native Mandarin.

Mostly inaudible above the noise of the massive EARTHQUAKE.

Decker grabs Hannah's arm.

DECKER

We have to get everyone to higher ground. Now.

Hannah still looks dazed.

HANNAH

What is this?

He looks at her intently.

DECKER

Cascadia. The *faultline*.

His tone says everything. He turns, shouting orders--

DECKER (CONT'D)

Higher ground, right now! Grab what you can, leave the rest!

Everyone rushing to grab supplies, stuffing them into backpacks. No more time.

Decker takes off toward his tent--

HANNAH  
Listen to him! Move!

Hannah follows Decker--

#### **INSIDE DECKER'S TENT**

Sees him searching for his backpack, frantic.

She grabs his arm--

HANNAH  
Whatever you're looking for, leave it!

Looks at her sharply.

DECKER  
NO.

She finds the backpack in the corner. Picks it up -- and he rips it from her hands. Slung over his back.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
You should be running.

#### **OUTSIDE**

Moments later, Hannah and Decker reaching the rocks--

The others hurrying toward the mountainside behind them, knowing they're going to have to scale it.

Decker climbing, reaches down, helps Hannah get a foothold.

BELOW them, huge cracks forming in the valley--

They keep pushing. Walt's hand slips. Javi grabs him. Philip stays behind Mei -- they are the last two climbing.

Using the rocks, foliage, everything they can.

Finally reaching a series of ledges.

Decker takes position on the lowest one, helping the others climb to the higher.

Taking Hannah's arm, swinging her upward. She catches the higher ledge, and climbs up.

Looking downward, right as--

**THE VALLEY COLLAPSES INTO A MASSIVE SINKHOLE, rapidly swallowing up everything in sight.**

Hannah keeps helping the others onto the higher ledge, one at a time, her eyes filled with horror--

HANNAH

We need to get to stable ground!

Decker knows she's right. Shouts out--

DECKER

Keep climbing! GO!

They move faster. Senses returning.

Pieces of earth shaking loose, the ledge they were just on gives way, falling into the sinkhole.

Hannah sees flatland a little further up. A pathway leading across the mountain. Gestures -- Ryan sees it, too.

RYAN

We can make it! Just a little higher!

Pressing on. Life or death. Hannah is the first one up. Helps Ryan. Gwen and Nico follow.

Walt is next up, then Javi.

Mei and Philip still climbing. Decker beneath them.

She isn't going to make it. Mei's hands slip--

Falling -- Philip reaches out--

*He misses her.*

But Decker doesn't. One hand CATCHES Mei. Swings her back upward, as she gets a foothold again.

DECKER

You can do it. C'mon.

Philip finds a NARROW ledge. Steps onto it. Helps Mei climb, boosting her towards the others--

Hannah's got her hands out. Ryan holds her waist to steady her. Ready to help Mei--

As Philip's ledge begins to crumble beneath him...

Mei strains, with one last burst of energy--

Hannah grips her wrists. Helps her onto the mountain path. Looking down as--

The ledge beneath Philip gives way. He FALLS.

Mei screams--

Decker's hand catches his.

But his weight is greater than his wife's.

Decker's face contorts...his other hand losing its grip....

PHILIP

Please -- my wife, my baby--

Philip reaching with his other hand towards the rocks. Anything to find his own grip.

Hand slipping. Can't find something to hold onto. Can see Decker's grip weakening -- Philip dragging him down...

Decker's got seconds left. Philip's hand finds a groove--

PHILIP (CONT'D)

I've almost got it...

They lock eyes. Decker's expression darkens, and--

**Decker releases Philip's hand.**

Mei screams. Hannah shields her, holds her back.

PHILIP FALLS TOWARDS THE SINKHOLE.

Head SMASHES into a rock. Blood sprays from his fractured skull. His body vanishes, lost in the debris.

Swallowed by the earth.

*Did Decker just let him die?*

Decker struggles upward. The quake finally subsiding.

He reaches the others. Face and body covered in sweat. Chokes in air. Looking to everyone--

DECKER  
I did all I could...

Face wracked with guilt.

Ryan puts a hand on his shoulder.

Gesturing to Mei, as Hannah and Gwen sit with her, she sobs and screams uncontrollably, vomits into the bushes.

RYAN  
You saved her life.

Decker doesn't say anything.

Just stares down at the remains of the formerly-great valley beneath them. A paradise swallowed into hell.

**EXT. BASE OF A MOUNTAIN - LATER**

Afternoon. Sky cloudy. Rain drizzles.

The group continuing on, in silence. Mei is pale, still in shock. Blanket wrapped over her, tended to by Walt.

Decker halts, beneath some trees. Anyone with a cell phone trying desperately to make calls or access the news.

DECKER  
It's useless. There's no service  
up here.

They keep trying. Javi boots up his iPad. It works.

JAVI  
I've got something! Barely, but--

Immediately turning on a NEWS PROGRAM.

The footage grainy, slow, glitchy.

**ON THE TABLET SCREEN**

Images of SEATTLE CRUMBLING. The GIANT SEA-WALL CRASHING INTO THE CITY.

A TSUNAMI of unprecedented size. Helicopter footage.

A REPORTER'S VOICE, cutting in and out. The footage skipping, jumping around...

REPORTER'S VOICE  
 ...biggest earthquake to ever hit  
 the U.S.--evacuations underway--no  
 idea how many have survived--  
 Portland--Seattle--

Footage FREEZES on the half-submerged city of Seattle.

**HANNAH**

Grips Ryan's arm tightly. He looks sick by what he's seen.

They all do. Nobody moves, nobody breathes. Javi tries desperately to reboot the video.

JAVI  
 Service is dead. We need to find  
 somewhere else...

Decker shakes his head.

DECKER  
 Where? You saw Seattle.  
 Portland's probably the same...

Hannah reacts--

HANNAH  
 --My family--

Ryan interrupts, defensive.

RYAN  
 We don't know that.

DECKER  
 The only way to survive is on our  
 own. Help isn't coming.

NICO  
 What about rescue? If we can get  
 hold of someone...

Decker points toward MT. RAINIER in the distance--

DECKER  
 There's two options. That's where  
 we started. We can backtrack, pray  
 at least one vehicle made it. Or  
 we can move forward. But rescue?  
 Listen to me, boy.

He slams his hand into one of the trees.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
There's no rescue.

Walt puts a hand on his shoulder.

WALT  
You're scaring them.

Decker whirls back around. Gwen holds onto Nico, tears in her eyes. Mei is silent, nearly catatonic.

DECKER  
They should be scared. Truth is,  
we don't know if this is the end...

He stops, as the ground begins to RUMBLE beneath them. An unease, dread, creeping in when--

BOOOOOM!!

ON THE NEAREST MOUNTAIN, LAVA BURSTS UPWARD FROM THE EARTH!

A FOUNTAIN of fire--

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

More LAVA FOUNTAINS EXPLODING OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN--

*Getting closer to them.*

Not just that, but raining down both lava and rocky debris--

Hannah SHOVES Decker out of the way as a HUGE CHUNK OF ROCK lands where he was standing, narrowly misses them both.

Decker climbs to his feet, points east towards the FOREST visible in the far distance.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
This way!

And they RUN.

The ground continues to QUAKE beneath their feet.

WHAM! LAVA POCKET BURSTS behind Ryan -- he's FLUNG forward. Hits the ground hard.

Walt helps him up--

WALT  
Easy! I got you!

The trees behind them are burning as lava rains down from the mountain. More rock falling from the sky--

Gwen's ankle is struck by falling rock debris, the size of a bowling ball.

She screams in pain. Pinned on the ground.

GWEN

Nico!!

Nico whirls back around, helped by Javi as they pull the debris off her ankle, steadying her.

NICO

Can you walk on it?! Gwen??

GWEN

I can't...oh god, it hurts!...

There's a piece of BONE jutting out. Javi leans down--

JAVI

Get her on my back, man -- I can carry her!

Another LAVA POCKET explodes several feet away.

JAVI (CONT'D)

Hurry!

Nico helps Gwen onto Javi's back. She wraps her arms and legs around him. They keep moving, faster than before--

The QUAKING GROUND making it hard to maintain balance.

No idea when it will end. They're close to the forest...

Hannah running when LAVA EXPLODES OUT OF THE GROUND right in front of her. Heading straight into it, she can't stop--

And PULLED BACK by Decker at the last second, halting her momentum as he grabs onto her sweatshirt.

She'd be dead if not for him. No words exchanged, they continue on--

Reaching the OUTSKIRTS of the forest, right as the QUAKING abruptly comes to an end--

The LAVA FOUNTAINS retreating beneath the earth. Leaving behind nothing but steam and molten debris.

Everyone realizing they're safe, for now. Hannah looks back toward the mountain.

Now pocked with CRATERS and STREAMING LAVA.

An active volcano.

RYAN

This shouldn't be possible. These volcanos have been dead for centuries...

DECKER

And now they're not. Cascades are full of 'em. That was just a baby.

Decker notes Gwen's ankle injury. Walt's takes heavy gasps. Mei remains nearly catatonic.

DECKER (CONT'D)

We've got a widow. Your girl's wounded. A geriatric with a heart condition. And the ring of fire ready to explode. I wanted to help, I really did. But the situation's changed.

Turning away from them. Takes a few steps--

DECKER (CONT'D)

I'm not dying out here.

WALT

You can't just leave us.

None of them can see Decker reach for the hunting knife attached to his belt. Murder in his eyes.

DECKER

No, Walt. Guess I can't.

Decker slowly beginning to unsheathe the blade--

HANNAH

You said nobody's going to rescue us? Well you're wrong. Someone *will* come, I know it.

Keeping his back to them. Slipping the knife free--

DECKER

Yeah, Hannah? And how do you know that?

Hannah reaching for his shoulder. No idea he's ready to slash her throat...

HANNAH

Because my mother's a United States Senator.

Decker's hand freezes.

DECKER

Your mom is Senator Rhodes.

He carefully slides the knife back into its sheathe.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Well, Hannah. That changes everything.

*A new plan forming.*

DECKER (CONT'D)

Your mother, can you be sure she's even alive?

