

TWISTERS

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Based on a story by
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FADE IN:

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - DAWN

KATE COOPER, (20), long brown hair, stands alone on a bluff, wearing t-shirt and shorts, staring out at a SINGLE MASSIVE CLOUD in the distance... flat along the bottom with towering cloud structure above it.

After a moment, Kate closes her eyes... lets her body *feel* the world. A hint of breeze barely moves her hair... and Kate's lips curl into the slightest of smiles.

INT. SUV - DAWN

JEB, (21), sleeps in the back. Kate comes crawling in on top of him. Jeb gives a PLEASANT GROAN... doesn't open his eyes as he runs his hand down Kate's back... toward her butt.

KATE
Gotta get up.

JEB
I'm workin' on it.

KATE
Seriously. Time to go.

She gives him a quick kiss, then is sliding back out.

JEB
Hang on... it's too early.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND/SUV - DAWN

Kate leans in the window for a COUPLE QUICK TAPS ON THE HORN.

O.S. GROANS all around, and we see THREE OTHER COLLEGE KIDS: PRAVEEN sits up under a blanket, shakily putting his glasses on... ADDY rises up groggy in a sleeping bag... MASON comes half-rolling out of a battered old van with an Oklahoma School Of Meteorology logo on the side.

MASON
What the hell?

Kate moves to a TRAILER ATTACHED TO THE SUV... checks the straps on TWO LARGE YELLOW BARRELS.

KATE
Storm's here.

ADDY
I thought the cell wasn't gonna
build 'til this afternoon.

KATE
It's this morning. It's now.

MASON
No, man... shit, it can't be. I got
too wasted last night.

Praveen glances at the Doppler radar on his laptop.

PRAVEEN
Some activity to the southwest, but
the numbers aren't close to where
they'd need to be.

KATE
Tower's growing fast. Instability's
gotta be rising with it.

PRAVEEN
But all the readings say-

ADDY
-The readings don't see what Kate
sees remember?

Praveen hesitates... nods... *true*... closes the laptop.

MASON
How 'bout Kate sees one more hour
of sleep?

KATE
We've gotta get out front, and drop
the barrels in its path as soon as
it forms. Only way to prove the
polymer has an effect.

MASON
Do I at least have time to go puke
first?

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - LATER

Kids geared up, wearing RADIO HEADSETS. Jeb's at the wheel of
the SUV, with Kate beside him. Praveen and Addy are in the
back seat.

Mason's next to them, at the wheel of the University Van.

MASON

So does that *Magic 8-Ball* head of yours know where this thing is gonna pop?

KATE

Pretty good idea. Just follow us.

MASON

Yeah okay, but not too fas-

-Jeb's already tearing out.

MASON (CONT'D)

You heard me say I feel like shit, right?!

Mason follows after them.

EXT. OKLAHOMA PLAINS - MORNING

A highway dissects endless rolling farmland. The SUV leads the Van, speeding along the road, nothing but open fields on all sides... and that TOWERING STORM CELL IN THE DISTANCE.

INT. SUV - MORNING

The Team all looking out toward the Storm Cell.

JEB

Does have a nice crisp tower.

PRAVEEN

Winds are climbing. Definitely kicking up our dewpoints.

Kate's 2013 CELL PHONE RINGS. MOM. Kate answers.

KATE

Hey, Mom, what's up?

(listens)

Yeah, just chasing weather around.

(listens)

Yes, we'll be careful. I promise.

GROUP

Hey, Mrs. Cooper!

KATE

Yeah I'll tell 'em. Gotta go.

Kate hangs up.

KATE (CONT'D)
Darla says lasagna for everybody
when we're done.

CHANTS of DARLA from the group.

INT. VAN - MORNING

Mason looking out at the cell as he drives.

MASON
Okay, so how are we getting to this
thing? I'm gonna need to bring the
drone in from the west.

JEB (V.O.)
This road right here should work.

--AHEAD... the SUV makes a sudden turn down a side road.
Mason skids to follow in that long van.

MASON
Little heads-up maybe?! I'm drivin'
an aircraft carrier back here.

EXT. THE SUPERCCELL - MORNING

Getting darker... stronger... angrier. Flashes of lightning
from deep within the clouds.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

The SUV and Van tearing down the road... nearing the
darkening super cell... but with still blue skies above them.

--ANGLE ON THOSE SEALED BARRELS VIBRATING IN THE TRAILER.

INT. SUV - MORNING

Praveen's checking his laptop readings.

PRAVEEN
Wind shear is strong.

ADDY
And nice rotation. Got some serious
energy building in there.

KATE
We should get the polymer ready.

JEB
Don't you wanna wait for the rain
to hit first?

Just then, RAIN BEGINS TO SPLASH ONTO THE WINDSHIELD. Jeb gives Kate a glance as he slows to the shoulder.

JEB (CONT'D)
Okay, I'll shut up.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

The Vehicles stop. The Group jumps into action, quick and efficient--

--KATE AND JEB leap onto the trailer, remove the lids from the plastic barrels, revealing a CLEAR LIQUID.

--PRAVEEN attaches cables to WEATHER DEVICES BOLTED ONTO THE SUV'S ROOF... connecting computer equipment.

--Addy rushes back to Mason... helps pull an EARLY-MODEL DJI PHANTOM 1 DRONE from the van... connect a clip-wire to it.

MASON
Low-frequency mic.

Addy tosses the mic to him... he connects it to the drone. A PING from the EARLY-GENERATION TABLET Addy's holding.

ADDY
Reading you.

--KATE AND JEB dump LARGE BAGS OF POWDER into the barrels... mix it into a gel. Kate throws a glance to the sky.

KATE
We need to move fast.

--MASON uses a RADIO FREQUENCY REMOTE CONTROLLER to send the Phantom drone rising up into the sky.

MASON
Drone is airborne!

ADDY
Have a visual and data.

Addy hustles back toward the SUV. Kate rushes to Mason.

KATE
Try to get us some boundary layer
measurements.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

The more numbers we give the department, the better chance of getting the grant.

MASON

You know I'm all about the cash.

Kate and Mason exchange a QUICK, FUN, CHOREOGRAPHED LUCKY FIST-BUMP before Kate spins back to the SUV... drives off.

--ON THE DRONE... flying through the rain... toward the clouds... fading into them... gone.

INT. SUV - MORNING

Wind blowing. Rain pouring. The windshield wipers working hard to keep up. Kate wiping the fog from her window for a better view... can barely see anything through the rain.

KATE

This thing wants to happen.

Praveen watches the radar on his laptop.

PRAVEEN

Got a CAPE of 4000 so plenty of instability. And a hundred knots gate-to-gate wind shear.

Addy's got readings and a cloudy image on her tablet.

ADDY

No numbers yet from you, Mason.
You're still too far outside.

MASON (V.O.)

Yeah, no shit.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

Mason fighting the joystick on his controller.

MASON

Winds keeps kicking me out.

INT. SUV - MORNING

Jeb fighting the storm. HAIL BEGINS TO CLICK THE WINDSHIELD.

KATE

Edge of the hail core.

JEB
We're flying blind. Want to give it
some distance just in case
something's in there?

KATE
Any sign of a hook yet, Praveen?

PRAVEEN
No, but my service out here is
spotty. Data's a little delayed.

Kate looks out to that RAIN WALL hiding everything beyond.

KATE
We're okay here.

Jeb throws another cautious squint through the rain and hail.

JEB
If you say so.

EXT. SUPERCCELL - MORNING

FROM ABOVE THE MASSIVE DARK CLOUD... SWIRLING AND FLASHING.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

Mason steering the drone... using body english to help.

MASON
Not sure what wind speeds are but-
-The JOYSTICK SUDDENLY GOES LIMP.

MASON (CONT'D)
Shit. Something just slammed me. I
think I'm down.

INT. SUV - MORNING

--ON ADDY'S TABLET SCREEN GOING BLACK.

ADDY
Yeah, I just lost your feed.

Wind WHIPPING. Rain coming down sideways... brush and debris
blowing across in front of the SUV, as Jeb tries to hold the
wheel steady. Kate's still peering out... impossible to see
anything through the RAIN WALL.

MASON (V.O.)

What's the radar showing? You guys seeing a hook?

PRAVEEN

I can't hold signal long enough to upload in real time.

JEB

This is all gettin' too sketchy, Kate. Let's pull back.

KATE

The only way we prove our polymer weakens a vortex is to put it in its path.

JEB

I get the goal. But I'd feel better if we knew where the path was.

SUDDENLY A ROUND, THOUSAND POUND HAY BALE COMES LAUNCHING OUT OF THE RAIN CLOUD BESIDE THEM... FLYING... ROLLING... SMASHES INTO THE FRONT CORNER OF THE SUV... SENDS IT SPINNING.

EXT. SUV/TRAILER - MORNING

The trailer's flung sideways, tipping onto its side.

INT. SUV - MORNING

Jeb fights the wheel for control, finally stops the spin.

JEB

CHRIST!

They're now facing back the way they came. And Kate's looking behind them, toward the barrels still strapped in that tipped trailer... as a MASSIVE SHADOW RISES BEYOND THE RAIN WALL.

KATE

This is the path.

PRAVEEN

What?!

Kate's already hurrying out. The others follow.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

Rain and hail pounds them as they rush to the trailer...

JEB

Did you see something?!

...and Kate starts trying to turn the trailer over...

KATE

Help me get it back up!

...the others join in... the trailer slams back over. Addy begins unstrapping the barrels until-

KATE (CONT'D)

Leave them! We need the trailer weight to hold them down until it reaches.

As Kate and Jeb unhitch the trailer-

JEB

What do you think is back there?!

ADDY (O.S.)

Oh my God!

They all look back... to the SHAPE OF A MASSIVE FUNNEL CLOUD APPEARING THROUGH THE RAIN WALL.

KATE

That.

Kate tears the lids from the barrels. They race to the SUV.

KATE (CONT'D)

Mason, we're on our way back to you with a funnel right behind us. Try to get higher for a better view.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

Mason sprints back to the Van... does a clumsy turn through a ditch... the van's rear wheels getting stuck... spinning long enough we think he might not get out... before finally catching and vaulting the van forward down the road.

INT. MASON'S SUV - MORNING

Jeb steering through the storm. Kate, Addy, and Praveen all turned around... Kate and Addy both filming the tornado nearing the trailer.

KATE

C'mon... pick 'em up.

The FUNNEL CLOUD ROARS OVER THE TRAILER, lifting the trailer in the air. Kate and Addy still filming as the tornado sucks the barrels into its core.

ADDY
It took them!

KATE
We need those readings, Praveen.

PRAVEEN
Efforting!

Jeb throws a nervous glance to the mirror... the TORNADO GAINING.

JEB
It's picking up speed.

KATE
The polymer hasn't had a chance to work yet.

JEB
When exactly is that gonna happen?

Kate doesn't answer... isn't sure.

EXT. OKLAHOMA PLAINS - MORNING

The University Van skids to a stop on high ground, safely outside the storm. Mason jumps out... watches as the SUV speeds down the road... the FUNNEL CLOUD just behind them.

MASON
Oh, Jesus... go faster, guys.

INT. SUV - MORNING

The storm battering the SUV. Kate still filming. Addy has stopped, terrified, just watches the tornado.

ADDY
It's not stopping, Kate.

PRAVEEN
Numbers aren't dipping.

Kate lowers her phone... just stares back at it, beaten.

KATE
It has to work.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

The SUV in an all-out race to the death with the tornado.

INT. JEB'S SUV - MORNING

Panic setting in.

PRAVEEN
This is no good!

Addy points toward a HIGHWAY IN THE DISTANCE... an OVERPASS.

ADDY
There!

KATE
Overpass drafts could be worse.

JEB
Too exposed everywhere else. That
wedge is all we've got.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - MORNING

FROM HIGH ABOVE... the SUV all but consumed by the storm, as
it nears the highway... veers off the side road, up a slope
to launch up onto the highway.

INT. SUV - MORNING

Rain and hail pounding the windshield. Debris swirling past.
The Group staring out at that highway overpass approaching...

ADDY
C'mon... c'mon... please...

...and the storms's winds catch enough of the SUV TO LIFT THE
REAR WHEELS OFF THE GROUND FOR A MOMENT... just as they speed
under the overpass, skid sideways to a stop.

KATE
GET OUT! GET OUT!

They all scramble out of the SUV.

EXT. OVERPASS - MORNING

The Group charges toward the concrete incline... as PRAVEEN
IS SUDDENLY YANKED AWAY... swept back into the storm.

Kate, Jeb, and Addy don't even see him taken... continue scrambling up the incline... toward the junction gap, when SHEETS OF PAVEMENT PIECES COME FLYING IN, SLAM INTO ADDY, SEND HER SAILING INTO THE DEBRIS CLOUD...

KATE

ADDY!

...and Jeb pulls Kate down...

JEB

GET DOWN!

...they wedge into the gap, as the winds whip through the tunnel... and the heart of that storm washes over them. Jeb's pressed down beside Kate, a protective arm over her as Kate closes her eyes... hands gripping seams in the concrete.

JEB (CONT'D)

(mouth to Kate's ear)

It's gonna be okay. It's gonna be okay. It's gonna be-

-Until HE'S SUDDENLY GONE. Kate opens her eyes to look...

KATE

JEB!

...just as that MONSTER FUNNEL CLOUD HITS THE OVERPASS, and it's like a fucking bomb goes off AS WE--

SLAM TO:

BLACK... SILENT... THEN THE CRACKLING OF RADIO VOICES.

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)

Emergency vehicles in route.

INT. STATE PATROL CAR - LATER

Weaving slowly along the highway between UPROOTED TREES... the SPLINTERED ROOF OF A BARN... a TWISTED EXIT SIGN. A PATROLMAN spots a SINGLE FIGURE LIMP-WALKING TOWARD HIM.

PATROLMAN

Hang on, I see somebody.

EXT. HIGHWAY - MORNING

Kate, bloodied, battered, in shock, and alone... limps along the road, blank eyes staring but not really seeing anything.

AND THEN WE RISE UP ABOVE KATE... high enough to see an unbelievable path of destruction... a giant scar torn into the earth... with Kate walking down the center of it.

SLAM TO:

BLACK... QUIET... UNTIL WE HEAR THE SOUNDS OF CITY TRAFFIC.

INT. NEW YORK STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING

Old and small. The CITY TRAFFIC COMING FROM OUTSIDE.

-- A GLASS PITCHER catches drops of water leaking from the water-stained ceiling.

-- A CHARRED ELECTRICAL WALL SOCKET.

-- AN OPEN LAPTOP on an unmade bed... with LIVE WEATHER RADAR onscreen... *Oklahoma and Texas*.

-- A WOMAN'S LEGS step into jeans. A LONG SCAR runs down one of her legs.

-- A CELL PHONE BUZZES ON A DINING TABLE... a CALL FROM MOM. A Woman's hand lifts the phone as she walks past... TAPS *DECLINE* as she heads out the door.

SUPER: TEN YEARS LATER

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - HELL'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Kate, hair shorter than when we last saw her, walks down the steps of her apartment building... blends into the MORNING RUSH OF PEOPLE SWARMING DOWN THE SIDEWALK.

EXT. MANHATTAN - NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BUILDING - DAY

Concrete and glass in the middle of the bustling city.

INT. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - FORECAST OFFICE - DAY

A massive room with large radar-filled video monitors on the walls, broadcasting weather systems from all over the world. Rows of cubicles line the space, with EMPLOYEES working at computers... tracking storms, pulling up data.

Kate's at one of the cubicles, eyeing a small STORM CELL off the Southeastern Coast. Kate's SUPERVISOR, (DEBRA), (50s), stands beside her, sharing the view.

DEBRA
What do you think?

KATE
Winds currently at twenty-eight
knots. Moving northeast at fifteen.

Kate hits a few buttons... the PROJECTED STORM PATH appears.

KATE (CONT'D)
Computer models project it could
stir up some things toward Georgia.

DEBRA
I can see the models, Kate. I asked
what you thought.

Kate hesitates... takes in the readings... then-

KATE
Atmospheric pressure is low. Wind
speeds have fallen two knots. It's
going to lose steam on the water.

DEBRA
Then hold off on any alerts. Just
keep an eye on it to make sure it
plays out like you expect.
(starts walking away)
Which it always does.

Kate continues working. A CO-WORKER, (SHANTY), (30), rolls
her chair next to Kate... holds out her phone... a TEXT.

KATE
I don't know what that is.

SHANTY
It's from that cute new I.T. guy...
Derek. He's having a cookout at his
place Saturday. Wants to make sure
I tell you.

KATE
I've gotta do some work Saturday.

SANDRA
Do it Sunday. We can just drop in
for a drink. He's nice. Never know,
might be the one for you.

KATE
I can't go out with anyone named
Derek.

SHANTY

What's wrong with a *Derek*?