HANNAH

She's been in Salem for work. She wasn't anywhere near the worst of this. She's alive.

Decker looks skeptical.

DECKER

And if she is -- she can get access to a private plane, right?

Off her confusion--

DECKER (CONT'D)

You're not the only one with family. And I need to get back to mine. If I risk my life for yours, I need your help in return.

Hannah answers quickly.

HANNAH

Yes.

Beat.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

She can get you a plane, get you home. I promise.

Decker holds her gaze. Then--

DECKER  
I believe you.

HANNAH  
You help everyone here. It's all  
of us or none of us. Same deal we  
made coming up these mountains.

He nods. Addresses the group.

DECKER  
I *can* lead us out. But that means  
following my orders, doing what I  
say, when I say it. Anyone's got a  
problem with that, take off now.

They stay silent. Decker nods, satisfied.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
Then we've got ourselves a deal.  
We need to head east--

His words are cut off by a DEAFENING EXPLOSION.

It sounds like a sonic boom.

Disorienting, painful...All eyes turning in pure horror as--

They witness the giant VOLCANIC ERUPTION of MT. RAINIER in  
the distance.

THE ENTIRE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN IS BLOWN OFF.

**And a GIANT CLOUD OF TOXIC, BURNING GAS AND ASH DESCENDS from  
the mountain at OVER 300 MPH.**

Moving in their direction. Fast.

RYAN  
It's not stopping. What do we?...

HANNAH  
The forest. It's our only shot!

Decker's in agreement. Following his lead, they run--

### **INTO THE FOREST**

Staying with the group, as they keep moving, pushing  
themselves past their limits.

Racing against a literal DEATH CLOUD which has BLOTTED OUT THE SKY. Growing closer by the second.

Feet pounding against dirt and rock.

It's already becoming hard to see -- the darkness of the trees and blotted sun is nearly blinding.

Nico carries Gwen on his back. Her broken ankle making it impossible to run on her own. They lag behind the others--

In the darkness, he TRIPS over a large fallen branch.

Stumbling across the ground, Gwen is flung off his back--

Both of them crashing painfully into the ground. Gwen can't find him, shouting in panic--

GWEN

Nico! NICO!

#### **AHEAD**

The others HEAR Gwen, but cannot see anything beyond what's directly in front of them.

Ryan stops, his own panic setting in. These are his best friends, and they're in danger.

RYAN

Nico! Gwen!

Everyone halting, looking for them.

Decker quickly finds Hannah, grabs her arm.

DECKER

You can't help them!

HANNAH

We're not leaving--

DECKER

You need to be thinking about your own. Not these people.

He gives her a furious look.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Your family is counting on you.  
Mine too. Now move!

And she does...

BACK in the direction they came from.

**GWEN**

Nurses her broken ankle, still calling for--

NICO, as he grabs hold of her. Sees the tears in her eyes, the intense paralyzing fear.

Knows time is running out. Shouts at the top of his lungs--

NICO  
I've got her!

**AHEAD**

Hannah runs into Ryan, as they hear Nico's shout--

NICO (O.S.)  
KEEP MOVING! I'VE GOT HER!

Ryan hesitates. But Hannah pulls on his arm.

HANNAH  
Ryan. Ryan!

DECKER appears, beyond angry.

DECKER  
We've got seconds until we're all  
dead. You heard him, move!

To Hannah--

DECKER (CONT'D)  
Move, or I'll drag you through this  
forest myself.

Ryan relents.

All three of them running together, not knowing that--

**NICO AND GWEN**

Are still on the ground, holding each other.

He strokes her hair as she chokes back sobs, unable to go any further.

NICO  
I've got you...I've got you...

Repeating it over and over, as--

**AHEAD**

Decker, Hannah, and Ryan keep running.

Sweat pouring, breathing in gasps, bodies pushed to the breaking point...

**NICO AND GWEN**

In the same place as before. Tears in his eyes. Her sobs the last thing he'll ever hear.

He grips her tightly in his arms. Kisses her forehead.

NICO  
...I've got--

His last words choked out as--

The TOXIC CLOUD HITS.

Sweeping over them.

Catching only a brief glimpse of their SKIN BURNING INSTANTLY, as they vanish from sight.

**AHEAD**

Decker, Hannah, and Ryan grind to a halt.

Their legs unable to carry them further -- as WALT, JAVI, and MEI catch up.

Relief that they're all together, but it's short lived, as they all see the cloud heading their direction.

Bracing for impact--

As the CLOUD STOPS mere feet from them.

Reaching its end. Settling into the forest.

Beyond the blotted sky, more light filtering through finally.

Able to see a little of the devastation.

That everything the cloud touches is coated in BLACK ASH.

A huge portion of the forest cut off by the toxic cloud which has settled in, unable to be navigated.

Realizing that Nico and Gwen aren't with them.

Ryan screams into the cloud-covered forest--

RYAN  
GWEN! NICO!

Unrelenting. Shouting their names again--

RYAN (CONT'D)  
GWEN!!! NICO!!!

Knowing they both are gone. But unwilling to give up on them yet, as we PULL BACK into a--

#### **SWEEPING VIEW OF THE FOREST**

Taking in the full extent of the damage.

Burning trees. Mountains flowing with lava.

Mt. Rainier still spewing toxic plumes into the sky...

Over half the forest shrouded by the poisonous cloud, and coated in fiery ash.

Ryan's shouts echo into the black void.

#### **EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT**

The aftermath.

Quiet, as WALT works on getting a fire started--

JAVI appears with some twigs and branches in his arms. Sets them down near Walt.

WALT  
You know how to start a fire?

JAVI  
Gasoline?

WALT  
Watch closely, son. In case you ever need to do this on your own.

Walt gets a spark going. A small flame, which he nurses, until it's a sustainable fire.

WALT (CONT'D)  
 That old boy scout training never  
 really goes away.

Adding the branches to the fire, they both sit down, huddled  
 over the warmth.

Meanwhile, RYAN stands in the distance, at the edge of the  
 clearing. Away from the others.

Hears a branch snap--

Finding HANNAH. She doesn't speak.

Just comes close, and takes his hand. After a moment--

HANNAH  
 He knew you couldn't help -- nobody  
 could. We would have all died.  
 Nico saved us.

RYAN  
 You could have ran.

She squeezes his hand.

HANNAH  
 I couldn't.

More silence between them. Broken up by--

DECKER  
 Hannah.

DECKER stands a couple feet away. Lurking in the shadows,  
 almost unnoticeable.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
 We need to have words.

She hesitates, then steps forward. Ryan goes to follow, but  
 Hannah shakes her head.

HANNAH  
 I'll be back in a minute.

As she steps off with Decker--

## **MEI**

Is back at the camp, laying on the ground wrapped in a  
 blanket. Her eyes open, awake, full of trauma.

Staring at a BACKPACK resting against one of the trees.

*DECKER's backpack.*

Off her look, BACK to--

**DECKER & HANNAH**

Walking together outside the forest clearing. Much darker in these woods.

Decker strikes a match, lighting up a cigarette.

DECKER

We have a deal. Terms. You broke those terms.

He offers a cigarette, which she declines.

HANNAH

I don't smoke. And I wasn't leaving anyone to die.

DECKER

For all the good it did.

She stares at him with bitterness.

DECKER (CONT'D)

God give me strength, you're so much like my daughter. She hates when I'm right, too.

Hannah is silent.

DECKER (CONT'D)

You two would probably get along peachy. Both stubborn as a mule. And selfless. Lord how I've tried to get that out of her system.

HANNAH

What am I supposed to do?

DECKER

Start putting yourself first. Think about your family. You've all lost enough, haven't you?

Beat.

HANNAH

How did you?...

DECKER

I read the papers. I know what happened to your old man. And I'm sorry, Hannah. I really am.

They come to a stop. He takes a hit of his cigarette.

DECKER (CONT'D)

This is survival. Now I'm letting everyone get a couple hours in, we don't know what animals are out there in the dark. But I could keep pushing you all.

His tone darker.

She takes note.

DECKER (CONT'D)

I could be not such a nice guy. That depends on you. So ask yourself...what would your dad want you to do?

Tense beat.

Letting the threat hang in the air, as we go BACK to--

**MEI**

Having climbed out from the blanket.

Slowly approaching Decker's backpack, fearful but determined as she unzips it, reaching inside--

Pulling out a pair of DOG TAGS. Raising them up, getting a look at the NAME inscribed...

RAYMOND LOEB.

As the dog tags glint in the moonlight--

**DECKER & HANNAH**

Continue their conversation. Full of tension.

DECKER

You're gonna listen, young lady. And you're gonna start showing some more gratitude.

Hannah flinches as he reaches out toward her--

DECKER (CONT'D)  
You're shivering. Take it.

--And hands Hannah the cigarette, which she shakily accepts without choice, her hand trembling.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
Smoke. It'll warm you up. Calm  
the nerves. Lightly...

Hannah inhales. Coughs.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
...Little more.

She takes another hit. Coughs again.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
Know it stings. But after all  
we've gone through, it'll help.

He pats her back, taking the cigarette from her.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
And Hannah? This conversation  
stays between us.

Off a silent, fearful nod from Hannah--

## **MEI**

Sets the DOG TAGS on the ground. Hastily looking through the backpack, she finds a WRAPPED UP piece of cloth--

The cloth stained with blood. She unfolds it in the palm of her hand...

Discovering DIAMONDS inside the blood-stained cloth. Small, pure, at least twenty of them. Her eyes widen.

Reacting in shock, she knows how valuable they are. She whirls around--

Right into DECKER.

He moves in closer to her, and takes hold of her hand.

Speaking in FLUENT MANDARIN.

DECKER  
*I'm going to need those back.*

Mei reacts again. Stunned that he speaks her language.

MEI  
*Who's Raymond Loeb?*

Decker takes the diamonds and cloth from her. Allows Mei to step back a few feet.

DECKER  
*No one who matters.*

MEI  
*You speak Mandarin...*

He wraps the diamonds back up.