Kate grimaces, shrugs... *just doesn't like the sound of it.*

SHANTY (CONT'D)

I'll add it to the list. And we're
runnin' outta names. Gimme one you
can date.

Kate considers that, then-

KATE

Bartholomew. I'd call him Barty.

SHANTY

What, you went through the entire
New York registry to find the one
name that doesn't exist in the
city?

KATE

Barty loves to just sit around the
house, read trashy romance novels,
go to bed by ten. And his favorite
food is cheese pizza, no toppings.

SHANTY

So basically he's just you with a
penis.

KATE

And a little taller. *Barty The
Party*. You find him, and I promise
I'll let you fix me up.

SHANTY

Oh I'm gonna find him. Even if I
have to drag him here from some
weird state where they give kids
shit names.

MAN (O.S.)

Kate.

A MAN's leaning in the door.

MAN (CONT'D)

Some guy here to see you. In the
conference room.

SHANTY

God please let his name be
Bartholomew.

INT. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Kate enters. A MAN in a suit faces the opposite direction as he watches a WEATHER CHANNEL REPORT on a television.

KATE

I'm Kate.

The Man turns around, and WE SEE THAT IT'S MASON... ten years older, hair trimmed, looking very professional. He smiles.

MASON

Yeah, I know. Hi, Kate.

Kate's face washes a little pale with surprise.

MASON (CONT'D)

Been a while.

(hugs her)

It's good to see you.

Kate manages the hug... but can't verbalize a response.

INT. MANHATTAN COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Kate and Mason at a table.

MASON

After graduation I headed home to Little Rock, worked for my Dad. That got old pretty quick, so moved back to OKC, started a business there with some guys I know.

KATE

Glad things are working out, Mason.

MASON

Sorry we lost touch. I reached out to you a few times.

KATE

I'm not great with communication.

MASON

And you also don't stay in one place very long.

(off her shrug)

Probably cool changing things up though. Keep it fresh. How do you like New York?

KATE
People are nice.
(off Mason's look)
Nice enough.

MASON
And not a single serious tornado in
the city since 2007.

KATE
Not the only place that can say
that.

MASON
Yeah, I don't think Rhode Island's
ever had one. You worked at the
Weather Service there for a couple
years before here, right?

KATE
You come all this way to talk about
my job history?

MASON
It wasn't your fault, Kate. What
happened that day could've-

KATE
-Why are you here, Mason?

Mason smiles at being shut down.

MASON
You believe I was just in the
neighborhood?

Kate shoots him a look... *nope.*

MASON (CONT'D)
I wanted to run an idea past you.
The company I started...

Mason hands Kate a BUSINESS CARD... *StormShield.*

MASON (CONT'D)
...we're using some of the most
cutting-edge tech in the world for
collecting storm data. It provides
clear real-time snapshots of
everything that's happening
meteorologically... from building
stage, through the event, all the
way to post-storm.
(MORE)

MASON (CONT'D)

Our tech is the best, but our ability to implement it... to get our sensors in the right place in time... that's what we're missing.

(off Kate's look)

I have plenty of PHD's on my team, but no one with your instincts.

Kate's already shaking her head, not interested.

MASON (CONT'D)

If we could predict the storms more efficiently, prepare for them, we could provide communities with-

KATE

-I've already got a job.

MASON

I know you do, but this place... it's a great spot to hide, but-

KATE

-I'm not hiding.

MASON

That's not what I meant. It's just that tracking storms only sperm whales will ever see... that's not what you're supposed to be doing.

Kate stands... this conversation is ending.

KATE

Thanks for the career advice, but it's what they pay me to do. And they're going to stop paying me if I don't get back to work, so...

MASON

This isn't going like it did in my head. I just thought we could do some good together. I mean you see firsthand what's happening with the climate... the insane number of extreme weather events every day. There were almost two thousand tornadoes in the US last year. You were the girl who was gonna stop them, remember? We could still-

-Kate leans in for a quick, cold, hug goodbye, then turns.

KATE

It was nice seeing you, Mason.
Have a safe trip home.

Mason just watches Kate walk out.

INT. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - HALLWAY - DAY

Kate walks down a hall. Sandra steps out of a doorway, joins.

SANDRA

Bartholomew?

KATE

Not even close.

INT. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - FORECAST OFFICE - LATER

Kate at her computer, looking over radar images. The PING OF A NEW EMAIL. Kate sees the SENDER and SUBJECT LINE... *Mason Moseley... West Texas Two Days Ago.*

Kate hesitates before opening... the message- *We could stop these things...* with a VIDEO LINK.

Then SEVERAL MORE EMAILS PING... all from Mason... and we can only see the SUBJECT LINES- *Tulsa, Oklahoma... Lincoln, Nebraska, Des Moines, Iowa.*

Kate stares at them a moment then DELETES ALL... goes back to work.

FLASHCUT TO:

EXT. OVERPASS - DAY

Kate and Jeb pressed to the ground as those violent winds whip around them.

JEB

It's gonna be okay. It's gonna be okay. It's gonna be-

INT. NEW YORK STUDIO APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate wakes with a GASP, sits up, out of breath... heart racing. She calms... falls back to the pillow... lies there a moment, staring at the ceiling... haunted. She finally stands, lifting her phone from the nightstand.

EXT. APARTMENT - FIRE ESCAPE - NIGHT

Kate climbs out a window... sits on the fire escape, pulls up MASON'S *WEST TEXAS* EMAIL... clicks on the link... NEWS VIDEO FOOTAGE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD DESTROYED BY A TORNADO... HOUSES LEVELED... STREETS TORN AWAY... the CHYRON READS- *Eleven Killed By Texas Tornado*. The video ends. Kate stares at Mason's message- *We could stop these things*.

INT. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - FORECAST OFFICE - DAY

Slow day at the office. People chatting... getting coffee. Kate's at her desk, staring at the onscreen map- CONTINENTAL US... the MIDWEST... clicks the mouse... and the screen is DOTTED WITH SEVERAL LARGE STORM CELLS. DEREK, (30), that cute new I.T. guy, moves up beside Kate.

DEREK

Jesus, where are all those cells?

KATE

Oklahoma.

DEREK

Good thing we're not there.
Would've screwed up my cookout.

Kate doesn't respond... didn't even hear, as she's clicking on different cells... getting their readings.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Speaking of... you gonna stop by?

Kate stares at the numbers... thinking.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Yo, Kate?

KATE

Thanks, but I think I'm going to be out of town.

INT. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - HALLWAY - DAY

Kate moves down the hall, holding Mason's business card as she dials her cell phone. Some V.O. RINGS, then-

MASON (V.O.)

This is Mason Moseley.

KATE

I'll give you one week.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY - DAY

The sprawling city stretches out over rolling plains.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY AIRPORT - ARRIVALS TERMINAL - DAY

Sweltering. The sun blazing down. Kate steps out of the terminal carrying just her backpack, MOANS at the heat.

MASON (O.S.)

Welcome home.

Kate sees Mason smiling beside a WHITE SUV, dressed in a RED *STORMSHIELD* POLO and khakis. There's a LARGE MAGNETIC *STORMSHIELD* SIGN ON THE SIDE OF THE SUV. ANOTHER ON THE BACK.

KATE

Can you point me to someone from Stormshield? They were supposed to pick me up.

Mason fakes a laugh.

MASON

It's called marketing. I'm on the road forty thousand miles a year. Like a rollin' billboard, baby.

Mason opens the passenger door for Kate to climb in.

EXT. OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY - DAY

Cutting across open plains. Mason's SUV speeds along.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate in the passenger seat, looking over the dashboard... it's outfitted with hi-tech tablets displaying various live radar images, navigation maps, weather readings.

MASON

Little upgrade from the old school van, huh?

Mason taps a couple buttons... the radar images change.

MASON (CONT'D)

I've got live Doppler readings for an eleven-hundred mile radius from my location. Can see what's building from Vegas to Atlanta.

KATE

You got a jet too? 'Cause anything outside of about thirty could vanish by the time you drive there.

MASON

If business goes like I'm hoping, I won't have to chase after every storm. I'll have regional units set up all over the country.

(off Kate's smile)

What?

KATE

Business entrepreneur was not really how I saw your future. We used to feel lucky if we could get you to wear pants.

MASON

I couldn't find anybody willing to give me a paycheck for gettin' stoned and playing video games. Had to try a different route.

(shrugs)

Felt like this could be a way to pay the bills and help people out at the same time.

Kate motions to some radar images on the display... *large storm cells.*

KATE

We headed to these?

MASON

Gonna meet up with the team. Then let you tell us which one of those things is gonna pop.

Kate nods as she stares at the storm cells. Mason notices.

MASON (CONT'D)

If you're okay with that.

KATE

That's why I'm here.

EXT. MEDFORD, OKLAHOMA - GAS STATION - DAY

The parking lot is home to a storm-chasing party. MUSIC PLAYING. Vehicles everywhere. A STORM CHASING TOUR VAN.

AMATEUR STORM CHASERS mingling, watching the sky, flying drones... plotting their chase.

At the far end of the lot, Mason's white SUV is parked with FOUR OTHER IDENTICAL WHITE SUVS, all with the same magnetic *StormShield* signs on their doors.

Kate, Mason, and SEVEN ALL-MALE STORMSHIELD MEMBERS, all in matching red polos and khaki pants, stand beside the vehicles, as Mason introduces Kate to his team.

MASON

You guys have all heard me talk about Kate. There's no one with better instincts.

(to Kate)

And you won't find a more talented team than this one. We swiped meteorologist researchers from NASA... certified Tech-Rescue Paramedical experts from FEMA... data analyzers from NOAA.

KATE

You've stolen from a lot of letters.

MASON

Only the best ones.

(off an Employee)

Except for Scott here. He went to Oklahoma State instead of OU.

Scott gives Kate a stiff, chilly nod... Kate notices.

SCOTT

I won't hold it against you though.

MASON

We've only got her for a week, but if the models hold up it's gonna be the wildest one in thirty years.

Scott nods toward the Chasers across the lot.

SCOTT

And everybody with a weather app knows it. Gonna be a circus.

O.S. MUSIC TURNS THEM to a LINE OF VEHICLES PULLING IN- a VW VAN WITH TORNADOES PAINTED ALL OVER IT is at the rear... then an OLD PICKUP TRUCK WITH ANTENNAS AND SATELLITE DISHES AND A SET OF STEER LONGHORNS MOUNTED ON ITS HOOD...

then a BATTERED FOOD TRUCK WITH LOUDSPEAKERS ON ITS ROOF
BLASTING LYLE LOVETT'S *That's Right (You're Not From
Texas)*...

LYLE LOVETT (V.O.)
*You say you're not from Texas. Man
as if I couldn't tell.*

...and leading the pack is a BEAT-TO-SHIT SUV COVERED IN HAIL-
STORM DENTS. SMALL ROCKET LAUNCHERS are mounted on each roof
side, steel-slat blinds rest above its WINDOWS.

STORMSHIELD MEMBER #1
And can't have a circus without
clowns.

As the SUV passes, the passenger window lowers. BOONE, (30s),
shaggy, wearing a burnt orange Texas Longhorns t-shirt,
bandana, and cracked sunglasses, smiles out at the
Stormshield team... holds out a hand in that famous *Hook 'Em
Horns* gesture...

LYLE LOVETT (V.O.)
*You think you put your boots on
right and wear your hat so well.*

STORMSHIELD MEMBER #2
I hate these guys.

LYLE LOVETT (V.O.)
*But you're not from Texas. That's
right you're not from Texas.*

...and Boone's hand slowly transforms into just a MIDDLE
FINGER FLIPPING THEM OFF.

STORMSHIELD MEMBER #1
Blow me, Boone!

Boone just LAUGHS as they pull up to the gas pumps.

MASON
Don't engage with 'em.

KATE
Who are they?

MASON
Chasers outta Austin.

SCOTT
YouTube glory hunters.

TYLER OWENS, (30s), Twenty-First Century cowboy, wearing dirty jeans, flannel shirt, and a *White Horse Saloon* ballcap spun around backwards, climbs out of the driver's side of that battered SUV... starts gassing up.

MASON

Tyler Owens. Calls himself an
Extreme Meteorologist.

Tyler glances over... notices Kate.

KATE

What's that mean?

MASON

That he's a reckless *Ego Chaser*
just in it for the spotlight.

Some Amateur Chasers rush to Tyler and his group, phones ready for pics... some are WEARING T-SHIRTS WITH TYLER LASSOING A TORNADO ON THE FRONT.

SCOTT

And the sheep are always ready to
give it to him.

MASON

Grab some supplies so we can get
ahead of his bunch.

Scott and the others head toward the store. Mason holds out a HANDHELD TABLET for Kate... live weather radar images.

MASON (CONT'D)

So whatta ya think's our target?

Kate studies the tablet.

MASON (CONT'D)

Couple nice cells over to the west
that definitely look like they want
to mature into something.

KATE

The smaller one east is riding a
front. Riskier, but it's near a
nice trough... could be worth it.

Kate squints out to the distance, then carries the tablet to a patch of grass... looks toward a SMALL DARK CLOUD FAR TO THE WEST... then to TWO LARGER STORMS TO THE EAST.

Kate PICKS A DEAD DANDELION... lets the breeze take the white seeds, carry them through the air.

-- TYLER AT HIS VEHICLE... watching Kate... as Amateurs CHATTER AWAY around him, peppering him with stories, admiring his storm-ravaged vehicle. He's not listening.

-- BOONE AND LILY, (20s), free spirit with drone goggles perched on her head, reach the convenience store door as the Stormshield Guys walk out in their red polos and khaki pants. Boone smiles and nods to each as they pass.

LILY

Jake From State Farm... Jake from
State Farm... Jake from State...

They all ignore Lily as they continue past... to Mason.

STORMSHIELD MEMBER #2

Man, we really need new shirts.

Mason didn't hear. He's focused on Tyler walking toward Kate.

MASON

What's Owens doin'?

-- KATE squinting up at the sky. Tyler moves beside her.

TYLER

You new to Mason's crew, or just
smart enough not to wear one of his
sad little uniforms?

Kate keeps looking at the sky.

KATE

I'm just visiting. No wardrobe
requirements.

TYLER

Lucky for you.
(nods to dandelion stem)
I used to do that. To compare wind
direction with cloud movement. Get
a feel for wind shear.

Kate doesn't engage... just nods as she reads the sky.

TYLER (CONT'D)

You do a lotta chasing?

Before Kate has to respond, BEN HURST, (20s), trimmed beard and New York Times baseball cap, approaches.

BEN

Tyler, do we know which storm we're
going after yet?

TYLER

Not sure. Maybe we should ask...

Tyler looks at Kate, waiting for her name.

KATE

Kate.

TYLER

Hi, Kate. I'm Tyler.

Kate gives him the hint of a nod.

TYLER (CONT'D)

And this is Ben. He's in from New York for a few days.

BEN

Doing a story on storm chasing.
Tyler's letting me ride along.

TYLER

He just had to promise to write
nothing but good stuff about me.

KATE

(starts walking away)
Well good luck with that.

TYLER

Hang on. You didn't say which way
should we go yet.
(off her tablet)
Last I checked, west, we double our
chances. East is high risk, high
reward.

KATE

And reward's what it's all about
right? Otherwise Ben here will
think you're boring.

TYLER

(smiles)
Boring's not usually a problem for
me, Kate.

KATE

The two cells to the west are
fighting over the same updrafts.
Numbers are already starting to
plateau. Means they're going to
choke each other out before they
can develop.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

(nods east)

This one's got the sky to himself.
Wind shear and instability are
perfect for him to put on a show.

Ben looks to Tyler for confirmation.

TYLER

The lady knows her stuff, Ben.

KATE

Thanks. Maybe if I work real hard,
I could grow up to be an extreme
meteorologist too.

Kate gives a little smile as she turns. And Tyler smiles too.

-- KATE reaches Mason and his Team.

KATE (CONT'D)

The two to the west near the
dryline are the play. Plenty of
moisture to feed them both. Trough
is deepening and shear is
increasing. Instability could be
massive if they combine.

SCOTT

I like that cell to the east.

KATE

Conditions aren't right. CAP is too
strong, will never break.

Scott starts to respond, but before he can-

MASON

-You heard her, fellas. Let's move.

They start for their vehicles. Scott trailing, unhappy.

-- TYLER AND BEN watch the line of StormShield vehicles
driving away... turning onto a highway.

BEN

(confused)

I thought she told us east.

TYLER

She did.

BEN

So they're going the wrong way?

TYLER
(smiles)
Nope.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Mason driving. Kate eyeing the distant storm cells.

MASON
What did Owens have to say?

KATE
What you'd expect. Nothing clever.
(off the cells)
Starting to spread out a little.

MASON
Think that could weaken it?

KATE
(shakes her head)
Updraft is just cycling.

As they watch the sky-

KATE (CONT'D)
And why do I feel like Scott
usually sits where I am?