DECKER  
*And you read English. You just can't speak it, can you?*

Mei shakes her head.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
*Then I don't have anything to worry about with you.*

MEI  
*How can I trust you? You let my husband die!*

Decker steps closer to her again. One hand grabs her wrist--

DECKER  
*You can blame me all you want. That's fair. But it's not him you need to be thinking about.*

His other hand resting on the small baby-bump of her stomach.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
*Forget those tags, or the diamonds. There's a fire back that way. Go warm up. Sleep. For the baby.*

He lets go of her wrist. Mei walks past him briskly--

DECKER (CONT'D)  
*Wait.*

She freezes. Turns. Scared, until she sees--

He holds her blanket outstretched.

Mei grabs it, wordlessly, before heading in the direction of the light from the campfire visible in the distance.

**AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST CLEARING**

RYAN sits on a log, watching the stars and bright moon.  
Turns his head as HANNAH approaches.

She sits next to him closely. Visibly shaken.

RYAN

Did he do something? Because I  
swear to God--

As he starts to rise, she puts a hand on his arm.

HANNAH

I'm fine. It's okay. He's just  
angry. We -- need him.

RYAN

That's what scares me.

HANNAH

He won't hurt any of us.

Ryan doesn't look so sure.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Decker just wants to get home. So  
long as I can make that happen...

She fidgets with the charm bracelet on her wrist. Twirls it,  
almost absentmindedly.

RYAN

Who gave that to you?

HANNAH

My little sister. She's nine.  
What if I never see her again? Or  
my mom...we fought before I left.  
I sent her a text on the road. A  
text. And now--

There are tears in her eyes. Ryan strokes her hair.

RYAN

You can't talk like that. Can't  
even think it. We're not going to  
die out here. You have people  
waiting for you. You've got your  
dad looking out for you all.

She leans against him. Physically and emotionally exhausted.

HANNAH

I don't want to sleep.

Ryan nods, as she curls up on the log anyway, resting her head in his lap.

RYAN

If I close my eyes, all I see are  
Gwen and Nico.

She grabs his arm, wrapping it around her.

HANNAH

We keep each other awake, then.

With his other hand, Ryan points up at the stars.

RYAN

My dad is a big astronomy buff. We  
used to go up to Mount Hood or  
Bachelor in the summers to  
stargaze. I can show you.

HANNAH

I'd like that.

RYAN

You can literally trace them with  
your fingertip out here. Watch--

He lifts her arm, guiding her hand over a constellation.

HANNAH

Which one is that?

Ryan shakes his head, shrugs.

RYAN

I don't know. I was a really  
shitty learner.

She laughs a little. He cracks a smile.

And as he guides her hand across another constellation...

RYAN (CONT'D)

Look, here's another one--

Briefly forgetting all the pain, loss, fear, and hopelessness  
they're both experiencing.

Right now, in this moment at least, they're just a boy and a  
girl staring up at the stars.

**EXT. FOREST CLEARING - SUNRISE**

First rays of daylight.

WALT, MEI, and JAVI are awake and eating around the campfire as HANNAH and RYAN approach.

WALT

It's not much, but I scrounged  
together what I could.

Offering them granola bars, and a bottle of water to share.

HANNAH

Thank you.

Hannah and Ryan eat and drink hungrily. As she chews on the granola bar--

DECKER

Everyone's awake. Good.

DECKER steps close, backpack slung around him.

He sits down in the middle of the group. Walt offers food, but Decker declines.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Hannah. Eat up, get hydrated,  
you're coming with me.

A beat.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Way I see it, we need to contact  
your mother. Let the senator know  
you're alive and get a rescue party  
out this way. It does us no good  
getting through these mountains if  
there's no one waiting on the other  
side.

RYAN

And how are we going to do that?

Decker pulls off his backpack, places it in front of them. He unzips the front, as Mei watches closely.

Pulling out a SATELLITE PHONE.

DECKER

I couldn't get a signal yesterday.  
Between the disaster and being down  
here.

(MORE)

DECKER (CONT'D)

But with things clear for now, I think we got a shot on higher ground.

A nod from Walt.

WALT

I think you're right. It's our only chance.

DECKER

The rest of you are going to stay here. I can't look out for all of you on this climb.

Hannah and Ryan share a look. She's uncomfortable with Decker on her own.

RYAN

At least one more should go. In case something happens.

DECKER

I said no.

He stands up. Ryan stands, too.

RYAN

It's the smart call. Unless you got another reason for wanting her alone.

Decker stares him down.

WALT

Easy there. Nobody's done anything to prove themselves untrustworthy.

RYAN

He was going to leave us to die.

DECKER

I can leave right now.

JAVI

C'mon, guys. We gotta stick together. Decker knows what he's talking about.

Hannah finally speaks up--

HANNAH

I'm fine going alone, okay? Let's get this done, and get us all out of here.

RYAN

I'm not just going to put all my faith into this guy.

Decker remains unreadable.

DECKER

You want to be leader, Ryan?

A beat.

DECKER (CONT'D)

'Cause you were real brave letting your friends die. Big hero.

Ryan's jaw tightens. Fists clench. Decker presses.

DECKER (CONT'D)

You know what it must've felt like? Being burned alive? Their skin, organs, frying as they screamed--

Ryan SNAPS. He roars, charging Decker--

HANNAH

Stop!

Neither man hears her. Ryan tackles Decker to the ground.

All eyes on them, everything happening fast. Ryan HITS Decker in the face--

DECKER

That was a mistake, boy.

WHAM! Ryan hits him again, but Decker is unfazed--

Ryan presses, furious, goes in for another strike...

Decker fights back. Gains a little ground--

Locking eyes. Ryan stares at him with hatred.

Bodies straining. Ryan's jaw clenches.

Decker FLIPS Ryan over easily. Has him pinned, face in the dirt. Grabbing Ryan's arm, pulling it backwards--

And then Decker *pushes with all of his strength. Vicious. Too much, too fast. Ryan's arm twists sideways, and--*

CRACK!

Ryan's arm BREAKS with a sickening sound.

Twisted at the wrong angle. Bone juts out, covered by skin.

Ryan screams in agony.

Hannah rushes to him, kneels, shouting--

HANNAH

What did you do?!

Decker breathes heavy. Clenching and unclenching his fists.

DECKER

We're doing things my way. Grab what you need, we're going.

Looks to the others--

DECKER (CONT'D)

The rest of you, get his arm in a splint. Walt can do it. Boy scout training, right?

Walt nods. Disturbed by this violence.

DECKER (CONT'D)

We'll be back before sunset.

Javi hands Hannah a backpack. Speaks in a low tone, looking spooked.

JAVI

There's water. We don't have anymore food, sorry.

Hannah nods. They all look fearful. She grabs his arm for a brief moment as she takes the backpack.

HANNAH

Take care of Ryan. I'll be okay.

DECKER

Hannah. Move your ass.

Decker's already heading north.

RYAN

Wait. Don't--

Hannah looks to Walt, who quickly grabs Ryan. Speaking to him in a hushed, forceful whisper.

WALT

Quiet, son. Now. She's doing this  
for us.

Her expression says it all. Fear, reluctance. But also an inner-strength we may not have realized she possesses.

She takes off in Decker's direction. No choice but to follow.

The two of them disappearing into the forest, toward the mountains on the horizon.

**EXT. DEEP FOREST - LATER**

Deeper into the woods. Afternoon. The mountains getting much nearer. Decker and Hannah trekking in silence.

DECKER

You think I'm a monster.

She doesn't answer. They continue moving.

DECKER (CONT'D)

I didn't enjoy it. Breaking his  
arm. I don't enjoy hurting people.  
But I couldn't have him putting  
anyone in danger just 'cause he  
wants to fuck you.

Hannah stops. Decker turns around.

HANNAH

Enough.

DECKER

You're saying it ain't true?

She stares at him, not backing down.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Broken bones heal. Death, there's  
no coming back from. You know that  
better than anyone. If you don't  
like my methods, that's fine. But  
don't pretend guilt ain't clouding  
your judgment.

HANNAH

Guilt?

DECKER

For not being with your family.  
Getting that boy hurt trying to  
look out for you. For being the  
only reason I'm helping any of them  
to begin with. I can see it in  
your eyes, kid. I know you.

HANNAH

I'm not your daughter. You *don't*  
know me.

DECKER

And I ain't your father. Just  
remember, this deal we have is  
about mutual survival.

He starts moving again.

DECKER (CONT'D)

And in survival, you do what you  
gotta do. No remorse. Now or--

And just as quickly, Decker stops. Puts his hand out,  
blocking her movement, protectively.

HANNAH

What is it--?

DECKER

*Wait.*

He moves his arm back, putting a finger to his lips. Shhhh.

Decker tenses. Hannah reads the tension, reacts though  
nothing is there. Another moment passes, and then...

A MOUNTAIN LION leaps out from a series of trees.

The creature is young, not yet full-grown, but sizeable  
enough to kill them both, and--

*It's running straight at them.* Charging forward. Skin and  
fur burnt, mad with pain, hunger--

This beast is feral. Hannah ducks, and Decker is TACKLED.

It snaps and bites at him.

Decker barely holds the young mountain lion at bay, yet even  
with an undersized animal, it's a losing battle.

They roll across the ground, fighting. Decker slips the  
knife from his belt, and stabs the beast in its side--

His blade sinking into burned flesh.

He's rewarded by a claw digging into his hand. The blade slips free, lands out of reach.

The young mountain lion bites into his shoulder. Decker screams out in pain. Blood gushes out of the wound--

Hannah picks up a fallen tree branch. Heavy, thick.

CLUBS the mountain lion over the head with it. The animal rolls off Decker--

DECKER (CONT'D)

Don't run.

He climbs to his feet, shakily. The mountain lion backs off a step, dazed, favoring its injured side.

Tense beat. Hannah grips the branch so tightly her knuckles are turning white.

The young mountain lion circles them both, as they draw closer together for protection. Snarling.

No, not snarling--

*Moaning. In agony.*

Its burns are vicious. Severe. Coupled now with the side from which Decker stabbed it--

This predator is gravely injured.

Hannah holds the branch in one hand, and steps forward--

DECKER (CONT'D)

Hannah, no. Stop--

But she ignores him. Extends her hand, warily. The mountain lion bares its fangs at her, and she flinches, but...