MASON
(smiles)
There are those fine-tuned
instincts. Scott's smart. But a
little too clinical. I need that
Magic 8-Ball head of yours.

Kate fakes a smile as she stares out toward the storms.

-- ANGLE ON THE RADAR... THE COLORS OF THE TWO STORM CELLS...
GREEN, YELLOW, ORANGE, DARKENING TO A DEEP RED AT THE CENTER.

SLAM TO:

-- THE LIVE STORM FROM HIGH ABOVE... THICK CLOUDS CHURNING...
LIGHTNING FLASHING DEEP WITHIN. AND WE PUSH DOWN THROUGH
THEM... GET CONSUMED BY THE CLOUDS, THE RAIN, HAIL... UNTIL
WE FINALLY ERUPT FROM THE BOTTOM... RIGHT OVER THE LINE OF
STORMSHIELD VEHICLES SPEEDING ALONG A HIGHWAY.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate's squinting out the window toward the storm cells.

MASON
Starting to see the hint of an
anvil.

Kate nods. Mason taps the wireless radio mic in his ear.

MASON (CONT'D)
What's our access southwest?

SCOTT (V.O.)
On the right. Six hundred yards.

Mason turns onto a dirt road, RATTLES ACROSS A CATTLE GUARD.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The other StormShield SUVs follow in formation, CLANKING OVER THE CATTLE GUARD... as ABOVE THEM THE CLOUDS CHURN... RUMBLE... LIGHTNING FLASHES... THE STORM TRANSFORMING.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate peers into the distance... *a little anxious*... as she watches a SINGLE FINGER OF SWIRLING CLOUDS begin to snake down out of the storm cell.

KATE
Here it comes.

MASON
Just like you called it.
(into his mic)
Funnel developing.

SCOTT (V.O.)
We've got eyes on it.

MASON
Vehicles Three and Four find a
trailing course.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Two trailing vehicles veer off across open fields.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate and Mason watch as the funnel cloud slowly forms that classic tornado we're all so familiar with.

KATE
So what's the plan?

MASON
Each vehicle has sensors ready to deploy. We'll hit it from every angle, see what sticks. Try to grab some boundary level readings.

Mason looks at Kate... senses her anxiousness.

MASON (CONT'D)
You sure you're okay with this?

KATE
Yeah. Fine.

The funnel cloud touches ground... a brown cloud erupts.

KATE (CONT'D)
Debris field.

MASON
It's down. Let's go to work.

Mason steps on the gas... the SUV picks up speed... JUST AS TYLER'S SUV COMES BLASTING FROM A SIDE ROAD...

MASON (CONT'D)
Christ!

...and Mason jerks the wheel, sending them through a ditch at 80 mph, up into the field, Mason fighting to steer.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Tyler's SUV races down the road, followed by several amateur chase vehicles right behind.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Bouncing violently through the field as Kate hangs on, and Mason tries to find a safe place to get back on the road...

MASON
These assholes... that's what I'm talkin' about. No rules anymore.

...swerves back through the ditch onto the road.

MASON (CONT'D)
Like the fuckin' wild west.

EXT. OKLAHOMA PLAINS - DAY

A 21st Century Gold Rush... vehicles roaring down the dirt road... across the open fields... racing toward the tornado.

-- THE TORNADO rips over the plains... releasing a MONSTROUS ROAR as it moves... devouring everything in its path.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate peers out at the distant tornado.

KATE
Vortex about thirty meters wide.

MASON
EF-1?

Kate nods. Her hand grips the armrest a little tighter.

INT. STORMSHIELD SUV - DAY

Charging across the plains. The tornado ahead in the distance. Scott checks the LIVE RADAR DISPLAY ON HIS WATCH.

SCOTT
Steady northeast heading at
seventeen mile per hour.

EXT. OKLAHOMA PLAINS - DAY

TWO CONSTRUCTION TRAILERS stand near an OIL DERRICK... until the tornado hits the trailers... rips through them.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Vehicles are pulling to the shoulder... CHASERS stopping a safe distance away from the tornado... climbing out to take pictures... as the two StormShield vehicles speed past them.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate watches them go past the parked vehicles... looks to the tornado churning across the plains ahead.

KATE

How close are we trying to get?

MASON

Just enough to plant stationary sensors in front of it... and hope the path holds.

KATE

(studying the tornado)
Rotation's steady. Should stay constant... intersect with the road in half a mile.

MASON

Sensors are in the back.

Kate scrambles to the back seat... starts digging through boxes... pulling out ELECTRONIC SENSORS, turning them on.

KATE

They all configured?!

MASON

Just gotta get 'em inside.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The other StormShield SUVs tear across the field, approaching the tornado from behind as it moves away from them.

INT. STORMSHIELD SUV - DAY

Scott watches as they near the funnel... winds whipping debris all around them.

SCOTT

This is as close as we can get with the debris. Let's take our shots.

EXT. STORMSHIELD SUV - DAY

Scott and another Team Member climb out with SMALL HIGH-TECH ROCKET LAUNCHERS... struggle to hold them steady in the swirling winds... then FIRE TWO WEATHER-SENSOR ROCKETS.

The rockets sail toward the tornado... get blown back out... spin harmlessly away.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Wind gusting hard. Mason's SUV slides to a stop. Kate and Mason leap out. The funnel cloud is raging over the fields straight toward them... debris beginning to swirl everywhere.

Mason pulls some LARGE STAKES from the rear... they push through the winds... drive them into the dirt... start strapping the sensors to the stakes, as the other StormShield SUV pulls up behind... two StormShield Members leap out with SMALL HIGH-TECH ROCKET LAUNCHERS.

MASON
(waving them back)
This is the path!

The StormShield Members leap back into the SUV... reverse full speed back down the dirt road.

Kate fumbles with her sensor... struggling to get it strapped as the winds pound them, and she keeps throwing anxious glances toward that approaching tornado.

KATE
We've gotta go!

A FLYING BRANCH slams into Mason's stake, knocks it over... the SENSOR GOES DARK.

MASON
Shit.

He begins resetting the sensor as the winds grow more violent. Kate's given up on her sensor... is watching that tornado closing in.

KATE
It's picking up speed!

MASON
Almost got it!

A LARGE PIECE OF STEEL TRAILER ROOF COMES SPINNING OUT OF THE CLOUD PAST THEM... STABS INTO THE EARTH.

KATE
Mason!

MASON
Get in! I'll be right behind you!

Kate races to the SUV.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate throws it into gear, ready to get the hell out of there.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Mason's braced against the winds, struggling to secure the sensor... as KATE HONKS THE HORN over and over... and Mason drops the sensor again... as the HORN CONTINUES... and Mason finally just runs back to the SUV with the sensor in hand.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Mason leaps into the passenger seat.

MASON

At least we know the horn works.

Kate stomps the gas, speeds down the road, as Mason grabs a launcher.

MASON (CONT'D)

That's far enough.

Kate keeps going.

MASON (CONT'D)

We're outta the path, Kate.

(off Kate continuing)

I won't be able to get the rocket
inside from this far!

Kate looks at the rearview mirror, sees the funnel cloud safely behind them. She stops. Mason jumps out.

EXT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Mason aims... fires... the sensor rocket sails toward the cloud... but the heavy funnel winds knock the rocket back...

MASON

Shit.

...just as Tyler's vehicle pulls up beside them... and Tyler's window lowers... Tyler watching that rocket float harmlessly away... as BOONE VIDEOS.

TYLER

Too far away, Mason. Never get it
into the core from way out here.

(smiles at Kate)

Hi, Kate.

Tyler continues down the road toward the funnel cloud... his
window rising as we hear from somewhere inside--

BEN (O.S.)

I don't want to do this, Tyler!

Kate and Mason watch as Tyler's vehicle nears the tornado...
those SLAT BLINDS dropping over the windows just as it's
swallowed up by the debris cloud... gone.

Kate stares, concerned... when COLORS BEGIN FLASHING INSIDE
THE TORNADO... and Kate's concern turns to confusion. Then--

KATE

Are those fireworks?

Mason nods as they watch that fifty meter-wide funnel move
slowly across the road... into the field beyond...

...and Tyler's vehicle appears resting at the center of the
road, turned at an angle from the winds.

Once the tornado is at a safe distance, the vehicle's doors
open... Tyler, Boone, and Ben climb out. Boone raises his
arms victoriously. Ben bends over like he's going to vomit...
and Tyler just grins back at Mason and Kate.

TYLER

Can't miss from in there!

Mason's annoyed... tosses the launcher into the SUV, hurries
past Kate to the driver's side.

KATE

He's insane.

MASON

C'mon, maybe we can get back around
in front of it again.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate climbs in the passenger side. Mason's accelerating
before she even has the door closed... racing down the road.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - DAY

A *STORM TOURS* van parked in the center of the road. TOURISTS pose on top of the van, as the TOUR OPERATOR stands below, taking a pictures of the group against the backdrop of that PERFECT FUNNEL CLOUD RIPPING ACROSS THE PLAINS BEHIND THEM.

TOUR OPERATOR
Slide down a little more so I can
get our sign in the frame.

The Tourists inch their way into pose position.

TOUR OPERATOR (CONT'D)
Didn't I tell you Storm Tours would
bring you face to face with one of
these?! Everybody say *Twister*!

TOURISTS
TWISTER!!!

A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND BLOWS A FEW HATS OFF HEADS. A GUIDE squints out at the storm... moving closer... fast.

GUIDE
Think it's pickin' up speed.

TOUR OPERATOR
Yeah, okay. Let's load back up.

The Tourists hustle for the ladder. A few jump off the roof.

INT. TOUR VAN - DAY

Everyone hurries into their seats...

TOUR OPERATOR
Remember to tell your friends it's
always an adventure out here.

...the Tour Operator turns the key... the ENGINE JUST GRINDS... CLICKS... he turns it again a little more urgently.

GUIDE
Doin' it again?

The Tour Operator keeps turning the key.

ELDERLY MAN
Doing what again?

The Tour Operator nods to the Guide. The Guide jumps out.

ELDERLY MAN (CONT'D)
Where the hell's he going?

TOUR OPERATOR
Just a loose wire. No worries.

They watch the Guide struggle to raise the hood in the winds. The Van sways. The Tourists begin CHATTERING NERVOUSLY as their eyes jump from the Guide stretching under the hood, to that oncoming funnel cloud.

WOMAN
We shouldn't still be here.

The Tour Operator frantically turns the key, the ENGINE FINALLY STARTS... as outside, the Guide fights the wind to close the hood.

TOUR OPERATOR
Just leave it!

The Guide rushes back in as the tornado is nearly on them...

ELDERLY MAN
Get us the hell outta here!

...and the Tour Operator stomps the gas, the van begins to pull away, but the tornado's winds catch the van... tear the open hood away... lift the rear end in the air... EVERYONE SCREAMING... then drops it, and the van vaults forward.

EXT. TOUR VAN - DAY

Escaping the edge of that EF-2 debris field, when the winds blow the van over onto its side... sending the van sliding into a ditch before the tornado continues on its course... the winds calm... with the Van just lying in the ditch...

...when one of the van's dented doors CREAKS OPEN... the Elderly Man's head rises out, frazzled and confused.

ELDERLY MAN
Son of a bitch!

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Speeding down the state road. Kate and Mason have eyes on the tornado... the debris cloud thinning...

KATE
It's weakening.

MASON
Come on... hang around a little longer.

...the funnel rising back into the air... disappearing.

MASON (CONT'D)
Shit.

Mason slows to a stop in the road, watching the last of the tornado vanish. A car speeds around them, honking as it goes by. Mason angrily honks back.

KATE
Sorry.

Mason looks at Kate, his anger immediately softens.

MASON
No, my fault. I wasn't thinking.
Rushed you. You're okay though?

KATE
I'm fine.
(off his knowing look)
I'll be fine. Promise.

Mason smiles, gives her hand a squeeze, starts driving again... as Kate looks up to the sky, *hoping to be fine*.

EXT. MEDFORD, OKLAHOMA - MEDFORD MOTEL - EVENING

A wood and brick two-story built in the 1950s. Twenty rooms in all. Each with bright red numbered door. And right now, the parking lot has been turned into an *End Of The Day Storm Chaser's Party*... a makeshift band playing... drinking and dancing... lots of rehashing the day's events.

Kate and Mason walk along the edge of the party toward the rooms. Mason gives Kate a room key.

MASON
You're on the far end. Hopefully won't be too loud.

KATE
Will be great. Thanks.

MASON
You wanna hang out for a while?
Catch up?

KATE

Tomorrow maybe, thanks. Just going to try to get some sleep tonight.

MASON

(hint of disappointment)

Yeah, okay. I'll be around if you change your mind.

Kate nods... waves over her shoulder as she goes.

--KATE nears her door--

TYLER (O.S.)

Little Miss Dandelion.

Kate sees a smiling Tyler sitting outside one of the rooms, drinking beers with Ben, Boone, and Lily.

TYLER (CONT'D)

(repeating Kate's forecast)

*Numbers are already plateauing.
Means they're gonna choke each
other out before they can develop.*

KATE

Didn't throw you off the scent.

TYLER

'Cause I'm too good at this.

KATE

I wouldn't know, I don't watch YouTube.

TYLER

You're missin' out then. All life's most important questions are answered on YouTube.

Kate's not sure if he's serious. His smile says he isn't. And it's obvious there's a spark between them.

BOONE

So this is the duplicitous girl.

LILY

Hey, life's a competition. I like her style.

Lily gives Kate a fist-bump.

TYLER

Lily's our drone pilot.

LILY
World Champion two years running
drone pilot.
(to Kate)
He always forgets that part.

KATE
Why doesn't she get her own t-
shirt?

LILY
That's what I keep saying!

BOONE
You're sneaky, but you made a solid
call. That other cell looked
stronger but the CAP never broke.

Boone makes a little magic trick disappearing motion.

KATE
(off Boone's shirt)
Let me guess, you're UT
Meteorology.

BOONE
Shit no. Music department!

Boone does a quick, exaggerated, air guitar move.

BOONE (CONT'D)
Only chase with Tyler when I don't
have a gig.

Lily playfully jumps on Boone's back.

LILY
So he chases pretty much all the
time.

TYLER
You want a beer?

KATE
Thanks. Gonna go see how tomorrow
is setting up.

BOONE
Oh shit, tomorrow's gonna be a
banger.

Boone breaks into another air guitar riff as he sings Texas'
own Stevie Ray Vaughn's-

BOONE (CONT'D)
The sky is crying.

BEN
Kate, what's your guess on where
the action is going to be?

TYLER
We're not fallin' for that again,
Ben. We can't trust a word that
comes out of Kate's mouth.

Kate continues toward her room... looks back as she goes.

KATE
Exactly how do you become an
Extreme Meteorologist? Do your
weather reports from a half-pipe?

Tyler fakes a laugh... watches Kate continue away.

LILY
I like her.

INT. MEDFORD MOTEL - KATE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kate propped up on the bed, checking weather radar on her laptop. O.S. MUSIC and LAUGHTER still going on outside. A GROUP OF VOICES begins CHANTING "ABC" over and over. Then-

TYLER (O.S.)
Yeah, baby, let's go!!

And the ABC CHANTS GROW LOUDER. Kate goes to the window... inches the curtains back just enough to see Tyler standing on the roof of his beat up vehicle, beer raised high as he leads the surrounding Mob in the chant... all bouncing, drinking, having a great time.

The hint of a smile starts to creep across Kate's face, then a thought quickly fades her smile. She walks back to the bed, the laptop, pulls up PHOTOS... an OLD VIDEO OF KATE, JEB, MASON, and the gang laughing around a campfire.

Kate puts on headphones, silencing the real world outside.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

One of those truck stops with a GREASY SPOON RESTAURANT. The parking lot is packed with storm chaser vehicles. CHASERS mingling outside, going over forecasts.

INT. TRUCK STOP - LADIES ROOM - DAY

Kate's at the sink, running cool water over her face. She looks up at her reflection... takes a calming breath.

INT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Kate walks through the store... stops at a TELEVISION on the wall, broadcasting a WEATHER REPORT.

REPORTER (V.O.)
...with possible major storms across Oklahoma over the next thirty-six hours, we could be looking at a record number of tornadoes before things calm.

INT. TRUCK STOP - RESTAURANT - DAY

Mason and Scott in a booth with MARSHALL HAWKINS, (40s), wearing jeans and a LEGACY CONSTRUCTION polo shirt.

MASON
We know of at least two farms that were hit.

SCOTT
And the horse ranch.

MASON
Yeah, so that's three all in that same four mile radius.

HAWKINS
Any idea of the damage?

Kate reaches them, as-

MASON
Roof work for sure on two. Third is probably a total rebuild. All on the high-end so insurance coverage won't be an issue.

KATE
When do you want to head out?

MASON
Just finishing some things up here. Kate, this is Marshall Hawkins. We do some work together.

HAWKINS

Kate, nice to meet you.

MASON

Kate and I chased in school. Trying
to convince her to join the team.

(to Kate)

Couple more minutes here.

Kate nods... walks to the counter, eyeing the menu... when
her PHONE BUZZES. She looks at it... WEATHER DATA.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Kate walks outside... looks to the sky... clear except for a
LARGE CLOUD RISING IN THE DISTANCE. She studies the cloud...
as Tyler comes around the corner, sunglasses shielding his
hungover eyes. He's staring at the same cloud... then notices
Kate... smiles... looks back to the cloud.

TYLER

Mornin', Kate. How was your night?

KATE

(staring at the cloud)

Loud. You?

TYLER

Short.

(off the cloud)

That's not gonna be the one.

KATE

Nope.

TYLER

Good thing 'cause I got a helluva
headache.

They continue gazing up... studying it.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Where'd you tell me you learned to
track storms?

KATE

I didn't.

Tyler smiles. Kate turns to go back inside.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna grab something to drink,
you want anything?

TYLER
I wouldn't mind an ice tea. Thanks.

INT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Kate steps inside, and is immediately moving fast, weaving between a couple TRUCKERS... to Mason in that booth.

KATE
We need to go.

MASON
Just another-

KATE
-Now. We've got something big.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Kate and Mason trot to Mason's SUV. Tyler's SUV SPEEDS PAST.

KATE
Owens is on it.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

None of the hi-tech bells and whistles that Mason has. It's stripped down and built for battle. Tyler at the wheel. Boone in the passenger seat checking radar on his phone. Ben and Lily in the back. Lily sees Mason's SUV trailing.

LILY
Kate must've put Mason on it too.

Ben glances back.

BEN
She's very intriguing.

TYLER
Let's focus on our story, Ben.

EXT. OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY - DAY

Tyler and Mason's SUVs race along an endless stretch of pavement... straight toward that towering cloud structure.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate's stretching to peer out toward the storm ahead.

MASON
Whatta ya think?

KATE
Already has nice destabilization.

MASON
Enough to sustain?

KATE
Yeah. Flow is clean. Pulling tons
of warm air from the south.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler having the same conversation with Ben.

TYLER
As soon as that warmer air busts
through the cap, we'll get rain.

RAIN begins splashing on the windshield.

BOONE
Just like that.

TYLER
Then next we need some vertical
wind shear to get a rotation going.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Mason throws on the windshield wipers.

KATE
Wind speeds are right in line.
Should bump into a nice rotation
and give us a vorticity river.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

HAIL beginning to tap the windshield.

TYLER
That'll carry the air and
precipitation into the mesocyclone,
and give us a nice hook.

BOONE

A hook is that curved image of
reflectivity you see on radar.

Lily holds up her phone radar to show Ben that familiar RED
HOOK SHAPE.

--AHEAD OF THEM... a FUNNEL CLOUD BEGINS TO DESCEND.

TYLER

And there you go, Ben. The birth of
a tornado.

EXT. TORNADO - DAY

The funnel cloud touches ground, igniting a debris cloud, as
above the tornado, the massive cloud begins to separate in
half... each section rotating on its own.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Rain and hail coming down harder. Kate and Mason squint
through it, watching as the storm cell swirls apart.

KATE

It's splitting.

MASON

They're gonna choke each other out.

KATE

Can we go faster?

Mason looks at Kate, unsure. But Kate smiles... *she's ready*.
She holds out her fist, and Mason extends his... their quick,
fun, fist-bump from the old days. Mason steps on the gas.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler, Boone, Lily, and Ben watch as a SECOND FUNNEL CLOUD
stretches down from the split storm.

TYLER

Congratulations, Ben, you've got
twins. Question now is, which one
of them is gonna kill the other.

LILY

Doctors told my mother I ate my
twin sister in the womb.

Lily looks at Ben... gives a SNAP OF HER TEETH. Ben manages an awkward smile.

Movement beside Tyler catches his eye... in time to see Mason's SUV roaring past... Kate smiling out the window, gives Tyler a cocky little shrug as she moves ahead.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate and Mason watch the TWIN TORNADOES.

KATE
They both won't last.

MASON
Which one do we go after?

KATE
Need one to dominate.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Boone checks his radar readings.

BOONE
Got pretty equal strength. Plenty of instability across the board.

TYLER
Not for long. One always turkey necks the other.

Tyler watches the two tornadoes drift further apart.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Right twin's the move.

BEN
How can you tell?

BOONE
How it almost always goes.

TYLER
And you can see with that rotation. It's the way the air wants to flow. Won't have to work as hard.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Mason's checking his navigation screen as he drives.

MASON

Left turn coming up in a quarter
mile. Right is another mile beyond.

Kate studies the two funnels, looking for any hint.

KATE

Right.

MASON

You sure?

KATE

Play the odds. Right survives
ninety percent of the time.

Then Kate wipes the condensation from her window... looks
out... sees a LAKE... the water blowing hard to the left. She
watches it for a moment, then--

KATE (CONT'D)

Left!

MASON

What?!

KATE

Go left!!

Mason yanks the wheel, they go skidding onto the side road.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler, Boone, Lily, and Ben watch Mason's SUV take that hard
left as they speed past. Tyler smiles... FLIPS ON THE PHONE
ATTACHED TO HIS DASH so he can film their approach.

TYLER

Your intriguing girl just screwed
the pooch, Ben.

Boone LAUGHS... hits the stereo button... Molly Hatchet's
FLIRTING WITH DISASTER BLASTS.

MOLLY HATCHET (V.O.)

*I'm travelin' down the road I'm
flirtin' with disaster. I've got
the pedal to the floor, my life is
running faster.*

Tyler turns left down a DIRT ROAD... heading directly toward
that RIGHT tornado ripping over the plains.

EXT. TWIN TORNADOES - DAY

FROM HIGH ABOVE... moving opposite directions as they tear across the earth... with Mason's SUV racing after one, and Tyler's SUV closing in on the other.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Molly Hatchet still BLASTING. Tyler steering straight at the tornado's path as it roars toward the dirt road ahead.

TYLER
(for his LIVESTREAM)
We're gonna fire a couple flares
straight up this thing's ass.

Boone scrambles to ready the rocket launchers. Lily gives a WAR CRY as she trades seats with him.

BEN
Oh God, we don't have to drive into
another one do we?

TYLER
Anybody can sit on the fence rail
to watch a rodeo, Ben. Gotta ride
the bull to get the glory.

Tyler slows as they reach the intersection point... that tornado chewing up the earth straight toward them... Molly Hatchet blaring... Lily drumming on the dash... Boone gripping the launch triggers, waiting to fire... debris starting to pound them...

TYLER (CONT'D)
Almost!

...and just before the tornado reaches them, IT SUDDENLY FADES TO NOTHING... the wisps of funnel cloud retreating back up... as Tyler, Boone, Lily, and Ben just watch it go.

MOLLY HATCHET (V.O.)
*Flirtin' with disaster, ya'll know
what I mean. You know the way we
run our lives it makes no sense to-*

-Tyler turns off the music. Lily stops drumming. Silence. Tyler looks to his rearview... sees the other twin still going strong... and Mason's SUV closing in on it.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate and Mason watching the tornado tear through a pasture fence as it approaches their side road.

KATE
It's strengthening.

MASON
Yeah that's a very nice shape.

KATE
Intersect point is about five hundred yards.

MASON
Just wanna get close enough for one clear shot into its inflow notch.

Kate scrambles into the back seat... loads the mini-launcher. Mason slows to a stop in the center of the road... Kate gives him the launcher. He gives her his phone.

MASON (CONT'D)
Film this for me.

KATE
Film you? Why?

MASON
Might be able to use it for something.

EXT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Rain, hail, and debris flying, as Mason climbs out... aims the launcher toward the tornado... two hundred yards away... a hundred and fifty... a hundred... Mason steadies himself in the violent winds... FIRES the sensor rocket toward the funnel, piercing the outer layer of churning storm.

MASON
We're in!

Then he looks across the highway toward Tyler's vehicle... throws his arms up in victory.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

All watching Mason celebrate.

LILY

Kate's really good at this shit,
huh?

Tyler doesn't respond... just reaches up to turn off the
LIVESTREAM. And Ben TAKES A PHOTOGRAPH OF MASON.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Kate's filming Mason, but looking past him... to the
tornado... SHIFTING DIRECTION... MOVING TOWARD THEM.

KATE

MASON!

But the tornado is too loud, Mason can't hear her. So Kate
SLAMS ON THE HORN... points.

KATE (CONT'D)

It turned!!

Mason sees the funnel nearing. He scrambles back in as the
debris field starts washing over them. Mason throws the SUV
into REVERSE... the TIRES SQUEAL ON THE PAVEMENT but the SUV
barely moves... the force of the tornado holding them.

Mason slams the gas pedal to the floor... the SUV slowly
breaks away from the tornado's grip... and now they're
tearing down that road in reverse, Mason looking behind them
as he tries to navigate the curves, while Kate stares
straight ahead into the charging tornado.

EXT. TORNADO - DAY

Ripping over the ground... staying with Mason's SUV as it
shortcuts through the corners on the road, while Mason's SUV
has to weave the turns.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Mason fighting the wheel as the rain and hail slams down...
the tires sliding on the wet road... and the tornado edge
catches the front of the SUV, begins twisting it. Mason makes
a desperate pull on the wheel to get them out of the
tornado's path. The SUV shoots sideways, off the road.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

The SUV spins a tight circle in the field before finally
coming to a stop.

MASON

You okay?

Kate nods as she watches the tornado continue away.

KATE

It's picking up speed.

MASON

Heading is north-northeast. Any areas at risk?

Kate pulls up a navigation map on the screen.

KATE

Harper... Crystal Springs.

Mason FLIPS ON THE MOUNTED VIDEO CAMERA as he drives.

MASON

This is Mason Moseley of StormShield. We've just encountered a dangerous EF-2 tornado approximately thirty miles east of Medford, Oklahoma. It's currently on a northeast course toward the communities of Crystal Springs and Harper. If you're along this storm path, find immediate shelter.

EXT. TORNADO - DAY

INSIDE THAT VIOLENT CHAOS OF DEAFENING WIND, RAIN, AND HAIL as it rips across the plains... shreds through a sign-
Welcome To Crystal Springs.

INT. MASON'S SUV - DAY

Racing down a road, parallel to the Tornado. Kate and Mason watch as the funnel cloud tears into the small town... devouring the buildings. Mason's videoing the destruction.

MASON

This is a live shot of Crystal Springs, Oklahoma.

EXT. CRYSTAL SPRINGS, OKLAHOMA - MAIN STREET - DAY

Small town. Two stoplights. Old shops line both sides of the street... and that Tornado leveling everything in its path.

EXT. CRYSTAL SPRINGS, OKLAHOMA - EVENING

Fire Trucks, Rescue Vehicles, flashing Police Cruisers, and News Channel Vans along what was once Main Street. EMERGENCY WORKERS search the rubble. Kate and Mason stand along the perimeter, looking over the destruction.

MASON

Not gonna be easy to build this place back.

KATE

This is the kind of thing we wanted to stop from happening.

MASON

Until then, all we can do is try to make people safer.

Mason sees Hawkins driving up in an expensive Land Rover.

MASON (CONT'D)

I've gotta meet with Marshall. Might be here for a while.

Mason hands her his car keys.

MASON (CONT'D)

We've got rooms at the West Way outside OKC.

KATE

You sure? I can wait.

MASON

I'll catch a ride with Scott.

Mason starts walking... looks back as he goes.

MASON (CONT'D)

And you were great today.

Kate watches him join Hawkins... then sees a YOUNG BOY trying to get something from under a fallen building wall.

KATE

Careful in there.

YOUNG BOY

My brother's bike. I wasn't supposed to use it.

Kate joins in... sees the bike beneath half-hidden beneath the wreckage... begins clearing it away.

COP (O.S.)
None of that!

They look up... see a COP waving them away.

COP (CONT'D)
All this is off limits.

KATE
Just getting his bike.

COP
Kid's just gonna have to walk for a while.

YOUNG BOY
My brother's gonna kill me.

The Cop just shrugs. The Young Boy looks like he's going to cry... starts to turn away, when Tyler approaches, lifting a section of the wall to grab the bike himself.

COP
Get outta there, Owens!

Tyler pulls the bike free... steers it to the Young Boy.

TYLER
Little dusty but she rolls.

The Young Boy jumps on, starts riding away.

YOUNG BOY
Thanks!

COP
Stay outta this shit, Owens.

TYLER
Savin' you some work, Jonah. His brother kills him, and you've got a whole murder investigation to worry about.

The Cop starts to respond, but just walks off instead.

TYLER (CONT'D)
(off the destruction)
Whatta you figure, F2?

KATE
Maybe even a *Three*.

TYLER

Every year see more and more towns
like this. We've definitely pissed
off Mother Nature.

A BEAT, then-

TYLER (CONT'D)

Solid play on that left twin.

KATE

Didn't help these people any.

TYLER

Nope. But still... you're not bad
for one of Mason's academics.

KATE

Not one of Mason's anything.
And what, you're not a fan of
science?

TYLER

Degree in Atmospheric Science from
the top university in the country.

Tyler flashes a little *Hook 'Em Horns* gesture at her. Then he
looks over at Mason, Scott, and Hawkins.

TYLER (CONT'D)

It's just how the science is used
by some people that I'm not a fan.

KATE

From what I've seen, his team is
trying to do some good.

TYLER

For who exactly?

KATE

The ones suffering from these
storms. Others in the future.

TYLER

And all the poor, crooked, building
contractors who can help him dupe a
few more insurance companies.

KATE

Not sure a guy who joyrides into
tornadoes so he can shoot off
fireworks, and sell a few t-shirts
is the best critic.

TYLER
Over ten-thousand t-shirts, thank
you very much.

Kate looks back to Tyler's food truck. DEXTER and DANI, (both 70s at least), *chasers-for-life*, selling food and supplies to now homeless LOCALS. Boone and Lily are helping them.

KATE
And how much do you make every time
you set up shop after a storm hits?

TYLER
Careful, Kate. You sound like you
should be wearin' one of those red
shirts.

Kate's face flushes... mad and embarrassed. She starts to respond, but instead just turns... walks away...

TYLER (CONT'D)
See ya 'round.

...passes Ben...

BEN
Kate, do you have a minute for a
couple questions?

KATE
Tyler's better with clever answers.

...keeps walking... nears the SUV, as Lily comes trotting toward her.

LILY
Kate!

Lily surprises Kate with a friendly hug.

LILY (CONT'D)
You did awesome out there. I love
seeing Tyler lose sometimes.
(laughs)
He gets so pissed.

KATE
Happy to help.

Lily gives Kate a BOTTLED WATER AND BAG OF SNACKS.

KATE (CONT'D)
I don't have any money on me.

LILY

It's free. Tyler buys this stuff
with the souvenir cash he makes. So
we can pitch in on days like this.
When people need some help.

Kate's surprised... looks past Lily, to Tyler walking toward
the Food Truck to work... sees they're not selling, they're
handing out all the food and supplies.

KATE

Save 'em in case you run low.

LILY

You sure?

KATE

Thanks though.

Lily gives Kate another hug before heading back toward the
food truck.

LILY

See ya tomorrow maybe!

Kate nods... climbs into the SUV.

INT. MASON'S SUV - EVENING

Kate just sits there, watching Tyler's group... then looks to
Mason and Hawkins walking through the wreckage.

EXT. OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY - EVENING

Mason's SUV the only vehicle on a long stretch of road.

INT. MASON'S SUV - EVENING

Kate driving... sees an OVERPASS APPROACHING, and almost
startled, she immediately slows... drifts to the shoulder.
She just sits there staring at the overpass... as the ROAR OF
A TORNADO AND VOICES OF JEB AND THE OTHERS RISE AROUND HER...
because this is where that first F-5 tornado hit.

Kate eyes it another moment, then begins backing up along the
shoulder... until she reaches a side road, and turns down
it... taking a different route around the overpass.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY - BRICKTOWN BALLPARK - NIGHT

A minor league baseball stadium on the outskirts of the city. The bright stadium lights blaze in the night, as a LARGE CROWD watches the TWO TEAMS PLAY.

EXT. WEST WAY MOTEL - NIGHT

A cheap motel sitting on an open stretch of road a few blocks from the ballpark. The MOTEL OFFICE is at one end of the structure with a long row of one-story rooms extending out. On the opposite side of the office there's an EMPTY SWIMMING POOL with an *Under Repair* sign beside it. A small square of grass holds a makeshift playground, where a MOTHER, (30s), pushes A TODDLER BOY on a RUSTY SWING SET.

Mason's SUV is parked in the near-empty gravel lot.

INT. WEST WAY MOTEL - KATE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kate propped up on the bed, working her laptop... checking radar and weather forecasts. She types a few results into her phone, then closes the laptop... turns the tv on, flipping through channels... stops on NEWS FOOTAGE OF TORNADO DESTRUCTION IN CRYSTAL SPRINGS.