She doesn't stop. Another tentative step. Bracing herself.

Ready for anything.

HANNAH

It's hurt. Can't you see that?

Mountain lion retreats a step back. Hannah takes a further step closer.

And then it yields. Folding onto all four of its legs. In too much pain to do anything else.

Hannah kneels next to it.

Drops the thick branch she's wielding down on the ground next to them.

DECKER  
We need to hurry.

HANNAH  
I don't care.

She gently strokes the animal's back. Full of compassion, fearless now.

The creature's eyes are going empty. Hannah holds its head.

Running her hands through its fur, noting the wounds. Waiting, until its eyes shut with finality.

The mountain lion goes lifeless in her arms.

**EXT. FOREST CLEARING - SAME TIME**

WALT helps put RYAN'S broken arm into a makeshift splint. A tree branch fixed against his arm, held up by torn blanket.

JAVI and MEI sit next to them, watching. Nobody wants to speak, deeply troubled.

Breaking the silence:

JAVI  
So are we just going to pretend this didn't happen?

Ryan winces as Walt finishes the splint.

RYAN  
He could do anything to her. And we just let them go.

WALT  
Do you really think we could take him? Was there any choice?

Javi's guilt expresses all of theirs.

RYAN  
We should've tried. Decker's a sociopath--

MEI  
Not Decker.

They all freeze. It's the first time Mei's spoken any English. All their eyes fall to her.

RYAN

What did you say?

Looking at the group, she repeats herself -- slowly, making sure they understand what she's telling them.

MEI

His. Name. Is. Not. Decker.

And off her words--

**EXT. DEEP FOREST - SAME TIME**

DECKER and HANNAH continue on.

Reaching the end of the forest, stepping beyond the trees--

She gasps.

*THE LAND IS COVERED IN MAGMA AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.*

Blackened earth with occasional pockets of green, bushes and trees, some of them intact, others burnt husks.

And animal remains. Skeletons jutting out of the magma in different places, no doubt many more buried underneath.

Bears, mountain lions, deer.

This is a graveyard, leading up to the BASE OF A SINGLE MOUNTAIN--

The site of a VOLCANO which has exploded and now remains almost eerily still.

Almost like this volcano could go off again at any point.

**EXT. MAGMA-COVERED LAND - LATER**

More time has passed. Decker and Hannah trek across the land, both of them visibly unnerved.

Decker stumbles. Grips his shoulder. Blood seeps between his fingers...too much blood.

He grimaces in pain. Falls to his knees.

Hannah sees him fall, and rushes to his side. Takes in the wound on his shoulder for the first time.

HANNAH

It bit you.

Decker nods.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Why didn't you say?--

DECKER

...Thought I'd be fine.  
It's...deeper than I realized.

He slips his backpack off.

HANNAH

You're losing a lot of blood.

He opens his backpack. Leans his back against one of the rock formations. Close to passing out.

DECKER

My kit. Stitches.

His eyes fading. She goes to reach inside--

Decker grabs her wrist. Suddenly much more alert.

DECKER (CONT'D)

No.

His hands reach inside. Pulling out a medical kit. Giving the kit to Hannah.

Stitches, a needle. She eyes them warily.

HANNAH

I don't know how to do this.

DECKER

Shirt...

He lifts his arms, winces in agony. She carefully lifts the shirt from him--

DECKER (CONT'D)

Easy...easy...

The bite is deep, and bloody.

With his shirt off, Hannah can see his muscled form...

And scars.

A lot of scars, across his body.

The sort you'd see from a soldier, someone who's spent their life on the battlefield.

From the kit, she pulls out a wipe, cleaning the blood from the wound to get a better look. He chokes back the pain.

HANNAH

Sorry.

She's shaking.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

I can't do this.

DECKER

You can.

He reaches again into his backpack, pulling out a small bottle of Vodka.

HANNAH

For the wound?

Decker shakes his head.

DECKER

For you.

She takes the bottle, drinks a little. He laughs, despite the pain he's in.

DECKER (CONT'D)

No, your hands.

HANNAH

Oh.

Feeling stupid. She pours the Vodka on her hands.

DECKER

Save *some* for the wound.

Hannah nods, silent, nerves on edge. Realizing yet again how ill-prepared she is for this.

Setting the bottle down. Her hands shaky.

Decker takes one of her hands, looks into her eyes.

DECKER (CONT'D)

You're gonna do fine.

Lets go of her hand. Grabs the bottle, and pours Vodka on the bite in his shoulder.

Sharp intake of breath. Gritting his teeth. This fucking stings, like being lit on fire.

Hannah puts the needle near his skin, ready to stitch.

HANNAH  
...Okay, I'm ready.

She starts to stitch up the wound. Looks pale, like she could throw up.

He cries out. She stops--

DECKER  
--Keep going--

She does.

He watches closely, as she pieces him back together, trying to maintain her composure.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
Not used to being this helpless.

Another stitch. More blood.

HANNAH  
Now you know how the rest of us feel.

DECKER  
I deserve that, I guess.

Almost done. Just a couple more to go.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
You don't like me.

Not a question. She's silent, focused on the task.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
But right now, we need each other,  
don't we? That's okay.

He clenches his teeth again. God, this hurts.

After what feels like an eternity to them, both, she gets that last stitch in.

HANNAH  
There's no scissors.

Decker BITES the thread off.

DECKER

The worst things to happen to us  
are the things we can't control,  
you know. Those hurt the worst.

He grunts, head resting back. Spent.

DECKER (CONT'D)

This hell we're in. Your daddy's  
death. Even more terrible things  
too, if you can imagine. An' when  
they happen...I'm telling you, we  
need to choose what's best for us.

HANNAH

That's an awful way to live.

She gives him the last drink of Vodka, down to the final  
drops into his mouth.

DECKER

It's what you did.

Beat.

DECKER (CONT'D)

You left your mom and little sister  
the first chance you got.

HANNAH

It wasn't like that.

Decker looks her dead in the eye.

DECKER

So you don't think they needed you  
right now? I'd bet little sis  
looks up to you the most. But you  
had to get out of there. That was  
your choice. No judgment.

HANNAH

I chose wrong.

Decker shuts his eyes.

DECKER

Then the only way to make it right  
is to go on living. That's how you  
make it up to them. And for the  
record, Hannah? I hope you get  
that chance.

Too much pain, too much blood. Decker loses consciousness.

Hannah is still.

*Eyes his backpack.* Conflicted. Making a decision...

She slips off her own backpack, taking his instead.

Standing up, looking toward the MOUNTAIN in the distance.

And she leaves Decker behind.

#### **EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - LATER**

Evening, the sun beginning to set.

HANNAH has reached the base of the mountain.

Most of the mountainside covered in cooled, black magma rock. A volcanic crater at the top, steam rising into the air.

Taking her first steps up the base.

Utterly alone.

#### **MOUNTAINSIDE**

Hannah hikes up the mountain. Though her movements are closer to scaling than hiking, at the angle which it slopes.

Using both her hands and feet. Gripping magma rock, climbing with determination.

A piece of magma breaks off as she grabs it. She loses her footing, slips, and tumbles backward.

Catching herself. A piece of rock bites into her leg, a bloody gash. She cries out in pain.

No time to waste. She keeps going. Wipes sweat.

Face and hair covered in dirt and ash. Hands cut up from the rocks. Pressing on.

Staying with her.

As she gets closer to the top, she can hear the bubbling LAVA inside the crater.

Feeling the earth rumble, ever slightly.

Not stopping. Not until she's closer.

More climbing. The incline easing up. She's near the top.

On the other side of the mountain, she can see a LAKE and past the body of water--

**A RANGER STATION.**

Hannah comes to a halt, removes the backpack.

Setting it down, she pulls out the SATELLITE PHONE.

Activating the phone. Dialing a number.

Not breathing as she waits. Heart skips a beat, and...

There's RINGING. She's got a SIGNAL. Connecting--

Going to a VOICE MAIL.

It's not much, but to Hannah it is everything in the world.

Her MOTHER'S VOICE on the other end.

Cutting in and out, a lot of interference.

MOTHER'S VOICE

--You've reached the personal line  
of Marion Rhodes--leave a message--

Hannah's voice catches in her throat, just being able to hear her mother one more time.

Tears in her eyes.

More RUMBLING from the earth beneath her. Steam rising from the crater above.

HANNAH

Mom...mommy...it's me. I'm alive,  
I'm in the Cascades. There are  
others, too...we're...

She breaks down.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I left. I just -- I miss  
him so much. Being there, where  
daddy died...I couldn't breathe.  
And if -- if I don't...

The interference is growing greater. Not much time left.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

...I love you. And Becca. And  
Aunt Susie. I love you all so  
much.

Static. The line goes dead.

Hannah collapses to her knees, in tears, choking back sobs.

DECKER (O.S.)  
You shouldn't have left me.

Turns her head. Wipes away her tears.

DECKER has climbed the mountain, standing near her--

His shirt back on, stained with dried blood. Nursing his shoulder injury.

*Looking furious.*

Hannah climbs to her feet, shakily. Scared.

HANNAH  
We were losing time. I made it --  
I got through.

DECKER  
You took my pack.

HANNAH  
Did you hear me? Your plan worked.  
I left a message. She knows I'm  
alive.

Decker shakes his head.

DECKER  
She might be dead. It went to  
voice mail, Hannah. You could have  
just left a message for a ghost.

He takes a step forward. She steps back. Holds the backpack dangling from one hand.

DECKER (CONT'D)  
What are you scared of?

HANNAH  
Who says I'm scared?

Decker stares her down.

The ground QUAKES under them.

DECKER  
Give me the backpack. We don't  
have time.

He points to the crater. There's not just steam rising out rapidly, but LAVA BUBBLING and SPURTING from the crater.

DECKER (CONT'D)

Hannah. Give me the backpack.

She shakes her head -- and reaches inside.

Decker reacts. A disappointed look on his face. Already knows what she's going to remove--

His DOG TAGS held in her free hand. She TOSSES them over.

Decker reaches out, catching them.