REPORTER (V.O.)
...categorized as an F-2, it tore across northeast Oklahoma earlier today, destroying much of the community of Crystal Springs.

The REPORTER and a LOCAL WOMAN appear onscreen.

LOCAL WOMAN (V.O.)
It was like the town exploded. Just took everything.

VIDEO OF STORMSHIELD MEMBERS moving through the destruction.

REPORTER (V.O.)
But experts say the town can be rebuilt. It will just take some time and very hard work.

MASON BEING INTERVIEWED ONSCREEN... the graphics chyron - *Mason Moseley Of StormShield.*

MASON (V.O.)
Helping each other when devastating things like this hit, that's what Americans are good at.
(MORE)

MASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Here in Crystal Springs, we already have experts working with local officials, ready to build shelters, start reconstruction, and set up a more effective warning system, so they'll be ready the next time a storm like this comes along. And we all know what it's like in Oklahoma these days. There's always another bad storm coming. I've lived this kind of tragedy. I watched an EF-5 take my best friends.

--ON KATE AS--

MASON (V.O.)

They're the reason I started StormShield. As a way to honor them by finding ways to make-

-Kate turns off the television... just stares at the blank screen a moment, then goes to her computer... pulls up the STORMSHIELD WEBSITE... glossy images of Mason and his Team in various storm-ravaged locations... a few of Mason with hardhat wearing Contractors holding blueprints.

She clicks on a VIDEO BOX, and that LIVESTREAM VIDEO OF MASON DRIVING EARLIER BEGINS.

MASON (V.O.)

This is Mason Moseley of StormShield. We've just encountered a dangerous EF2 tornado approximately thirty miles east of-

-A KNOCK AT KATE'S DOOR. She closes her laptop, sure that Mason is here. She just sits there, not moving... until ANOTHER KNOCK. She opens the door, reveals a smiling Tyler.

TYLER

I was thinkin' I could've been nicer to you back there.
(holds up pizza box)
Brought a gift to apologize.

KATE

How'd you know where I was?

TYLER

Heard one of Mason's bunch say where they were staying. Took a shot you'd be here. And hungry.
(off Kate's hesitation)
(MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)

It's not like this place has room service.

Kate hesitates, looks past him to a 1960s Triumph motorcycle parked beside Mason's SUV... then Kate takes the pizza...

KATE

Thanks.

...closes the door in Tyler's face... walks the box to a table, grabs her water bottle, then finally goes back to the door... opens it, revealing Tyler exactly where she left him. Kate turns back to the table, leaving the door open. Tyler grins... follows her to the table.

TYLER

Had me nervous. I don't have enough cash for another pizza.

Kate opens the box... a pepperoni pizza inside.

TYLER (CONT'D)

And about that before... I was just givin' you shit 'cause you were with Mason.

Tyler grabs a slice, immediately starts peeling the pepperoni off, dropping them back into the box.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Truth is I'm not that different. We're all gettin' somethin' outta these storms. While all the people in those small towns pay the price.

Tyler notices Kate watching him clean away the pepperoni.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I only like cheese on pizza.

Kate nods... takes a slice, clears the toppings.

TYLER (CONT'D)

So what's your story?

KATE

I don't like stuff on my pizza either.

Not what Tyler was looking for. Kate knows. Begins eating.

KATE (CONT'D)

I don't have a story.

TYLER
Everybody's got a story, Kate.

KATE
Not an interesting one. Mason and I
just went to school together.

TYLER
Okay, that's a start. What about
before that? Where you'd grow up?

KATE
Ben couldn't make it, so you're
doing his job for him?

TYLER
You've made me curious.

KATE
No, your turn.

TYLER
Amarillo. Home of the Big Texan.

KATE
Eat a disgustingly large steak, and
get it for free.

Tyler smiles and nods... motions for Kate to take her turn.

KATE (CONT'D)
Outside of Tulsa.

TYLER
Oil country. What about your
family? Dad some kinda tycoon?

KATE
Not quite. We had a farm. My dad
died when I was like two.

TYLER
Sorry.

KATE
I was too young to even understand
what happened. As I got older it
just seemed normal to only be me
and my mom.
(shrugs)
But we don't talk much anymore.

TYLER
Why's that?

KATE

No reason. I moved away after school. Back east. Just haven't been home much.

TYLER

Feels like there probably is a reason for that.

KATE

Your turn.

TYLER

What you see is what you get. Grew up rodeoing and working feed lots every summer. You ever hung around a feed lot?

KATE

Not really my thing.

TYLER

It's like... Jesus... can't even describe it. I'd dip cotton balls in Old Spice, and shove 'em up my nose eight hours a day. Went to UT just to get away from that smell.

KATE

And then what, chasing tornadoes was the next best thing to a rodeo?

TYLER

You need good instincts with both. Which makes me think you'd do fine in a saddle.

KATE

I don't ride.

TYLER

But you definitely chase. Why haven't I seen you around before?

Kate hesitates... like she's considering whether to tell Tyler some hidden truth about herself. But instead decides-

KATE

You get nervous driving into tornadoes?

TYLER

There's no real trick drivin' into an EF-1 with my vehicle.

(MORE)

TYLER (CONT'D)

I've added so much weight to the frame that it would take at least a Black Diamond EF-2 to toss me around. I just need to make sure wind speeds are-

-KATE'S AND TYLER'S CELL PHONES BOTH BUZZ AN ALERT AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME. They exchange a glance... check their phones... both have a COMPLEX GRAPH OF NUMBERS FLUCTUATING IN REAL TIME. Without a word, they both start to the door.

EXT. WEST WAY MOTEL - NIGHT

The Mother still pushing the Toddler on that rusty swing... each sway SQUEAKING in the night. Kate and Tyler walk out of Kate's room, both scanning the dark, moonless sky... hard to see anything, except in the distance, BEYOND THE BALLPARK LIGHTS THERE ARE FLASHES OF LIGHTNING MUFFLED BY CLOUDS.

TYLER

That came outta nowhere. Were you trackin' any cells out that way?

Kate shakes her head... closes her eyes, inhales.

KATE

You feel that? Air just got heavier.

Kate dials her phone... gets a *CIRCUITS ARE BUSY* message. Tyler holds up his dark phone screen.

TYLER

Service went down.

Kate tries to pull her radar up again... nothing. They both look back to the FLASHING STORM... GETTING CLOSER.

KATE

Too bad you didn't bring your tank.

TYLER

Wasn't plannin' on chasin' tonight. Not storms anyway.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY - BRICKTOWN BALLPARK - NIGHT

The middle of the action... the BATTER connects on a pitch, sends it flying... JUST AS THE BALLPARK LIGHTS SUDDENLY GO DARK. The CROWD'S CHEERS TURN TO BOOS.

EXT. WEST WAY MOTEL - NIGHT

Kate and Tyler watch as the street lights around the stadium begin going black... then block after block, a black wave sweeps toward them... until finally the MOTEL LIGHTS GO DARK.

TYLER

Whatever's out there just fried a grid.

A YOUNG COUPLE steps out of their room, looking around. The Young Man is WEARING A STRAW COWBOY HAT.

YOUNG MAN

You guys work here?

Kate and Tyler shake their heads as they stare off toward the lightning. A FLURRY OF MUFFLED FLASHES INSTANTLY ILLUMINATE THE PITCH BLACK DISTANCE... then all dark again.

TYLER

You wanna hop in your ride, go take a look at what's out there?

A BEAT of Kate staring out into the darkness, then-

KATE

I think we're about to find out.

The winds GROW STRONGER... BLOW THE VACANCY SIGN AGAINST THE OFFICE WINDOW. The MOTEL DESK CLERK walks outside.

YOUNG MAN

How long till the power's back on?

DESK CLERK

No idea. Phones are down, so I can't call anybody to come out.

Another FLASH lights up the black sky for a quick instant. The WINDS GROW STRONGER... Kate notices a SMALL DUST DEVIL SWIRLING IN THE GRAVEL PARKING LOT.

KATE

We should probably stay inside.

YOUNG MAN

Got no AC in there. Like a sauna.
(to the Desk Clerk)
You don't got a generator or something?

DESK CLERK

Afraid not.

YOUNG MAN
Maybe check your breakers to see if-

-A GUST OF WIND BLOWS HIS COWBOY HAT OFF... it goes skipping across the ground, wedging against the motel. He starts after it, when-

MOTHER (O.S.)
-JACK!

They all spin toward the cry... see the Toddler fully extended on the swing, ten feet off the ground, wind caught in his hood, holding him in the air, clinging to the chains as the Mother stretches up for him.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Hold on!

Kate, Tyler, and the Young Couple sprint to the swings... try to get to the SCREAMING Toddler, but he's too high.

TODDLER
MOMMY!

TYLER
Jump, buddy! I got you!

MOTHER
It's okay, Jack! Jump to the man!

But the Toddler is too frightened to let go. The Desk Clerk and Young Couple have joined, all CALLING FOR THE FLYING TODDLER TO JUMP... and he finally releases the chain handles, sails out and down into Tyler's arms. The Mother rushes to him, comforting the Toddler.

The Young Woman looks out toward the storm... another LIGHTNING FLASH... this time illuminating what looks like a MASSIVE FUNNEL CLOUD IN FRONT OF IT... then dark again.

YOUNG WOMAN
You see that?

YOUNG MAN
What?

The Young Woman points out to the blackness.

YOUNG WOMAN
Out there. It looked like a...

They all stare into the darkness... waiting... waiting...

YOUNG MAN
Like a what?

...as a LOW ROAR RISES...

TYLER
That's not good.

KATE
We need to get inside right now.

...and the LIGHTNING FLASHES AGAIN, ILLUMINATING A LARGE
WEDGE TORNADO... and it's just beyond the ballpark...

KATE (CONT'D)
Oh my God.

...coming right at them... then GONE AGAIN.

DESK CLERK
Was that a-

TYLER
-Inside!

Kate helps the Mother hurry toward the motel office.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY - BRICKTOWN BALLPARK - NIGHT

The only light coming from the CROWD WAVING CELL PHONES as
they sing *Take Me Out To The Ballgame*.

--SOME DRUNK COLLEGE BROS on the top row are SCREAMING THE
LYRICS when CAR ALARMS BEGIN GOING OFF. They turn, see
VEHICLES FLYING... that funnel cloud roaring toward the
stadium.

COLLEGE BRO
The fuc-

-ONE OF THOSE FLYING CARS SMASHES INTO THEM.

And before the Crowd knows what's happening, that tornado is
ripping through one side of the stadium. People race for
cover, leap off the walls, Players diving into dugouts.

EXT. WEST WAY MOTEL - NIGHT

Kate's group sprints across the parking lot as that tornado
chews up the earth behind them. They charge into the office.

INT. WEST WAY MOTEL - OFFICE - NIGHT

KATE

Do you have a storm cellar?!

DESK CLERK

HUH?! I don't know, I just started working here Wednesday!

KATE

Are there stairs anywhere?

The Desk Clerk points up to the ATTIC DOOR IN THE CEILING.

TYLER

She means going down, dude!

Kate runs into a back room... as GRAVEL from the lot begins pelting the office windows. The Desk Clerk rushes over, starts frantically pulling the strings to close the blinds.

YOUNG WOMAN

SERIOUSLY?!

Tyler throws his weight against a COKE MACHINE, slamming it to the floor to use as a shield.

INT. WEST WAY MOTEL - OFFICE BACK ROOM - NIGHT

A cluttered desk, stacks of folded towels, rolls of toilet paper. Kate races around the room, pulling away a rug, no cellar doors. She opens the BACK DOOR... nothing out there but uncut grass and that empty swimming pool.

KATE

Shit!

INT. WEST WAY MOTEL - OFFICE - NIGHT

Kate charges back in with the others... just as a BARRAGE OF GRAVEL comes smashing through the windows and blinds. Everyone dives to the floor... scrambles behind the counter.

Kate steals a glance around the counter... out the shattered windows to that pitch darkness... until ANOTHER FLASH OF LIGHTNING ILLUMINATES THE TORNADO ALMOST ON THEM.

YOUNG MAN

That thing's gonna shred this dump!

He looks out to their JEEP parked just outside the office. He grabs the Young Woman's hand... charges for the door.

YOUNG MAN (CONT'D)
We gotta out-run it!

TYLER
WAIT!

But they're already outside... sprinting through that flying gravel to the Jeep, leaping inside.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

The Young Man starts the engine, grinds it into gear... spins out toward the road, trying to see through the debris cloud... as a BLAST JOLTS THE JEEP... lifts it into the air.

INT. WEST WAY MOTEL - OFFICE - NIGHT

Kate and Tyler look out the window as the JEEP BEGINS TO ROLL... HEADLIGHTS RISE INTO THE SKY... SWIRL... VANISH. Kate looks over to the Mother, huddled behind the counter, clutching the crying Toddler.

MOTHER
We're going to be okay. We're going
to be okay. We're going to be okay.

FLASHCUT TO:

EXT. OVERPASS - DAY

Jeb pressed against Kate.

JEB
*We're gonna be okay. We're gonna be
okay.*

BACK TO SCENE

Kate stares out... another monster has returned for her.

KATE
We can't stay here.

Kate grabs the Mother, lifting her up...

KATE (CONT'D)
C'MON!

...races for the Back Room. Tyler and the Desk Clerk follow... as BEHIND THEM THAT TORNADO IS STARTING TO RIP THROUGH THE LONG MOTEL STRUCTURE.

EXT. WEST WAY MOTEL - BACK - NIGHT

Kate, Tyler, and the others come sprinting out the door, into those violent winds... while the MOTEL IS BEING TORN APART BEHIND THEM... the monster devouring it.

Kate's group keeps running... nowhere for them to hide...

DESK CLERK

This is no good!!

...until Kate reaches the edge of the DEEP END OF THE EMPTY POOL. There's a RUSTY POOL LADDER bolted into the cement.

KATE

(to the Mother)

Hurry! Climb down!

The Mother squeezes the Toddler tightly as she moves down the ladder. The Desk Clerk sees the funnel cloud almost on top of them, panics and pushes to the ladder... starts down, but that rusty ladder pulls free from the cement wall... he goes sailing back... hits the bottom with an ARM-SNAPPING CRACK... CRIES OUT IN PAIN.

TYLER

Go!

Kate slides over the edge of the pool... Tyler holding her hand, lowering her down... Kate leaps the rest of the way.

Tyler looks back... just in time to see that COKE MACHINE ERUPTING OUT OF THE TORNADO... FLYING RIGHT AT HIM.

Tyler throws himself over the edge as the Coke machine goes spinning past. He crashes down, slamming to the cement bottom, knocking all the oxygen from his lungs... takes a moment to breathe... move... sees Kate and the Mother already crawling toward an OPEN SECTION IN THE POOL WALL WHERE THE EXPOSED PUMP PIPES run up to the surface.

Kate presses herself inside with the Mother and Toddler, helps the Mother wrench an arm around a pipe...

KATE

DON'T LET GO!

...as those violent winds tear across the earth above them.

Tyler slides into the crevice with them... hooks an arm around a pipe, then reaches a hand out for the injured Desk Clerk... but the winds catch the Desk Clerk... drag him away, over the bottom of the pool and up into the air... gone.

Tyler tries to hold his body against Kate and the Mother, protecting them from the winds pulling at them... as they all hang on... that beast raging above... the violent ROAR consuming them.

Kate's eyes are drawn to it... she squints up... staring into the storm... POCKETS OF RAIN UNLEASHING MOISTURE WITHIN IT.

Then it all finally moves past... the ROAR FADES... clears... PART OF THE BALLPARK SCOREBOARD drops from the sky, slams to the shallow end of the pool. When it finally quiets-

MOTHER

Is it over?

A BEAT, then-

TYLER

Yeah.

Kate and Tyler slide out of the crevice... walk toward the shallow end, through all the debris.

MOTHER

(to Toddler)

It's all gone.

-- FROM HIGH ABOVE... looks like a missile exploded. The motel flattened... vehicles scattered around the massive trench torn into the earth, stretching back to the Bricktown Ballpark, which is missing half its structure... *and it all looks eerily similar to the scene following that opening tornado ten years ago.*

-- KATE AND TYLER look over the destruction.

TYLER

You ever been that close to one
that big before?

A BEAT, as Kate just keeps staring, then-

KATE

Yeah.

Tyler looks at Kate, surprised by her answer.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY - LATER

Flashing lights of EMERGENCY VEHICLES everywhere. RESCUE WORKERS pour through the destruction.

EXT. WEST WAY MOTEL - NIGHT

--THE MOTHER AND TODDLER sitting in the back of an ambulance, being looked over by a PARAMEDIC.

--TYLER, BOONE, LILY, and the rest of Tyler's Gang search through the motel rubble.