HANNAH

Raymond Loeb? Is there even a  
Shane Decker?

Slipping the dog tags over his neck. *No more pretending.*

DECKER/LOEB

There was.

Note: From this point on, Decker **will now be known as LOEB.**

LOEB

Is that all you found?

She's silent.

But her silence confirms it -- she knows what's in there.  
She found the diamonds.

LOEB (CONT'D)

Well, shit.

Loeb unsheathes the knife from his belt. Stained with the mountain lion's blood.

Hannah eyes the blade, understands his intent. Tries to reason with him.

HANNAH

I don't care about the diamonds.

LOEB

But you know they exist. You know  
my name. You can probably guess  
what happened to ol' Shane.

She steps back again, slips. Catches her footing.

LOEB (CONT'D)

I found them out here. The diamonds. Can you believe that? Enough to disappear forever. I was on my way out when you showed up. Dumb luck, fate, the universe fucking with us, who knows?

Another step from Loeb.

LOEB (CONT'D)

Nobody was supposed to realize yet that he was gone. That *I* was gone. I had it planned. Enough time to take my kids and disappear. Enough money to go anywhere in the world.

HANNAH

I'll give them back. You can go.

He shakes his head.

LOEB

I didn't know he had a tour group coming in. If Decker didn't show up, there'd have been a search. I thought I could send you away. And when that didn't work...I knew I could take you all through and still have enough time. Killing you was never part of the plan.

Hannah reacts visibly to the threat. Knows he means it.

LOEB (CONT'D)

I wanted to be the good guy, the hero. But y'all just kept pushing and pushing. First poor Phil, with his baby on the way. I knew I had to deal with him. So...

He mimics opening his hand -- letting Philip fall to his death.

LOEB (CONT'D)

Oops. Then the boy. I only had to hurt the kid though. Knew he'd put his tail 'tween his legs. But now there's you. *You*.

Not more than a few feet between them.

LOEB (CONT'D)

This disaster was the best thing that could've happened to me. They'll be counting the dead and the missing for months. All you had to do, *all*, was follow orders and get me my plane.

The jagged knife clenched in his hand, ready to kill.

LOEB (CONT'D)

I didn't want you to end up this way. When I said I wanted to get you outta here? I meant it.

As he steps again--

The ground QUAKES FURIOUSLY.

Powerful. Amping up. Hannah makes her move--

She THROWS the backpack PAST him.

He whirls around, sees it land down the slope, out of reach. Feeling the ground shaking, the LAVA ready to BURST--

LOEB (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter. Either nature kills you, or I do.

Loeb runs toward the backpack.

Hannah runs the other direction. Toward the LAKE.

Running with everything's she got. Slips, knees scraped, palms scraped.

The ground beneath her beginning to SPLINTER apart.

She JUMPS over a SMALL CHASM forming. Lands in a roll, picks herself up, and keeps going.

Almost a blur of motion as she hurls herself down the side of the mountain...

KABOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!!!!!!!!

LAVA EXPLODES OUT OF THE CRATER AT THE MOUNTAINTOP.

Ash flies into the air. Blanketing the evening sky.

A RIVER OF FLOWING LAVA spilling out of the crater--

Heading down the side of the mountain Hannah is on. Slowly, but steadily. Picking up speed.

She sprints with all her might.

At last reaching the base of the mountain, heading in the direction of the lake...

The LAVA following, not far behind.

### **AT THE LAKE**

Moments later. Ash rains like snow from the sky.

Hannah stands at a WOODEN LAKE DOCK.

Beyond the lake, she can see the RANGER STATION. Salvation.

But there's no boat. Behind her, the lava is flowing down the mountain. She's going to have to swim.

Hannah steadies herself, ready to dive in--

A HAND grabs her.

She whirls, prepared to fight--

Except that it's not Loeb.

It's RYAN.

JAVI, MEI, and WALT with him. Stunned that all of them are there, her face full of confusion.

HANNAH

How?...

RYAN

We tracked you. Took off not long after -- we couldn't leave you alone with him.

She looks at the group. Bewilderment turning into fear over the threat they've placed themselves in.

HANNAH

Just being here, you're all in danger. You shouldn't have followed us.

Beat.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

His name's not Decker. He's a  
killer. He's coming after me.  
*Just me.* If you go now--

WALT

We're not leaving you. Not again.  
Don't even think it. And we've got  
a worse problem heading our way.

Gesturing to the flow of lava, reaching the base of the  
mountain, it's not stopping.

WALT (CONT'D)

We're going to have to swim it.

HANNAH

There's a Ranger Station on the  
other side. If we can make it  
across, there might be someone...

Everyone in agreement. Ryan removes his arm from the splint.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Your arm. Can you?--

RYAN

I don't see any other choice.

They dive off the dock, one at a time.

JAVI

Jesus, it's cold!

Bodies reacting to the temperature. But not even a second to  
dwell on the intense cold of the lake.

They swim.

Hannah is the fastest. Mei keeps stride, followed by Walt,  
then Ryan, and Javi in the rear.

Ryan's broken arm slows him down. Struggling with it, he  
cries out. The pain is great.

RYAN

My arm...I can't--!

Walt helps, pulling him along.

WALT

C'mon, son! Halfway there--

Looking back--

The DOCK BURNS DOWN, LIT ON FIRE.

Crumbles into the water...

**Lava flows into the lake.**

Bubbling, steaming, the temperature already rising--

HANNAH

Faster!

They're all frantic.

Racing toward the DOCK ON THE OTHER END.

More steam rising from the lake...the cold temperature warming up, impossibly fast.

Faces and bodies turning red. Sweating.

As more lava pumps into the lake, the water is becoming scalding hot.

Hannah reaches the dock first, climbing up. Helping Mei next, both of them breathing heavy--

Walt follows, close behind. Ryan and Javi trail.

Javi is breathless.

JAVI

Can't...can't do it...

Ryan is unable to help him. He finally reaches the dock, and is lifted up by his good arm, helped by Walt.

Seeing Javi too far back, Walt JUMPS into the water.

The temperatures are reaching a boiling point. He grabs Javi, hauling him closer--

Reaching the dock, Walt climbs up--

WALT

Hold on! Javi!

Walt grabs him by both arms, and pulls him up onto the dock--

Just as the water BUBBLES and STEAMS at temperatures that can melt flesh.

Javi gasps and sucks in breath. Everyone climbing to their feet. Javi laughs, wraps Walt in a hug.

JAVI  
We made it! We actually made it,  
everyone's okay...

Seeing the RANGER STATION up ahead.

Relief gripping all of them at once.

JAVI (CONT'D)  
There's gotta be help up there!  
The rangers, they wouldn't--

His voice cut off, and relief turning to horror as--

LOEB leaps out from the water onto the dock. Fresh from the boiling lake--

His ARMS, CHEST, and NECK are VISIBLY RED and BLISTERED.  
Knife in hand. Backpack retrieved and on his shoulders.

Javi is closest, spins...and Loeb grabs him by the throat with his free hand.

Eyes full of savagery. Inhuman. Before anyone can react, his knife STABS Javi in the gut.

Javi gasps, chokes out blood, already dying as--

Loeb pulls the blade free, and THROWS Javi's body into the boiling, flesh-melting water of the lake.

Hannah, Ryan, Mei, and Walt back away on the dock. Nothing they can do for Javi now, he's gone...

Glancing behind them to the Ranger Station--

They'll never get there before Loeb reaches them. Walt steps forward, between Loeb and the others.

WALT  
Run.

Understanding his intent. Hannah shakes her head.

WALT (CONT'D)  
*I said go!*

Mei's already running to the Ranger Station.

Ryan grabs Hannah's arm. They run, as Walt holds Loeb off.

LOEB  
Only making it worse for them.

Loeb moves fast, his knife STABS Walt between the shoulder, into the tendon.

A cry of intense agony, then Walt RIPS the blade free.

Wielding the knife with his other arm.

He steps back, some distance between himself and Loeb.

WALT

You're not hurting them.

Walt stares Loeb down. Operating on pure adrenaline. One arm hanging limp, the other with the knife raised.

Loeb locks eyes with him. Sizes up the threat.

LOEB

Hey, Walter. How's the heart?

Voice cold, unnerving.

Tense beat. No sound except that of blood dripping onto the dock, down Walt's limp arm.

Walt grips the knife tighter--

Loeb lunges.

He's fast, strong. Walt swings the blade at the right moment, slices Loeb's arm.

But Loeb isn't deterred -- knocks the knife away, sliding off the dock into the water.

Loeb strikes Walt in the gut, and then SLAMS him back-first into the ground.

LOEB (CONT'D)

It didn't have to be like this.

He slams his boot down on Walt's chest.

WALT

...it still doesn't.

Walt struggling to get any words out.

Feeling the pressure on his chest, lungs. Barely able to breathe.

Loeb stares down at him, emotionless.

LOEB  
I can feel right where the doc  
sliced you open. Patched you up  
real good, old-timer.

He presses his boot down hard--

WALT  
--No, don't--!

Walt's CHEST BONES AUDIBLY CRACK--

LOEB  
Just not good enough.

Loeb STOMPS Walt's chest. Once, twice--

Blood splatters.

The sound which comes from Walt is barely recognizable as  
human, indescribable agony.

Bone breaking, muscle and tissue caving in. Loeb raises his  
boot one more time.

LOEB (CONT'D)  
Goodbye, Walt.

And as he brings his boot downward, delivering the final  
death blow--

**INT. RANGER STATION - MAIN ROOM - SAME TIME**

HANNAH, RYAN, and MEI rushing inside.

The CABIN is filled with a thin layer of dark ashen mist, a  
BLACK FOG difficult to see through.

HANNAH  
Hello?? Is anyone here?!

Ryan tries a light switch. No power. Hannah is frantic.

HANNAH (CONT'D)  
We need help!

No answer. Despair setting in.

There's only entrance door, and a handful of rooms. Ryan  
gestures out the window -- complete darkness.

RYAN

It's the same stuff from the forest...leaking through--

Coughing, then catching his breath.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Can't burn us anymore -- but don't -  
- don't breathe it in...