--SCOTT AND A STORMSHIELD MEMBER have a chain hooked to a StormShield SUV, pulling Mason's SUV out of a ditch.

--MASON AND MARSHALL HAWKINS are walking around the destruction... chatting.

--KATE stands in what's left of the gravel lot, watching Mason and Hawkins... sees Mason bend over to PICK UP THE YOUNG MAN'S STRAW COWBOY HAT from beneath some rubble. He puts it on, LAUGHS with Hawkins, before tossing it back into the debris.

And Kate flinches at the coldness of the act. Lily approaches.

LILY
Glad you guys are okay.

Lily pulls her into a long hug. And Kate welcomes it.

KATE
Thanks.

Lily releases Kate... starts back to the others.

LILY
Let me know if you need anything.

Kate nods. Mason veers from Hawkins... to Kate.

MASON
That thing ripped the shit outta this stretch. There are trenches like five feet deep.

Kate just stares past Mason to that cowboy hat... and Scott VIDEOING THE DESTRUCTION.

MASON (CONT'D)
They're talking about it being the biggest tornado to hit in-

KATE
-Ten years.

Mason realizes what that means... nods.

KATE (CONT'D)

Back when you watched an EF-5 take
all your friends.

(off Mason's look)

Isn't that what you told the
reporter today?

Mason starts to respond, just as Tyler approaches, hands Kate
her battered backpack.

TYLER

Found this. Lost the pizza though.

KATE

Thanks.

TYLER

You got a place to go?

MASON

I've got things covered, Owens.

Tyler waits for Kate to nod, then-

TYLER

Okay.

Tyler starts back to his group, then looks back.

TYLER (CONT'D)

You did good tonight.

KATE

Because I'm still alive?

TYLER

Yeah.

(off the Mother and Kids)

And so are they. Wasn't me who
thought of jumpin' in that pool.

Kate can only manage a shrug. Tyler continues away.

MASON

Wait, was Owens here too?

Kate nods. A twinge of jealousy and betrayal...

MASON (CONT'D)

What was he-

...but doesn't want to show it, so-

MASON (CONT'D)

What I said to that reporter
earlier was the-

KATE

-You used them to market your
business. To add some splash to the
company bio.

MASON

I told the truth. And if that helps
me make things safer for people
around here, I'm fine with that.

KATE

You really believe that's why you
do this? To help people?

MASON

Huh?

KATE

Have you thought for a second about
the ones who died here tonight?
Other than how you might be able to
use their deaths to scare up some
more customers... increase sales?

MASON

Why do I feel like you're blaming
me for what happened here?

A COOLING BEAT, then-

KATE

That's not what I'm saying.

MASON

I'm trying to create more advanced
warning systems so this kinda shit
doesn't happen.

KATE

I guess it feels more like you're
just chasing these storms around so
you can be the first one to rebuild
what they destroy.

MASON

I'm not sure what you're hinting
at, but yeah I need to make money,
Kate. Welcome to America. That's
how my employees feed their
families.

KATE

And guys like your friend Hawkins over there too. Those Land Rovers don't come cheap.

MASON

Marshall's business is separate from StormShield.

KATE

But you get a cut, right?

Mason shifts... doesn't like this line of questioning.

MASON

You saw what we're about. You watched us following the science... trying to learn more about how these things work.

KATE

I'm sure that keeps the government grants coming in. And the more storms I help you find, and the more of those little action warning videos you get to post, the more all these people who have lost everything... or the ones afraid they might... the more they'll trust you.

MASON

Christ, Kate, where is this shit comin' from? Is this Owens talking?

KATE

I'm just trying to figure out what side you're on.

MASON

What side I'm on? Seriously? I'm trying to save lives. That's the side I'm on. And no offense, Kate, but the last time I checked, your body count is a lot fucking higher than mine.

And there it is. Kate tries to smile through it, but her damp eyes give her away. She turns... starts walking.

MASON (CONT'D)

Kate. Hang on, I didn't mean that. You just wound me up and...

Kate just keeps walking... to Mason's battered SUV...

MASON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, okay?!

...climbs in... starts the engine, takes off.

--TYLER's across the lot, watching Kate drive away.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CITY AIRPORT - NIGHT

A LINE OF DELAYED PLANES on the runway, waiting to take off.

INT. OKLAHOMA CITY AIRPORT - TERMINAL - NIGHT

Crowded with ANGRY PASSENGERS complaining to GATE AGENTS.
Kate sits on the floor in a far corner... alone... staring blankly... looks broken.

Her PHONE BUZZES... she raises it with a TREMBLING HAND...
sees- MOM. And this time, Kate answers without hesitating.

KATE
(voice cracking)
Mom?

EXT. OKLAHOMA FARMLAND - MORNING

Mason's SUV rolling through endless cornfields.

EXT. FARM - MORNING

A small, well-kept farmhouse resting on acres of open land.
There's a pasture with a couple horses... a barn off to the side. Mason's SUV pulls up the dirt drive, stops out front.

INT. MASON'S SUV - MORNING

Kate sits behind the wheel, just staring at the house a moment before she finally turns off the engine, climbs out.

EXT. FARM - MORNING

Kate walks up onto the porch, starts to knock, but the door opens before she can... and Kate's MOTHER, (DARLENE), (60), the hard face of a woman who works a farm alone, steps out... immediately pulls Kate into her arms... and Kate slumps a little... ready to be held.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Darlene filling a water glass. Kate sits at the table.

DARLENE

Sure you don't want some?

Kate shakes her head. Darlene walks over... gives Kate the water anyway. Kate drinks it.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

You didn't call me back the other day.

KATE

Yeah, sorry.

DARLENE

Nothin' new there. But glad you showed up instead.

Darlene pulls an orange from a basket, sits down... starts peeling it.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

What's StormShield?
(off Kate's confusion)
The car out front.

KATE

Oh... yeah, that's a friend.
Borrowed it from a guy.

DARLENE

Was it all beat to shit like that before you got it?

Kate shakes her head. Darlene slides her a slice of orange.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

I'm glad you're okay.

KATE

I shouldn't have come back. It was a mistake.

DARLENE

Worked out for me.

Darlene pops an orange slice into her mouth.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Maybe go rest up. Look at the world with-

KATE
-Fresh eyes. I know.

DARLENE
(smiles)
Already interrupting me again. Just
like the good old days.

Darlene stands, kisses Kate's head as she walks away.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
You're gonna be fine.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Still set up like the room of a college student. Corkboard with photographs tacked to it, Oklahoma Sooner banners on the wall, posters of massive tornadoes.

Kate enters, sits on the bed. Her eyes hold on the photographs... college friends at a party, the original CHASE TEAM outside that university van, she and Jeb in a tent.

Kate presses a button on the small tornado lamp resting on the night stand. It begins to glow as a small vortex develops inside the water... swirling around. Kate leans over, resting her head on the pillow, watching that mini-vortex spin.

EXT. FARM - DAY

Darlene cutting open some hay bales to feed the horses.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Kate still in bed... awakening. She pulls herself up, looks out the window... the horses grazing under the orange glow of the sunset. Then Kate's eyes focus on the barn.

INT. BARN - EVENING

Set up like a workshop. All types of storm chasing equipment lining the walls. TEENAGE KATE AND JEB stand at a shop table, working on a LARGE OVERHANGING FUNNEL FAN. An iPOD is connected to a speaker, playing The Black-Eyed Peas' I Gotta Feeling.

And as the chorus begins, they both begin bobbing their heads and singing along... smiling... singing louder, now bouncing as they laugh and playfully sing with each other... until Jeb stops... just looks at Kate until Kate stops too...

and it's just the Black-Eyed Peas singing again... when Jeb leans close, kisses Kate... and Kate seems surprised... then smiles because that was their first kiss.

-- THEN WE SEE ADULT KATE standing in the barn door... staring, remembering as she gazes over the dank, musty space... now a long-abandoned workshop. Slivers of fading sunlight pour through holes in the roof, illuminating the shop table covered in thick dust, loose hay, small barn debris. Boxes are stacked in the back of a wagon... dusty tarps tossed over equipment on the floor.

Kate goes to the wagon, opens one of the boxes... pulls out a spiral notebook, an old laptop, a plastic transmitter ball.

DARLENE (O.S.)

I keep thinking I'm going to haul
all that old stuff off.

Darlene enters... moves beside Kate.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

But never wanted to do it without
you telling me I could.

KATE

You've got my permission to burn it
all.

A BEAT, then-

DARLENE

I was always so afraid when you
went to chase those things. That I
was going to lose you... be left
here by myself.

(beat)

Guess that's still sort of what
happened, huh?

Kate doesn't answer. Darlene turns, starts out.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

There's someone here to see you.

Not what Kate wanted to hear.

KATE

Probably just here to pick up the
car. Can you tell him the keys are
still in it, he can take it?

DARLENE

Sure, sweetheart.

Darlene exits. Kate moves to the dust-covered shop table, running her hand over the chips and grooves. Through the dust and debris, we can see the shapes of small model structures.

Kate looks up to that same metal funnel fan hanging above the table. Her hand runs down the fan's power cord, plugs it in... and the fan WHIRS TO LIFE... spinning faster... until it washes the dust and debris from the table, revealing a complete SMALL MODEL TOWN... buildings, roads, vehicles. And the table is COVERED IN PINHOLES.

Kate hits a switch... MORE SMALL FANS BEGIN WHIRRING from beneath the table... a mist rises up over the model town... begins swirling... until it's a LIVING, MINIATURE FUNNEL CLOUD slowly moving across the small town... pushing the model structures around the table.

Kate stands there, just watching the storm.

TYLER (O.S.)
Quite a setup you've got there.

Kate turns, surprised to see it's Tyler standing in the door.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Build your own tornado.

Kate quickly shuts it off. Tyler walks beside her, looks over the model town.

TYLER (CONT'D)
What kinda scale you build this to?

KATE
How'd you find me?

TYLER
You said outside Tulsa. And one of
Mason's *Redshirts* gave Ben your
last name, Kate Cooper.

Tyler resets the model pieces...

TYLER (CONT'D)
Helped me narrow it down.

...then flips the switch back on... the tornado swirls to life... moves back over the miniature structures...

TYLER (CONT'D)
And then I remembered seeing that
name about ten years ago.

...begins pushing them aside. Kate doesn't bother hitting the switch again, instead pulls the power cord from the outlet. The tornado dies.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about what happened to you and your friends.

KATE

Yeah me too. Why are you here?

TYLER

Just checkin' up on you. Makin' sure you're okay.

KATE

Thanks. I'm fine.

TYLER

(doesn't believe her)
Uh-huh.

Darlene steps in the barn doorway.

DARLENE

I'm fixing some food if you and your friend are hungry.

KATE

He's not sta-

TYLER

-Thank you, Mrs. Cooper. I'd love a bite if it's not too much trouble.

Darlene smiles...

DARLENE

Not at all.

...turns back out. Tyler grins at Kate.

TYLER

She's nice.

EXT. FARM - BACK YARD - NIGHT

Kate, Tyler, and Darlene at a table, eating.

DARLENE

I noticed your license plates. What part of Texas are you from?

TYLER

Amarillo originally. Got a place in Austin now, but I'm on the road a lot, so don't see it that much.

DARLENE

Kate's father was from Austin.

TYLER

Is that right?

DARLENE

Before Kate was born, he and I used to spend a lot of time down there on Sixth Street, listening to all the music.

TYLER

Yeah it's a tough place to beat. And I guess that little bit of Texas blood in Kate's veins must be why I don't mind her so much.

Darlene smiles, eating up Tyler's charm. Kate rolls her eyes.

TYLER (CONT'D)

But you have a real nice spot here too.

DARLENE

Not nice enough to keep Kate around. But I guess New York has a little more action than Tulsa.

TYLER

New York. I did not know that. What took you up there?

KATE

I don't know. Just work.

DARLENE

For National Weather Service. She was in Rhode Island for a few-

KATE

-Mom. He doesn't need my resume.

A BEAT of them eating in silence, then-

TYLER

I bet you and your husband caught some good bands back in the day?

DARLENE

Oh yeah. We saw Stevie Ray Vaughn three nights in a row. This was back in like '78, so almost nobody outside of Austin even knew who he was. But Andrew... that was Kate's father, he'd been listening to him in bars around town for years.

TYLER

First cd I ever bought was *Couldn't Stand The Weather*.

DARLENE

I love that alb-

KATE

(standing up)

-You guys need anything?

DARLENE

I don't think so.

TYLER

I'm good, thanks.

Kate walks to the house as Tyler and Darlene keep talking.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kate drops her plate in the sink... looks out the window to Tyler and Darlene talking and laughing together. Kate's PHONE BUZZES- MASON. Kate hits *DECLINE*.

EXT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Kate sits on the porch swing, letting a gentle breeze sway her as she stares off into the night. Tyler steps out through the creaky screen door.

TYLER

You're not a very friendly host.

DARLENE

You two don't need anyone else to keep a conversation flowing.

Tyler smiles, sits down beside Kate.

TYLER

She even offered to let me sleep in the guest room.

KATE
Of course she did. But you'd miss
some nice storms tomorrow.

TYLER
They're just storms. Always gonna
be another one.

Some quiet sways, then-

TYLER (CONT'D)
What's your plan?

KATE
Head back to New York. Work stuff.

TYLER
You did everything you wanted here?

Kate gives a small smile at Tyler's digging.

KATE
Everything I can.
(beat)
Coming back was a mistake.

TYLER
We all make 'em.

KATE
Some worse than others.

They keep swaying in silence.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate in bed. Stirs... notices a light from her window. She
looks out... sees LIGHTS ON INSIDE THE BARN.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Kate slides the barn door open. Tyler's sitting at the boxes,
looking through a spiral notebook. Kate walks over, sits down
beside him.

TYLER
So you were doing more than just
chasing tornadoes, you were trying
to figure out a way to stop them.

KATE

Or at least weaken them. We tried a bunch of formulas, but never found a blend that worked.

TYLER

(off the pages)

You were using a lot of Sodium Polyacrylate.

KATE

In the right environment it can completely change moisture levels.

TYLER

But you'd need too much of it. Have to drop a silo of SP into a funnel for any real effect.

KATE

Yeah, we were trying to combine it with a reducer.

Kate flips a couple pages to some chemical equations.

KATE (CONT'D)

Thought we were getting close with these. Tried a mix that day, but...

Kate stares at the equations a moment, then tosses the notebook back in the box. She stands, goes to the shop table. Tyler pulls the notebook back out... flips to those last pages... looks over the equations... the elements.

TYLER

Up for takin' another shot?

KATE

Nope.

Tyler goes to another box... pulls out dusty jars filled with minerals... some liquids that have solidified over the years.

TYLER

I bet we could still find all this shit around town.

KATE

I'm heading home in the morning.

TYLER

New York will still be there in a couple days.

Tyler pulls out a photograph of a VERY YOUNG KATE sitting on a tractor with Darlene.

TYLER (CONT'D)

And I don't know... this place
feels like a home to me.

(beat)

Can't run from shit forever, Kate.
I mean I guess maybe you can, but
you get real worn down.

Kate looks at Tyler... they hold it.

INT. HARDWARE STORE - DAY

Tyler pushes a cart down an aisle, scanning the shelves... finds bags of Sodium Polyacrylate... starts tossing them in the cart. Kate appears with several chemical bottles... dumps them into the cart. They're doing this together.

INT. BARN - DAY

Kate and Tyler carefully measuring chemicals... pouring them into a kitchen bowl... mixing them.

KATE

Gotta have just the right balance
for the polymer to absorb the
moisture, then expand.

TYLER

This was the last mix you tried?

Kate nods... pours some of the mixture into a mason jar with an inch of water in the bottom. They watch... wait.

TYLER (CONT'D)

What's supposed to happ-

-THE MASON JAR RUPTURES. Tyler jumps with a start.

KATE

That.

Tyler runs a finger over the table... NO SPILLED WATER.

KATE (CONT'D)

The trick is to find a way to
reduce the amount of Sodium
Polyacrylate needed while still
absorbing enough moisture to kill
the funnel.

INT. BARN - LATER

-ANGLE ON THE MINIATURE TORNADO MOVING TOWARD THE MODEL TOWN.

KATE (O.S.)
We built this to mimic conditions
necessary for a tornado to form.

Then we see Kate and Tyler watching.

KATE (CONT'D)
Moisture, temperature levels, core
instability, everything.

The funnel cloud nears the SHOT GLASS of liquid polymer...
washes over it... tosses the NOW-EMPTY shot glass aside,
continues into the model town, scattering structures.

TYLER
Next mixture then.

INT. BARN - LATER

--KATE AND TYLER mixing another blend.

--KATE POURING the mix into the shot glass.

--THE MINIATURE TORNADO tearing through the model town.

KATE
Shit.

INT. BARN - LATER

--THE TORNADO TOSSING THE SHOT GLASS... violently swirling
down that model main street.

TYLER
Shit.