Stops speaking as a LIGHT falls on him and Hannah. She reacts, hopeful--

And deflates. It's only Mei holding a FLASHLIGHT.

Shining across the dark room, through the ashen fog.

A couch, small box television on a stand, rug, and very little else. Spartan.

The light crosses over the wall--

Stopping on a FRAMED PHOTO. Hannah, Ryan, and Mei approach.

Three men in the photograph. Two in uniform, one in standard hiking gear. Recognizing one of the men, Hannah gasps.

*It's Loeb.*

He's in a RANGER'S UNIFORM. His military dog tags displayed proudly around his neck.

A plaque underneath the photo identifies them:

Ranger Mike Dawes. Tour Guide Shane Decker.

**Ranger Raymond Loeb.**

And as they realize that no help is coming, that they've just walked right into the lion's den...

**INT. RANGER STATION - MAIN ROOM - DAY**

On LOEB, in uniform. Daylight shining brightly through the station windows.

Loeb's PARTNER, DAWES, watches television on the little screen. On the couch, feet kicked up on the coffee table.

**SUPER: BEFORE.**

Loeb shoots him a look, annoyed.

LOEB  
How many times I gotta tell you  
'bout the feet?

Dawes slides his feet off the table.

DAWES  
Sorry, mom.

He cocks his head back.

DAWES (CONT'D)  
You could try sitting down. Beer's  
in the fridge. Who knows, you  
might even have fun, brother.

Loeb shakes his head.

LOEB  
I don't drink.

Taps the side of his temple.

LOEB (CONT'D)  
Like keeping a clear head.

DAWES  
'Course you do--

Stops speaking as something comes through on the RADIO in  
another room.

Loeb rushes into--

### **THE OFFICE**

Desk, computer, and STATIONARY TWO-WAY RADIO EQUIPMENT.

Static crackles on the other end, then--

VOICE ON RADIO  
You guys hear me? It's Shane  
Decker--

The voice of DECKER -- the REAL DECKER. He sounds panicked.

Loeb quickly grabs the TRANSCEIVER attached to his equipment.  
Presses down to talk--

LOEB  
Decker? It's Raymond Loeb.  
Everything okay out there?

Dawes appears in the doorway, listening. Concerned.

They wait a beat -- more static.

Loeb, to Dawes:

LOEB (CONT'D)  
Goddamn signal's been acting up all  
week. Same with the phones.

Tries again, into the transceiver.

LOEB (CONT'D)  
Decker? Shane? You read me?

After another moment -- through static--

REAL DECKER (V.O.)  
I'm fine. Just a little shaken,  
fellas--

His voice coming through more clearly now. Grave.

REAL DECKER (V.O.)  
I'm gonna need you to come down  
here. We've got a situation.

OFF his words--

**EXT. BASE OF A MOUNTAIN - DAWN**

LOEB and DAWES making their way to the mountain's base, where  
the REAL SHANE DECKER is waiting.

REAL DECKER  
Ah, thank God.

LOEB  
What's the emergency?

Real Decker steps aside--

There's a MALE CORPSE at his feet. Impossible to tell  
the age, or race. Too ravaged.

Decomposed flesh torn apart, bloody hiking clothes.

A PISTOL clenched in his hand. Someone who met a violent end  
out here in the wilderness.

DAWES  
Jesus.

REAL DECKER

I found him further up. Hauled his  
body down here...

Gesturing to the wounds.

REAL DECKER (CONT'D)

My guess is a wolf or mountain lion  
got him. But why was he going up  
there on his own?

Loeb nods, looks to the pistol. Thinking--

LOEB

Check the body.

DAWES

What? Isn't that for the police?

We can see in his eyes -- Loeb's piecing it together.

LOEB

He's got no backpack. Means he  
didn't need the extra weight.  
Check his coat. Go on. Check.

Real Decker unzips the body's coat. Reaching into an inside  
pocket...

He freezes. Has got something.

Pulls his hand out, holding onto a folded piece of cloth.

Unfolds the cloth. His eyes go wide--

REAL DECKER

Shit...

It's the DIAMONDS.

DAWES

A smuggler?

Loeb nods.

LOEB

Drug payment. Probably on his way  
to rendezvous with a chopper when  
nature had other plans.

He points up to the mountain.

LOEB (CONT'D)  
High point, secluded, easy pick-up.  
Didn't count on being mauled.

Loeb looks over to the diamonds.

LOEB (CONT'D)  
Let me see those.

Real Decker doesn't give it a second thought as he hands the diamonds over to Loeb.

DAWES  
Those are real...?

He almost can't fathom their discovery.

LOEB  
They're real.

Loeb studies the dozens of small diamonds in his hand.

REAL DECKER  
So what do we do?

No response.

Loeb continues to stare down at the small fortune in the palm of his hand. Transfixed.

Already making a fateful decision.

REAL DECKER (CONT'D)  
Raymond? C'mon, Loeb--

Loeb finally looks back up.

LOEB  
We get rid of the body. We split  
the diamonds. And we never come  
back to the Cascades again.

Dawes and the Real Decker look at Loeb like he's insane.

DAWES  
C'mon, man. Not even funny. We  
call it in.

Dawes pulls out his cell phone.

At the same time, Loeb slides the diamonds into his pocket.

LOEB  
Yeah...

As Dawes dials the police--

DAWES  
...Goddamn reception...

Loeb GRABS his arm.

LOEB  
...I can't let you do that.

In a split second, Loeb has out his HUNTING KNIFE--

And JAMS the blade right into Dawes's EYE.

He rips the knife out as Dawes falls, and his cell phone hits a jagged rock, breaking on impact.

Real Decker looks at Dawes's body, twitching on the ground.

Then at the SMUGGLER'S CORPSE--

The PISTOL in his hand.

Real Decker dives for the body. He lifts up the corpse's hand, and squeezes the trigger--

A GUNSHOT grazes Loeb's arm, barely.

Cuts through his ranger's uniform but doesn't hit flesh.

Real Decker tries again--

Only for Loeb to KICK him in the face. He's flung back.

Blood flies from a broken nose.

Loeb bends down, and roughly pulls the PISTOL free from the corpse's hand. Takes aim--

REAL DECKER  
Raymond -- please--

Real Decker raises his arms in surrender.

LOEB  
You made your choice.

BAM!

Loeb SHOOTS him in the skull.

Blood and brain matter blown out across the ground.

Only Loeb left standing, three bodies before him.

**EXT. DOCK - LATER**

The sun setting over the lake.

LOEB drags the REAL DECKER'S BODY across the dock.

The other two bodies are already there. All of them have heavy rocks attached to their ankles.

Loeb kicks the first corpse over the dock, into the water.

Watching impassively as it sinks.

**INT. RANGER STATION - LATER**

Nightfall.

Loeb stuffing his backpack full of gear. Satellite phone, water, food.

Noting that he's now wearing civilian clothes, the same clothing we first met him in.

He opens the cloth holding the diamonds.

Takes one more look before carefully folding the cloth back up, and placing it with the rest of his supplies.

The last thing he does is remove his dog tags.

And as he drops them into his backpack--

**EXT. CASCADE MOUNTAINS - DAWN**

LOEB makes his way through the mountain terrain. He's been traveling all night.

The morning sun struggles to shine through overcast skies. And then blotted out--

As the sky is blanketed with birds fleeing the Cascades.

**The same scene from Hannah's arrival. Realizing we have now looped back to the very BEGINNING.**

Birds blotting out the sun...it's unlike anything he's ever seen...

LOEB

What in the hell?...

Watching the birds, until he hears a SUV in the distance.

Loeb fishes a pair of BINOCULARS out from his backpack. He looks through them--

**LOEB'S POV**

Down toward the BASE of the MOUNTAIN he is on. Sees the SUV approaching in the distance--

And HANNAH parked closer ahead. Turning as she spots the approaching SUV, too.

The first time he's laid eyes on her.

LOEB

Lowers the binoculars. His face says it all.

This is trouble he wasn't expecting.

Knows he's going to have to deal with these hikers.

And as he takes his first steps down the mountain trail towards Hannah and the others--

**INT. RANGER STATION - MAIN ROOM - PRESENT**

HANNAH stares at the photograph of Loeb, Decker, and Dawes, in abject terror as she understands what they've walked into.

Turning to RYAN and MEI, frantic.

HANNAH

We're boxed in, and he's coming.

Gestures to the window--

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Ryan, help me get the window open.

RYAN

We'll be blind out there -- or we could choke on that ash...

Hannah nods, she doesn't like the option either, but--

HANNAH

It's our only choice. We need to get out of here, right now.

They rush across the station to one of the windows. Pushing up hard, but it's jammed--

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Shit! Shit, c'mon--!

Exerting all her strength -- combined with Ryan's help with his unbroken arm, and Mei's...

Finally, the window gives. Slides open--

More ASH-FILLED FOG enters the cabin from the window. Slowly, but visibly trickling in.

**It's just like a SMOKE BOMB going off, as--**

WHAM! The CABIN DOOR is kicked back open.

LOEB stands at the entryway. His eyes adjusting to the sudden, intense haziness of the room.

Hannah, Ryan, and Mei crouch low. Out of sight.

Loeb closes the door behind him. Stepping further inside--

LOEB

I know you're all in here.

Scanning the main room. It's impossible to see more than vague shapes in the ashy, smoke bomb-like black mist.

He coughs, and then smiles, vaguely impressed.

LOEB (CONT'D)

Clever. But useless.

Hannah whispers to Ryan.

HANNAH

Get the window open more. I'll distract him.

RYAN

Hannah, no--

She looks at him firmly.

HANNAH

Listen to me, okay? The window, or we're all dead.

With that, she stands up--

And BOLTS towards the OPEN OFFICE DOOR.

Loeb sees her in the mist. He RUNS after her--

**INSIDE THE OFFICE**

She's disappeared. Loeb can barely see anything in the smaller office room, shrouded in the black fog.

LOEB

You've probably figured out the truth by now. Smart gal like you. My partner and I were stationed up here...both career men, it'd have been weeks before anyone knew we were gone.

Hannah crouches behind the desk. Loeb takes a slow step into the room, floorboard creaking under his boots.

LOEB (CONT'D)

Now, a guide goes missing? That raises all kinds of hell. I had to be Decker to buy myself time. But I *wasn't* lying about my family.

She struggles to stay silent and control her breathing.

LOEB (CONT'D)

I failed them as a provider. Wasn't half the father I promised to be. Not like your daddy. My little girl won't even speak to me, let alone grieve if I died. Then these diamonds show up...

He closes the office door, trapping them inside.

LOEB (CONT'D)

These diamonds, like a miracle from heaven. I didn't *want* to kill a single soul.

Loeb steps close the desk. Putting his hands on the wood.

LOEB (CONT'D)

I've killed for country so many times. Men, women, children. All that death cost me everything, and left *me* with nothing.

Hannah is right below him on the other side, though neither can see each other.

LOEB (CONT'D)

Then there's you. I get you, Hannah. I've seen dozens of girls come and go in these mountains.

(MORE)

LOEB (CONT'D)

I'd do anything to be with the people I love. But you? Before this happened, you couldn't run away from your life fast enough. Face it, your daddy's death don't make you unique, something special.

The palms of his hands press down firmly on the flat desk.

LOEB (CONT'D)

You're just another entitled, ungrateful little bitch.

Loeb LEAPFROGS over the desk, onto the other side.

He whirls, facing Hannah as she's crouched in front of him. The action is quick, and she gets up fast, but--

His hand GRABS her throat.

LOEB (CONT'D)

...And I couldn't give a fuck the blood on my hands.

Choking her. Hannah is turning blue, fading fast--

She KNEES him in the groin. Loeb lets go--

As she grabs a heavy piece of RADIO EQUIPMENT off his desk with both hands, and smashes him over the head with it.

Hannah runs past the desk. Swings the door back open, only for Loeb to grasp her ankle. Hannah falls hard.

He crawls towards her, blood dripping from the side of his face--

Hannah uses her other foot to kick him. Twice, three times, until his hand lets go of her ankle.

Unsteadily climbing back to her feet, inside the--

## MAIN ROOM

Now *thick* with the dark, ash-filled mist.

Loeb still on the ground, halfway out the office door.

She moves further into the room, unable to see anything, coughing on the cloud of ash, covering her face.

HANNAH

Ryan!! Mei!!

From the darkness, across the room--

RYAN (O.S.)  
We're over here! Follow my voice!

Hannah pushes on, extends her arms out to feel around the room. More coughing--

RYAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I can't see anything--

She hears both him and Mei hacking.

RYAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Air's getting too thick -- Hannah,  
are you there?!

Keeps moving forward. Feels the couch. Feeling her way around, she's getting close--

HANNAH  
I think I see--

A HAND reaching out from the mist. She goes for it--

*Unable to tell if it's Loeb or Ryan.*

Extended, tense beat.

Stretching out, she takes the hand--

As RYAN pulls her in close. Relief flooding her face. The open window before them, MEI at his side.

Only for LOEB to come CHARGING out of the dark mist.

He SLAMS Ryan to the ground.

Landing right on his BROKEN arm.

Ryan screams in agony. Loeb punches him. Mei is already heading out the window -- gestures for Hannah to join her--

But Hannah won't leave Ryan. She jumps onto Loeb's back, clawing at his face. Loeb flips her over--

She hits the ground painfully on her back. He hovers--

As THWACK!

Mei NAILS the back of Loeb's head with the FLASHLIGHT in her hands.

Enough to send him stumbling backward, hitting the ground.

Loeb is still, unconscious. Hannah is already on her feet, looks to Mei--

HANNAH (CONT'D)

GO!

Mei climbs out the open window, as Hannah lifts up the injured Ryan, getting him out next.

#### **OUTSIDE**

The FOREST all around them.

Covered in heavy black mist; worse than the cabin they've just escaped from.

Mei takes Ryan's arms, pulling him through the window quickly. Only Hannah left. She starts to climb--

Then stares down at Loeb, not moving. The backpack hanging off his arm...

#### **INSIDE**

Hannah grabs the backpack.

Loeb stirs.

She watches for a moment. Breathing heavy. And then she begins to climb out the window.

#### **OUTSIDE**

She's halfway there, when LOEB groans. Hannah turns her head, sees him stirring awake...

Looks back to Ryan and Mei.

HANNAH

Take this!

Hannah throws the backpack outside. Keeps climbing--

Mei grabs her arms. Pulling Hannah. Almost there, she has one leg out already when--

The WINDOW FALLS BACK DOWN.

Crashes onto Hannah's leg with enough force to BREAK BONE.

She screams in pure agony.

Behind her, Loeb is slowly rising to his knees...

Ryan moves fast, lifting the window with his good arm.

She slides out the window, writhing in pain. Unable to support any weight on her leg.

RYAN

Can you move?

Hannah nods, hurting too much to speak.

Picks the backpack up quickly--

Both Ryan and Mei help her, each taking an arm as they hobble together further into the BLACK MIST-FILLED FOREST.

#### **INSIDE THE RANGER STATION**

Loeb on his feet unsteadily, he can see their figures escaping from the window...

And sees the BACKPACK on Hannah's shoulder, as they disappear from his view.

Realizing what she's taken from him--

His fist SMASHES the glass window.

Rage on his face.

No doubt that he no longer just wants to kill Hannah--

He's going to make her suffer.

#### **LOEB'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER**

Storming into the office, through the dark mist.

He coughs, inhaling ash, but doesn't care.

Loeb is a man on a mission...

Finding a GUN RACK on the wall.

A pair of BOLT-ACTION RIFLES.

He swipes one off the rack.

*Ready to hunt.*

**EXT. RAVINE - DAWN**

The outskirts of the forest. The ash cloud is not thick here, but settled just above the ground.

HANNAH has a HEAVY WALKING STICK in her hand--

A makeshift CRUTCH to lean on.

The three of them crossing the ravine. Finding the water inky, obsidian from ash. No more than a couple of feet deep.

Ryan eyes the backpack on Hannah's shoulder.

RYAN

It was a mistake taking his diamonds. He won't stop, not now...

HANNAH

He was never going to stop. At least now, we have *proof* -- we can take this to the police, or...

She's cut off, all of them a little more than halfway across the ravine when an AFTERSHOCK hits.

Shaking the ground violently, sends them off-balance--

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Just an aftershock, it's--

A POWERFUL AFTERSHOCK.

She looks up, noticing the muddy hills around them--

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Across the ravine! Hurry!

Just then, a TREE topples over--

RYAN

*Mei!*

Ryan TACKLES Mei to the ground, saving her from being struck. They look back--

The tree blocks their path forward. The ground continues to SHAKE, the ravine water rippling--

And the HILLS ARE STARTING TO BREAK APART.

HANNAH

We have to climb over!

Hannah helps Mei up over the fallen tree first. Then she's next, tossing her walking stick/crutch up before she climbs--

Taking Ryan's unbroken arm last. Lifting him up--

All three turning their heads as they see the hills give way...

Into a LANDSLIDE barrelling towards them.

Panic on their faces. Mei slides down the tree, followed by Hannah and Ryan--

Feet splashing in the water, moving as fast as they possibly can while Hannah leans on Ryan for support.

Mei makes it to the other side of the ravine.

Sees the RUSHING LANDSLIDE just seconds from colliding with Hannah and Ryan--

She extends her arm. Hannah grabs hold, as she and Ryan pull themselves forward--

Legs barely pulled out of the ravine when the LANDSLIDE crashes downward, into the water--

Buries the fallen tree with it.

Just narrowly missing the three of them, while the path back has been completely cut off.

Everyone breathing heavily.

A moment as they climb to their feet. Hannah continues to lean on Ryan--

On this side of the ravine, the mist has cleared entirely. Rain begins to drizzle from the sky. Hannah feels it first.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Look--

She points, and the other two look up, as LIGHTNING flashes in the blotted sky, followed by a THUNDEROUS BOOM.

Ominous. Threatening. Apocalyptic.

They continue forward, patters of rain dripping from above.

**LATER**

Feet trekking through muddy ground, an intact trail.

The forest on one side of them, and a VOLCANO on the other, slowly oozing lava which sizzles in the rain.

RYAN

Be careful. These aftershocks could set off another--

Hannah stopping, grinds to a halt.

There's a FIRE burning in the middle of the trail. Branches, foliage lit up. Smoke rising in the air.

HANNAH

What?...

She steps forward, confused, alarmed.

RYAN

It's *him*.

Hannah whirls around. Panic on each of their faces, knowing this is a trap set for them, as--

KA-BOOM!! The sound of a RIFLE going off, and--

**RYAN IS SHOT IN HIS SIDE.**

The bullet tears into him, just below the rib cage.

Hannah and Mei both scream. Ryan reels back, holding the injury, bleeding out.

HANNAH

*Ryan!* No, no, no....

He hits the ground, still.

She stops moving, can't look at his body...

HANNAH (CONT'D)

...Ryan, no, you can't, don't--

Barely able to hold back sobs, as--

ANOTHER BULLET hits the ground in front of her, and mud explodes upward, sends her falling back.

Hannah, realizing with horror--

HANNAH (CONT'D)

He's in the trees.

She points to the forest.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

The trees!

Mei understands. She grabs Hannah's hand, pulling her up and forwards. Nothing else matters but surviving.

They RUN together on the muddy trail, past the fire.

Desperately.

Hannah grimaces in pain, DRAGGING her injured leg as Mei keeps hold of her hand.

Slowing them both down. She starts to resist Mei's help.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Leave me -- you have to leave--

Mei gives her a single look. Shakes her head. May not know what Hannah is saying, but understands the intent.

MEI

*Never.*

Feet splashing in the rain and the slick mud.

Another BULLET hits the ground, sends more mud flying upwards. Knowing that he's just toying with them--

Hannah and Mei don't stop.

We STAY with them, slipping, wet from the rain and caked in ash and dirt...

Rounding a corner along the trail--

Coming to a halt, frozen, hopeless as they see:

**The path forward is blocked by a MASSIVE RIVER OF LAVA.**

It's a dead end.