EXT. BARN - LATER

Quiet and peaceful. When the barn door suddenly swings open,
smoke pours out, Kate and Tyler trotting out, COUGHING.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Kate and Tyler at the shop table, mixing chemicals into
polymers... checking the temperatures. Darlene enters...
walks a couple of plates over to them.

TYLER
(without looking up)
Thanks, Mrs. Cooper.

KATE
(without looking up)
Thanks, Mom.

They each take a bite as they continue working.

INT. BARN - DAY

Kate leans against a wall, playing with that tornado yoyo as she stares at the table of mixtures... thinking. Tyler lies on the floor, shaking a miniature tornado snow-globe.

INT. BARN - DAY

Kate and Tyler watching the tornado destroy the town again.

KATE
Shit.

TYLER
Shit.

EXT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Rain pouring down. Kate and Tyler in the swing. Kate's staring blankly. Tyler looks asleep.

After a moment, Kate's eyes settle on LARGE DROPS SPLASHING FROM A GUTTER... puddling. She watches the water gather, then-

FLASHCUT TO:

EXT. MOTEL POOL - NIGHT

KATE'S POV STARING UP INTO THE TORNADO... the pockets of rain unleashing individual downpours.

BACK TO SCENE

KATE
Our moisture numbers are off. We
need more moisture, not less.

TYLER
Huh?

KATE
We've been testing off a consistent
level, but it isn't consistent
inside the vortex.

Kate stands... goes to the puddle.

KATE (CONT'D)

If we can produce enough rain in the core's updraft, it could... conceivably... slow the upward wind speeds. Drag rotation.

Tyler considers that. Then-

TYLER

People still do cloud-seeding when they want rain.

KATE

Silver Iodide.

TYLER

They fire rockets of that shit into clouds.

(thinks)

We blend that with your polymer, the evaporation would also increase the cold pool of surface air.

KATE

No faster way to choke a tornado.

Their eyes meet... a glimmer of hope.

INT. BARN - DAY

-ANGLE ON THE TORNADO MOVING TOWARD THE MODEL TOWN... nearing the shot glass... lifting it.. tossing it aside.

Kate and Tyler watch as the funnel cloud continues toward the buildings... then just as it nears, it SLOWLY FADES... GONE... the model buildings untouched.

Smiles creep across their faces.

TYLER

Shit.

(beat)

This could actually work.

KATE

Won't know until we give it a real-world test.

TYLER

Just need a way to deliver it straight inside the core.

A moment of thought, then their eyes roll up to meet.

SLAM TO:

EXT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - DAY

Kate and Tyler excitedly throwing gear into Tyler's SUV.
Darlene is beside them. Tyler gives Darlene a hug...

TYLER

Thanks for everything, Mrs Cooper.

...hustles around the SUV. Kate hurries to Darlene, hugs her.

DARLENE

Are you sure about this?

KATE

We'll be careful. Promise.

Kate climbs in. Tyler honks the horn as they speed away.

EXT. OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY - DAY

Tyler's heavy-duty SUV roars down the road.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler drives as he checks radar on his phone... the screen is
DOTTED WITH SEVERAL STORM CELLS.

TYLER

Pretty much got our choice. Two
small ones just west of Enid that
could pop soon. How 'bout we start
off not gettin' blown away?

KATE

You said this thing was safe.

TYLER

Yeah, to handle an EF1. Even decent
F2 winds. But I also said I'm not
crazy enough to drive into more
than that.

(dials phone)

Boone, head toward Enid. And bring
the rig tools. We're gonna make
some launcher modifications.

KATE

You know that if this works, it's gonna destroy your t-shirt sales.

TYLER

True. But I'm kinda close with this girl who might change the world. Maybe I can talk her into a job.

KATE

(smiles)

Not that close.

EXT. SKY - EVENING

Dark storm clouds churn. Lightning pops. Thunder rumbles. A DRONE comes swooping around the clouds... darts inside.

LILY (V.O.)

Okay, I'm moving on the edge.

EXT. OKLAHOMA FIELD - EVENING

Lily stands in a field, wearing GOGGLES as she pilots the drone. Kate's beside her, holding an electronic monitor.

LILY

You getting my readings, Kate?

KATE

Yeah, humidity and wind shear are setting up.

(looking up to storm)

It's gonna give us something.

Kate turns to Tyler and Boone working on Tyler's vehicle. Ben is with them.

KATE (CONT'D)

Won't be long.

TYLER

Launchers are set.

BOONE

Just gotta load 'em up with your storm-killer shit.

Kate approaches them. Boone tosses her a LONG CLEAR TUBE CANISTER. Kate grabs a jug of the polymer... pours it into the tube. She exchanges it to Boone for another empty tube.

BEN
How will it disperse the polymer?

TYLER
Containers will disintegrate in
moisture. Then we just gotta hope
the winds take it from there.

LILY (O.S.)
Here we go!

They turn... see the FUNNEL DESCENDING from the clouds.

LILY (CONT'D)
She's gorgeous.

Kate quickly fills the second tube. Tyler and Boone load them
into the launcher bays on the sides of the vehicle. Kate,
Tyler, and Boone climb into the SUV.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - EVENING

They start moving across the field... slow beside Lily.

BOONE
Stay in as long as you can, huh?

LILY
You got it.

They continue toward the growing funnel cloud. Kate sees
Tyler and Boone strapping heavy-duty seat restraint harnesses
on. She slips the straps over her shoulders... buckles in.

EXT. TORNADO - EVENING

The classic funnel cloud reaches the earth. The brown debris
field bursts... begins tearing across the plains.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - EVENING

Racing down a road. Kate, Tyler, and Boone watching the
tornado weave over the plains.

TYLER
Bit of a sidewinder.

KATE
Catching some drafts, but steady on
a northeast track.

BOONE
Whatta ya figure, ground speed of
twenty-five or thirty?

TYLER
Yeah. Nice safe EF-1 numbers.

EXT. OKLAHOMA FIELD - EVENING

Dani is standing on the roof of the Food Truck, using
binoculars to follow Tyler's vehicle.

DANI
They're closing in! Sixty seconds
till intercept!

EXT. TORNADO - EVENING

The debris field widening as it cuts across the plains. And
Tyler's SUV running almost parallel beside it.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - EVENING

The group all looking out at that funnel cloud.

TYLER
(to Kate)
You ready?

KATE
Let's hit it.

Tyler veers off the road. They go slamming through a ditch up
into the field... moving straight toward the funnel cloud. A
blend of rain, hail, and debris pound them.

TYLER
Gotta match its ground speed!
Get the launchers ready!.

Boone slides the cover off a handle on the ceiling. Kate
reaches back to uncover the other, but-

TYLER (CONT'D)
Boone has got those. Just keep an
eye on the winds. I don't feel like
gettin' spit outta this thing.

KATE
(off the monitor)
Holding at one-twelve.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
(eyeing the funnel)
Rotation consistent.

They near the edge of the debris field...

TYLER
Here comes the kick.

...burst into the dark cloud, wind and dirt whipping against them... the vehicle trembling.

KATE
I can't see anything!

TYLER
Still inside the debris field!

A violent dirt storm wailing over them... until they suddenly burst through to debris... into the center of the funnel... a tower of clouds swirling around them as high as we can see. Kate stares out in awe.

KATE
Oh my God.

TYLER
Anchoring!

Tyler FLIPS A SWITCH.

--UNDERNEATH THE VEHICLE... LONG ANCHOR SPIKES SHOOT DOWN INTO THE GROUND.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Anchors down!

BOONE
Firing!

Boone pulls the levers... NOTHING HAPPENS.

BOONE (CONT'D)
Goddammit!
(frantically pulling)
Both jammed!

TYLER
We're gonna lose it!

--The open funnel cloud continues moving over them... the debris field returns... then clears away... and we're BACK OUTSIDE THE TORNADO AGAIN... watching the funnel cloud move slowly away.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Shit.

KATE

What happened?

BOONE

Weight differential must've screwed
up the release coil.

KATE

How long to fix it?

Tyler watches the tornado continue away... FADING.

TYLER

Too long.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

A large meadow surrounded by thick forest of trees. Storm-chasers have turned the place into a wild bonfire party.

Dexter and Dani are serving tacos and beer from the food truck... Lily and other DRONE PILOTS are racing drones through a makeshift course... Boone, Ben, and some CHASERS are PLAYING MUSIC. Other Chasers are playing volleyball under the glow of car headlights.

Kate's at Tyler's vehicle, looking over the launchers. Tyler approaches, carrying a couple tacos.

TYLER

The way this works is we chase
during the day, recharge at night.

KATE

You're sure these things are gonna
work next time?

TYLER

We recalibrated. Boone tested.
We're good.

Tyler hands Kate a taco.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I hope.

Kate and Tyler slide up onto the hood... Kate looks over the scene as they eat.

KATE
You just set up a party wherever
you go, huh?

TYLER
When you spend all day chasin',
that rush you get... it's tough to
just shut it off, you know?

Kate thinks back... nods.

A few CHASER FANS approach wearing their Tyler t-shirts.

FAN #1
Hey, Tyler, think we can grab a
quick pic?

Tyler shoots a "Sorry" glance at Kate.

TYLER
You bet.

As they take some pictures-

FAN #2
What's your plan for tomorrow?

TYLER
We'll see how things look in the
morning.

A Fan hands Tyler a MARKER, stretches his shirt out for an
autograph. Tyler ignores Kate's SNICKERS as he signs.

FAN #1
Any chance we can sit inside the
Owens-Wagon?

Kate SNORTS A LITTLE LAUGH.

TYLER
Maybe some other time...

Tyler grabs Kate's hand...

TYLER (CONT'D)
...my friend and I were just
headin' out for a walk.

...leading her away from the group.

FAN #1
Yeah okay. ABC!

FANS

ABC!

TYLER

ABC!

Kate gives Tyler a confused glance.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Always Be Chasin'.

Kate laughs again.

TYLER (CONT'D)

What? It's like a motto.

Kate keeps laughing, as they walk across the meadow.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

The moon reflects off the still water. Kate and Tyler move along the shore.

TYLER

So where'd you get your instinct tricks from?

KATE

Not sure. My mom says that when my father was young, every big storm he'd try to get as close as he could. She said he just loved them.

TYLER

My Pop was the opposite. His house got nailed when he was a kid. He'd drag us to the storm cellar every time the wind gusted. I remember the first time I ever saw a tornado... I was playing Little League, and the sky started turning green.

KATE

The meso was on top of you.

TYLER

Then my Pop's truck comes racing out onto the field... scoops me up in center field, and just keeps going. Straight to the storm cellar.

KATE

My first one, we were at my aunt's house, all hiding down in the basement. I remember everyone was so scared, but all I wanted to do was go back upstairs to see it.

Kate stops walking... gazes out at the lake, thinking back.

KATE (CONT'D)

Then when I was like thirteen, a friend's parents got into chasing, and we'd sneak out of school to go with them.

(smiles at the memory)

God that was fun.

Kate feels Tyler's eyes on her. She shrugs.

KATE (CONT'D)

Then you grow up.

They hold a look... until they lean close... kiss... then Kate pulls away.

KATE (CONT'D)

I... can't... do that yet. Sorry.

TYLER

Nothin' to be sorry for.

KATE

Even though you like your pizza plain.

TYLER

Huh?

Kate smiles, shakes her head... *nothing*. They start walking.

KATE

Your real name's not Bartholomew, right?

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

The party still going strong. Boone, Ben, and their makeshift band playing. Dexter and Dani swing-dancing. Kate's wearing Lily's goggles as Lily teaches her how to fly her drone through the obstacle course. Tyler's watching Kate struggle.

TYLER

It's clear your instincts don't
carry over to electronic guidance.

KATE

This thing's moving too fast.

LILY

Take it up above to get clear. Get
a feel for the speed.

Kate steers the drone high into the night sky.

LILY (CONT'D)

That's it. Now bend it back down
toward us.

Kate turns the drone back downward... until it suddenly darts
sideways across the sky.

TYLER

Wow, that's terrible.

KATE

I didn't do that! It just jumped
the other way.

LILY

You'd have to hit a jet stream to
get blown that-

-A HORN HONKING stops Lily. They turn toward THE LIGHTS OF A
PICKUP TRUCK IN THE TREES... speeding down the road... out of
the trees, HORN HONKING AND LIGHTS FLASHING.

TYLER

What's their deal?

And then THE TREES BEHIND THE TRUCK BEGIN MOVING... RISING...
A DARK CLOUD SWEEPING THROUGH THEM...

LILY

Holy shit.

...LIFTING THE REAR OF THE TRUCK INTO THE AIR... flipping it
over so that its HEADLIGHTS ILLUMINATE THE FUNNEL CLOUD
BEHIND IT.

TYLER

GET TO COVER!

--PEOPLE begin charging all over the campground... racing for
cover.

--THE TORNADO violently spinning across the grounds...
spitting that truck out into the air.

--BOONE, BEN, DEXTER, AND DANI... sprinting for the cover of
a BRICK PUBLIC RESTROOM STRUCTURE. Boone's frantically
looking around as they go...

BOONE

LILY!

...sees Lily running with Kate and Tyler to Tyler's SUV.

--TYLER helps get Kate, Lily, and others into the SUV.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - NIGHT

Packed with TEN PEOPLE. Tyler flips the anchor spikes switch.

TYLER

Everybody get down!

The winds pound at the SUV, violently shaking it.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

The funnel cloud ripping across... tossing cars... ripping
through the volleyball court and makeshift band stage...

...as People race for safety... debris swirling over them.

INT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - PUBLIC RESTROOM - NIGHT

Boone, Ben, Dexter, Dani, and thirty others squeeze onto the
cement floor, as winds tear at the structure... the sheet
metal roof begins peeling off... a TREE COMES TEARING THROUGH
A WALL... sends bricks flying... plumbing pipes swinging...

...one of the pipes SMACKS ACROSS DEXTER'S HEAD.

DANI

DEXTER!

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

The tornado tearing over the campground... chasing People to
the shores of the lake. They charge into the water, making
desperate dives into the water, as the funnel cloud hits the
surface creating a massive water spout as it churns across
the lake.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - LATER

Rescue vehicles parked around the campground. The Group watching PARAMEDICS treat Dexter's head.

PARAMEDIC

Would be smart to let us take you
to the hospital. For observation.

DEXTER

I don't need observed. Just finish
with that BandAid.

Kate turns... looks over the campground.

KATE

We're gonna need more Sodium
Polyacrylate, more Silver Iodide,
more everything.

TYLER

What are you thinking?

KATE

That I don't wanna just test. I
want to stop one of these things.

LILY

Fuck yeah.

EXT. CHEMICAL STORE - MORNING

Tyler, Boone, and Ben load a couple dozen FIFTY POUND BAGS of Sodium Polyacrylate into the back of that Longhorn pickup.

INT. PAINT STORE - MORNING

Kate and Lily push a cart piled high with cans and plastic jugs of various chemicals. They reach the register. The CASHIER looks at the cart, then at Kate and Lily.

LILY

We're not makin' a bomb or
anything. Swear to God.

Kate nods along in agreement.

EXT. AUTO GARAGE - MORNING

Tyler's vehicle is parked in the lot with an OPEN TRAILER hitched to it. Tyler and a MECHANIC crouch at the hitch.

TYLER

I need some kind way to release it
from inside.

MECHANIC

Why the hell would you wanna do
that?

TYLER

So the tornado will just pull the
trailer up into the two hundred
mile per hour winds, and not me
too.

The Mechanic just stares at Tyler a moment, then stands.

MECHANIC

Okay.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SKIES - DAY

Clouds beginning to gather against the clear blue.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - DAY

Kate's mixing the chemicals in a large metal tub, as Kyle,
Boone, and Ben load another tub of the already-mixed polymer
into the open trailer, which is hitched to Tyler's SUV.

TYLER

What kinda weight we talkin'?

BOONE

Gotta be close to a ton.

TYLER

We won't be able to go full chase
mode with it.

KATE

We'll need to pick a cell and stick
with it. Narrows our options.

TYLER

Just gotta hope we get lucky.

Boone sees khaki-clad Mason approaching.

BOONE

So much for luck.

MASON
(to Kate)
Can I talk to you for a second?

Kate and Mason move away from the group.

MASON (CONT'D)
I've been calling you. To apologize
again. I didn't mean to-

KATE
-No big deal, Mason. I've just been
busy.

MASON
With these guys? What are you even
trying to do?

KATE
Same thing you and I were doing ten
years ago.

MASON
Yeah I saw video of yesterday.
How'd that go?

KATE
We worked out the kinks.

Mason looks over at Tyler.

MASON
But with Owens. C'mon. That guy...
if you'd let me help you, we could
do this togeth-

KATE
-We're after two different things,
Mason.

MASON
Only because I'm being realistic.

Kate forces a smile, nods, starts walking away.

KATE
I'll get your car back to you.

Mason wants to call after Kate, but he doesn't. Scott walks
up beside Mason.