BOOOM! A GUNSHOT rings out--

A final warning. The hunt is over.

LOEB dismounts from one of the trees. Landing crouched on the ground. Boots splash onto the mud, calm, controlled.

His rifle raised.

Mei clutches her pregnant stomach -- feeling contractions, suddenly in *fetal distress*.

Hannah stares Loeb down.

HANNAH  
You want to kill me?? Then do it,  
but leave her and the baby alone!

He takes aim at Hannah--

She braces for the inevitable.

His finger tightens around the trigger, and--

Loeb FIRES -- just as RYAN tackles him from behind.

*The bullet misses Hannah by inches.*

Taken off-guard, Loeb DROPS the rifle.

Ryan's lost a lot of blood. He's pale, gravely injured. Yet fights with every last ounce of strength.

Voice weak, he shouts out--

RYAN  
Hannah...the gun!...

Hannah sees the rifle on the ground as Loeb continues his struggle with Ryan. Inching CLOSE to the river of lava.

Fighting back pain, she hobbles quickly towards the weapon, their only chance at survival.

Loeb PUNCHES Ryan in his bleeding side wound. Grabs him in a neck hold--

Mei remains on her knees, clenching her stomach in horrible pain. Truly helpless at this moment.

Hannah almost to the rifle...

Loeb ready to snap Ryan's neck--

HANNAH  
*Loeb!*

He turns, reacts with surprise because--

Hannah is on her knees just a couple feet away.

**The rifle in her hands.**

Loeb drops Ryan, still alive. Lunges at her--

And HANNAH FIRES, at close-range.

The BULLET rips into his chest. Sending Loeb flung backward, hitting the ground hard.

Very still. Is he dead?...

She won't take that chance. Aims the rifle again--

And pulls the trigger.

CLICK.

The rifle is empty.

Her expression full of worry.

She watches Loeb on the ground, waiting for even a tick--

When none comes, Hannah climbs to her feet. Leaning on the rifle, using it as a crutch for support.

Loeb remains unmoving.

Ryan staggers to his feet weakly, holding his side, blood seeping through his fingers.

Hannah quickly hobbles to Ryan, wraps her arms around him.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

I thought you were--

Ryan strokes her hair, kisses her forehead. So much affection between them. His voice hoarse.

RYAN

Bullet...went through...

They hear Mei cry out in pain. Both reacting with deep concern, rushing to her.

Neither see LOEB rising to his feet behind them.

Hand on his chest wound, stalking towards them--

Mei points, desperately warning Hannah and Ryan.

*But too late.*

Ryan turns first as Loeb PUNCHES him in the face with his other hand.

In a fluid motion, he rips the rifle from Hannah--

STRIKING her violently on the side of the head with the butt of the rifle.

Hannah drops. Ryan is unconscious next to her.

Mei screams. Trying to get back to her feet, but the pain from the baby's fetal distress is too great.

Loeb pulls a BULLET from his pocket.

Reloads the rifle with lightning speed, aiming at Mei, when--

He's SLICED across the cheek, a DEEP BLOODY GASH.

Cut into by the DIAMONDS in Hannah's hand.

*His diamonds.*

Hannah is back on her feet, and stares him down fearlessly.

Hair matted with blood, leg torn up, and refusing to go down without a battle.

HANNAH

All of this for these fucking diamonds?!

She raises her arm, in the direction of the lava--

LOEB

NO, DON'T!--

Too late. Hannah THROWS with all of her might...

Both of them watching, the **diamonds land into the flowing river of lava.**

Sinking into oblivion. Loeb GRABS Hannah by her hair--

LOEB (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no, no!!!

Delivering a gut punch which sends Hannah to her knees.

Held by her hair, as Loeb DRAGS her toward the lava.

Hannah struggles in vain, kicking and screaming--

*He means to throw her into the lava river.*

One hand dragging her, the other holding his chest wound. Heaving, blood-drenched, burned. An unrelenting monster.

The rain continues to fall.

Getting close to the edge, to the river of lava, he snarls--

LOEB (CONT'D)  
You fuckin' child...

Pulling her up by the hair, ready to toss her in with the lost diamonds--

LOEB (CONT'D)  
...*BURN.*

It's now or never.

Hannah SLAMS her foot into his knee, with an AUDIBLE CRACK.

Forcing him to let her go.

She FALLS BACKWARD, feet halfway over the edge, the lava bubbling up to greet her.

Reaching out, GRABBING hold of Loeb with her arms. Both of them pulled to the edge--

And Hannah SPINS around, so that it's Loeb with his back to the river of lava...

FALLING over the edge together--

*Hands wrap around Hannah's waist from behind, stopping her descent.*

It's MEI. Holding Hannah tightly, while--

**Loeb falls backwards into the burning molten river.**

Still HOLDING onto Hannah, even as his body becomes slowly submerged--

His fingers TIGHT around the CHARM BRACELET on her wrist.

The sounds coming from his throat are inhuman. Body burning, yet he won't let go...

HE MEANS TO TAKE HER WITH HIM.

Mei and Hannah both pushing backwards--

Hannah digging her heels into the ground. Being dragged, slowly, over the edge...

Until the CHARM BRACELET'S CLASP BREAKS.

Flung out from his hand, Hannah's charm bracelet lands in the muddy ground--

In the path of a rising, slow-moving flow of lava.

Loeb's grip lost--

And we HOLD on the charm bracelet, as it's swallowed by lava, a mirror to Loeb's own fate.

Finally, Loeb's terrible screams of agony coming to an end as he's submerged beneath the molten surface.

Hannah and Mei watch every moment.

Then Mei drops again, to her knees. Holding her stomach. In more pain than before.

Moaning, the fetal distress is unbearable. Hannah gets on her knees as well, facing her.

HANNAH

You have to calm down. I'm here--

She gently removes Mei's hand from her stomach. Puts her own hand down, feeling the contractions.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Breathe. Okay? If you don't, this baby will die. And that's not going to happen...

Demonstrates breathing. Mei copies her. In and out--

HANNAH (CONT'D)

This baby's a fighter. Like mom. Easy, that's right...

In and out...Hannah feels the distress losing intensity.

Can see it in Mei's own eyes. The panic leaving her face. Mei puts her hand over Hannah's.

The rain at last comes to an end.

They hold each other's gaze. Processing all they've been through, knowing it's finally over.

Survivors against impossible odds.

**EXT. ROAD - DAY**

HANNAH, RYAN, and MEI on a COUNTRY ROAD.

They lean on each other, filthy, bloody, soaked, and beaten to hell--

But alive.

THE CASCADE MOUNTAINS BEHIND THEM.

Burning, volcanic, apocalyptic.

Ryan stumbles, as Hannah keeps her hand to his gunshot wound.

HANNAH

*NO. You're not giving up on me.*

But he's going into shock. The amount of blood he's lost is too great. Hannah and Mei both desperately lift him up--

Then they hear it. SIRENS. *Ambulance sirens.* Seeing an AMBULANCE driving their direction.

Tears welling up in their eyes. They aren't alone. Help is here...and they've made it.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

HANNAH sits in a chair, staring out the window, pensive.

She's cleaned up, sporting cuts and bruises, fresh clothes, her LEG set in a cast, crutches resting against the wall.

RYAN (O.S.)

Where'd you go, just now?

RYAN in the bed next to her. She looks at him reassuringly.

HANNAH

Nowhere.

RYAN

Yeah? I hear they've got great weather.

HANNAH

My dad would have loved you, cornball.

He sits up. Coming in closer -- until a NURSE enters the room. Hannah turns her attention to the woman.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Excuse me. Our friend, is she?--

NURSE

She's healthy. The baby is stable.  
You saved their lives.

Hannah is quiet. The nurse reads her somber expression.

NURSE (CONT'D)

I can give you two another minute  
alone.

She leaves the room. When she's gone, Hannah speaks.

HANNAH

I have to go...my bus leaves in an  
hour. You'll look after Mei?

RYAN

With my life. Han, wait. I don't  
want this to mean goodbye.

Hannah leans in and kisses him. Long, passionate, tender.

HANNAH

Me neither.

She keeps hold of his hand.

#### **I/E. BUS - DAY**

A large BUS going down one of the freeways. Passing cars  
abandoned on the side of the road...

#### **INSIDE**

HANNAH sits alone. Watches the passing highway. DOZENS of  
other SURVIVORS in the bus with her.

She turns her head, sees a FAMILY sitting together a couple  
rows back. Father, mother, and their three young children.

One of the kids looks up, a LITTLE GIRL around nine, same age  
as Hannah's little sister Becca.

Dirty clothes, backpack in her lap, smiling at her.

Hannah waves, then returns to watching the highway, all the  
abandoned vehicles.

#### **LATER**

Evening. Rain falls outside. Bus passing by--

#### **THE PORTLAND SKYLINE**

An entire city reduced almost to rubble. In ruins. Flooded.  
Buildings on fire. So much death.

Hannah wants to look away -- but she doesn't. She watches the city go by. Haunted by things she'll never forget.

### **NIGHT**

Hannah sleeps. Shaking, having a nightmare. Nails digging into her palms. Breathing intensely.

Eyes snapping open -- taking a moment for the panic to cease. Stirred awake by the little girl who smiled at her earlier.

#### LITTLE GIRL ON BUS

We're here. Are you okay?

Realizing the bus has stopped. Hannah sits up, grateful.

Hannah offers a slight smile, as if to say: "I'm okay."

The little girl smiles back as her mother takes her hand, and their family moves further ahead in the aisle, past Hannah.

All the other passengers rising from their seats and crowding into the aisle restlessly, eager to disembark.

Finding herself at the--

### **REFUGEE CAMP**

Hannah slowly walks down the bus steps, using her crutches as others move around her.

Tents as far as the eye can see. A medical station treating the injured and sick. Vehicles stacked with supplies.

There are thousands of survivors within the camp.

At the moment all Hannah cares about are the THREE standing outside, waiting for her as she climbs off the bus.

Her MOTHER, AUNT SUSIE, and LITTLE SISTER.

This disaster has taken a lot, but it did not take them.

No words are spoken. None are necessary.

Hannah embraces her family.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.