SCOTT
I've been telling you we don't need
her.

Mason just stands there a moment... finally walks off.

--KATE walks to Tyler's vehicle. Tyler's leaning inside.
Boone's crouched at the hitch.

BOONE

Okay, the latch is open. Closed
again.

Kate looks over Tyler's shoulder... watches him PULLING A
LEVER ON THE FLOOR BETWEEN THE SEATS.

TYLER

Making sure we can dump this
trailer when it's time. Also loaded
both launchers in case we want some
extra pop.

Tyler sits up... gives his phone to Kate... RADAR IMAGES.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Now you just have to tell us where
we're goin'.

Kate looks them over, then walks up a small crest... stares
out at the sky... closes her eyes to feel it.

Ben's watching Kate. He raises his camera for a few quick
shots of her alone on that hill. Tyler moves beside Ben. Ben
instinctively lowers the camera, but Tyler smiles, shakes his
head.

TYLER (CONT'D)

No, Ben, you're right. She's your
story.

EXT. OKLAHOMA CAMPGROUND - DAY

Mason and Scott stand outside Scott's SUV, looking over the
radar projections on Scott's tablet.

SCOTT

It's close, but I like the ones
toward Tulsa. Puts us in the
suburbs. That's always valuable.

Mason looks up to Tyler's Team driving past... Tyler's SUV at
the front with Kate in the passenger seat.

MASON

Why are they heading north?

SCOTT
There's a cell forming that way,
but I don't think it's-

MASON
-We're going north.

Mason tosses the tablet back to Scott, climbs in.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SKIES - DAY

The dark clouds swirl ominously.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Kate and Tyler eye the storm cell ahead.

TYLER
Whatta ya think?

KATE
Wants to happen.

Kate checks the radar on her phone.

KATE (CONT'D)
No hook yet.
(into radio mic)
See anything, Lily?

CUT TO:

DRONE POV... SLICING THROUGH CLOUDS.

LILY (V.O.)
Got a real nice rotation in here.

INT. LILY'S VW VAN - DAY

Boone driving. Lily beside him, goggles on as she's piloting a drone somewhere up in those clouds.

LILY
Lots of instability.

BOONE
It's gonna give us a show!

Boone flips on the stereo-

-ZZ TOP'S *LA GRANGE* BLASTS, and now Boone is driving and playing air guitar as they go eighty mph down the road.

ZZ TOP CONTINUES AS--

--THE LINE OF STORM CHASING VEHICLES TEAR ALONG THE HIGHWAY.

--BEN DRIVING THE LONGHORN PICKUP, BOUNCING HIS HEAD TO THE RHYTHM.

--DEXTER AND DANI BOTH PLAYING IMAGINARY DRUMS AS THEY SPEED AHEAD IN THE FOOD TRUCK.

--KATE AND TYLER EXCHANGE A SMILE... KATE HAPPY TO FEEL THE VIBE OF THE GROUP CHASE AGAIN.

Then Kate points ahead...

KATE
We've got our Meso.

...to the THICK FUNNEL CLOUD SLOWLY DESCENDING FROM THE CELL.

INT. LI - DAY

Lily's still wearing her goggles.

LILY
Kate, I'm inside. Fighting the
inflow on a northeast track.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Kate reads the weather data from Lily's drone.

KATE
Wind speeds over one-twenty.

TYLER
That's as big as we can handle.

The debris field glides over the surface.

LILY (V.O.)
Ground speed of twenty-two.

DANI (V.O.)
Intercept is northeast at about
forty-six... a Siloam Road.

TYLER
We get right in front of it, drop
the trailer, and see what happens.

LILY (V.O.)
Hang on, I'm out!

INT. LILY'S VW VAN - DAY

Lily still steering that drone.

LILY
It's changing direction!

BOONE
Yeah looks to have shifted more to
the east.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler and Kate watch the tornado veer across the plains.

TYLER
I've got access.

Tyler turns down a side road.

TYLER (CONT'D)
The rest hang back in case it turns
again.

INT. SCOTT'S SUV - DAY

Trailing Tyler's Team. Mason sees Tyler making his move.

MASON
Stay with them.

Scott accelerates... starts passing the other vehicles.

EXT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Speeding down a side road, rushing straight at the tornado.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Nearing the debris field.

KATE
Lily, are you above us?

LILY (V.O.)
Yep. Just diving back in. You
should get readings now.

KATE
(checks monitor)
Winds at one-nineteen. We can hold
off if you want.

The wind and hail begins to pound them.

TYLER
We'll take one pass at gettin' out
front.

INT. LONGHORN PICKUP - DAY

Ben watching Tyler's vehicle moving inside the debris field,
as a SECOND TORNADO BEGINS DESCENDING JUST BESIDE IT.

BEN
Hey, guys... I think we've got
Twins!

INT. LILY'S VW VAN - DAY

Boone spots the second tornado.

BOONE
He's right, Ty! Gotta watch out on
your left!

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

The wind, rain, and hail so loud it's impossible for them to
hear Boone's STATIC-FILLED VOICE.

TYLER
Just a little further, then we'll-

-The entire vehicle suddenly lifts, half-spins in the air,
LANDS WITH A JOLT.

EXT. TYLER'S SUV - TRAILER HITCH - DAY

The hitch TWISTS CROOKED, wrenching together.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler's trying to hold the wheel and pull the lever at the same time.

TYLER
It's jammed or something.

Kate joins in, straining to pull the lever. Then she sees through the slats... that SECOND TORNADO RIGHT BEHIND THEM... SQUEEZING THEM... the two separate vortexes fighting for control of the vehicle.

Tyler struggles to hold the wheel as Kate pulls the hitch lever over and over.

KATE
Not working!

TYLER
Gonna beat us up in here!

Tyler uses all his strength to yank the wheel sideways.

TYLER (CONT'D)
HOLD ON!

Sends the vehicle darting out of the debris... slamming to a stop in the field.

TYLER (CONT'D)
You okay?

Kate doesn't answer... because she's looking out at something terrible.

KATE
They've shifted course again.

--BEYOND THE TWIN TORNADOES... the TWENTY GLOWING TOWERS OF THE ELK VALLEY OIL REFINERY.

INT. SCOTT'S SUV - DAY

Mason and Scott see what Kate just saw.

MASON
Oh, shit.
(aims his phone)
We now have twin tornadoes heading straight for the Elk Valley Refinery. If anyone there can hear this, get out now.
(MORE)

MASON (CONT'D)

(turns off camera)

Get us as close as you can. This video will be worth serious grant money.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Speeding down a dirt road.

KATE

What can we do?

TYLER

Nothing.

INT. FOOD TRUCK - DAY

Dexter and Dani watch the tornadoes near the Refinery.

DANI

Oh my God.

EXT. ELK VALLEY OIL REFINERY - DAY

WORKERS sprint away on foot... leaping onto moving cars... anything to escape as the TORNADOES TEAR THROUGH THE FENCE... straight into the structures, ripping through the tall, narrow towers... causing a CHAIN REACTION OF EXPLOSIONS.

Flames erupt... spread over the refinery, then BEGIN SWIRLING WITH THE WINDS... until they're captured by the two funnel clouds... turning them into TWIN FIRENADOES... churning through the refinery.

INT. LILY'S VW VAN - DAY

Lily yanks her goggles off...

LILY

I just lost the-

...then sees the two flaming funnel clouds.

LILY (CONT'D)

What. The. Fu-

INT. LONGHORN TRUCK - DAY

Ben frantically tries to get his camera raised.

INT. SCOTT'S SUV - DAY

Racing down a dirt road toward the refinery... the flaming tornadoes burning over the plains.

MASON
That's close enough!

Scott pulls over to the side of the road. Mason jumps out.

EXT. SAND SPRINGS OIL REFINERY - ROAD - DAY

Mason runs to the edge of the road, framing the tornadoes behind him.

MASON
This is Mason Mosely, just outside
of Elk Valley Refinery.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Kate and Tyler see Mason in the distance.

TYLER
Jesus, what's he doing?

KATE
Their paths won't be predictable.
Not with all that heat.

Kate grabs her phone.

EXT. SAND SPRINGS OIL REFINERY - ROAD - DAY

Mason still filming.

MASON
Twin firenadoes traveling at-

-KATE'S CALL comes through. Mason DECLINES to keep videoing.

MASON (CONT'D)
Traveling at approximately-

-THUNDEROUS EXPLOSIONS AND CRACKLING FROM WITHIN THE
TORNADOES has Mason ducking.

SCOTT
They're changing direction!

Mason runs back to the SUV.

INT. SCOTT'S SUV - DAY

Scott starts turning them around in the road...

MASON

Let's get back ahead of 'em.

...as an ESCAPING TRUCK COMES ROARING AROUND THE CURVE...
smashes through their front end, spinning them into a ditch.

The truck continues speeding away... as the twin firenadoes
are now MOVING STRAIGHT FOR THEM.

MASON (CONT'D)

GO! GO!

Scott's stomping the gas, but the tires are just spinning in
the ditch... the SUV ISN'T MOVING... and the firenadoes are
closing in fast...

...when the TIRES SUDDENLY CATCH GROUND... spin them out of
the ditch... escaping the firenadoes.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Kate sees Mason making it to safety.

KATE

On a due north heading at about
fifteen miles per hour.

TYLER

They're dying out.

Kate watches as the flames fade...

KATE

No...

...then spin toward each other... the twin tornadoes becoming
one massive funnel cloud... spreading wider.

KATE (CONT'D)

...they're joining.

TYLER

That's an EF-3

BOONE (V.O.)

Holds current speed and that
thing's rollin' into Lawson in
about ten minutes.

EXT. LAWSON, OKLAHOMA - DAY

Small town. KIDS riding bikes through neighborhoods. A LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME on a nearby field. A SMALL COMMUNITY CARNIVAL going on in the center of town... miniature ferris wheel and other rides. A WATER TOWER stands along the western edge of town.

--THE CARNIVAL... TWO LITTLE GIRLS riding the ferris wheel... stopping at the top as other Riders climb in. One of the Little Girls stares at the GREEN HORIZON as they rise over the top.

LITTLE GIRL
What is that?

EXT. OKLAHOMA SIDE ROAD - DAY

Tyler's SUV stopped in the road. Tyler and Kate trying to loosen the wedged trailer hitch. Tyler smashes a rock against it over and over... doesn't loosen.

TYLER
Goddammit.
(into radio)
Hitch is locked. Get to Lawson, and
make sure they know this thing is
coming.

INT. LILY'S VW VAN - DAY

Boone at the wheel. Lily staring out at the tornado.

BOONE
Already on it.

--THEN WE PULL OUT OF THE VAN WINDOW... see they're leading the Longhorn Pickup and Food Truck, speeding down the road.

...race past Scott's SUV parked along the shoulder. Mason and Scott are standing outside it, filming the funnel... see the vehicles moving far ahead of the tornado.

SCOTT
They're dropping it?

Mason watches them go, then-

MASON
No, they're going to help.

Mason starts climbing in.

SCOTT
Hang on, what are we doin'?

MASON
Goin' with 'em.

SCOTT
What? Into it's path. Screw that.
We've been close enough once
already.

MASON
Lawson's gonna get nailed.

SCOTT
Nothin' we can do for 'em, Mason.

MASON
Or nothing they can do for us?

SCOTT
Think about it, man.

Mason steps on the gas... takes off alone.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
HEY!

EXT. FARM - DAY

A FARMER on an old tractor, plowing a field... sees his WIFE
WAVING FRANTICALLY from their front porch. He looks behind
him... sees the oncoming twister... leaps off the tractor...
takes off running for the farmhouse...

...as the tornado churns over the earth... nearing the
farm... swallows the tractor... splinters the barn.

EXT. LAWSON, OKLAHOMA - DAY

And now more People are noticing that sky... know exactly
what it means... JUST AS THE TOWN'S STORM SIRENS BLARE.

-- PARENTS grab their Children from the baseball field,
hurrying them into cars... rushing toward houses.

-- PEOPLE frantically scatter along the streets for shelter.

-- THE TWO LITTLE GIRLS still perched at the top of the
ferris wheel, as the WINDS GROW STRONGER, and their
GRANDMOTHER YELLS TO THEM from below... and the Worker
struggles to get the ferris wheel moving again.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler and Kate racing down the road, trying to catch up to the tornado.

TYLER
Just gotta get in front of it.

KATE
But the trailer hitch.

TYLER
We leave it hitched. I set the
spikes, dump the vehicle with it.
Run like hell.

Kate nods... okay.

EXT. OKLAHOMA SKIES - DAY

A NEWS HELICOPTER bending across the sky, keeping a safe distance from the funnel cloud.

REPORTER (V.O.)
The same tornado that tore through
Elk Valley is on a direct course
for Lawson.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

--ANGLE ON A SMALL TV... NEWS FOOTAGE OF THE TORNADO.

Darlene enters from gardening, goes to the sink to wash her hands... GLANCES TO THE TV... sees the tornado onscreen... turns toward it, forgetting to turn off the water.

REPORTER (V.O.)
All residents need to find a safe
location, preferably below ground.

EXT. LAWSON, OKLAHOMA - DAY

-- CHAOS. People running for cover... charging into stores... swarming into a SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.

-- THE CARNIVAL. The Two Little Girls CRYING NOW as the winds rock the ferris wheel. The Worker is fighting the controls.

WORKER
Winds have jammed it or something!

Riders are climbing out of the lower baskets, leaping down, running for safety.

-- BASEBALL FIELD... some Children foot, others sharing bikes... speeding away, as Lily's Van races up beside them, Lily throwing open her door.

LILY

Get in!

The Children pour into the van.

-- THE LONGHORN PICKUP and Food Truck zoom down the streets, picking up People... hauling them toward the gymnasium.

-- Mason drives down the street... sees the Two Little Girls still in the ferris wheel... the Worker climbing up to try and release them as the Grandmother CRIES OUT from below. Mason veers off the street... over the town square grass... skidding to a stop near the ferris wheel. He leaps out.

MASON

What's wrong with it?!

WORKER

I don't know! The wind or controls jammed, I don't know!

GRANDMOTHER

Please help them!

Mason starts working on the controls... steals a glance toward the approaching tornado.

EXT. PRAIRIE OUTSIDE OF LAWSON - DAY

Tyler's SUV bounces off the road, tears over the prairie to get in the tornado's path. It's still a mile away.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Tyler sets the anchors. They leap out.

EXT. PRAIRIE OUTSIDE OF LAWSON - DAY

Tyler and Kate take off on foot, heading out of the path. But then Kate looks toward Lawson... stops.

TYLER

Kate, c'mon!

KATE
We're too close.

TYLER
What?

KATE
Even if the polymer works, it won't
activate in time.

TYLER
It's all we've got, Kate.

Kate considers that, then looks back to Lawson... People
still looking for safety.

KATE
It'll wipe it out. Just like all
the others.

TYLER
Kate.

Then Kate looks back to Tyler, and Tyler reads her eyes...
shakes his head.

KATE
It might work.

Kate sprints back into Tyler's vehicle... closes the door.
Tyler runs toward her.

TYLER
Kate!

And THE ANCHORS RETRACT. The vehicle lunges forward...

TYLER (CONT'D)
KATE! NO!

...bolts across the prairie toward that monster storm.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Kate's tearing across the plains... pulling those harness
straps over her as she drives.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

The massive twister cuts a giant scar across the earth...
howling over the land like a violent, spinning horde... and
Kate is the lone rider meeting its attack.

INT. NEWS HELICOPTER - DAY

The Reporter watching Tyler's SUV speeding at the tornado.

REPORTER (V.O.)
I'm not sure what's happening, but
there's a vehicle driving straight
into the storm.

EXT. LAWSON, OKLAHOMA - DAY

Mason finally unjams the controls... the ferris wheels begins
lowering the Girls. Mason helps them out...

MASON
Everybody in my car!

...then sees Tyler's SUV charging the funnel cloud.

MASON (CONT'D)
Christ, Kate. What are you doing?

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Darlene standing in front of the television, watching Tyler's
SUV heading toward the tornado. Darlene's legs weaken a
bit... she eases down to a chair to watch.

DARLENE
Please don't do that, Katie.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Kate speeds straight toward the center of the funnel... her
eyes frightened but determined... finally ready to meet her
nightmare head-on...

KATE
This is what you wanted.

...the rain and hail and debris beating down...

KATE (CONT'D)
Here I am.

...Kate straining to hold the wheel steady in the winds...

KATE (CONT'D)
Here I am!

...full speed into the beast...

KATE (CONT'D)
HERE I AM!

...and devoured by the storm.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Darlene watches the SUV vanish. She closes her eyes.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

The impact with the two hundred mph winds hit like a high-speed crash. Kate's body snaps against the straps, her head CRACKING AGAINST THE STEERING WHEEL.

FLASHCUT TO:

JEB HOLDING KATE.

JEB
It's gonna be okay.

BACK TO SCENE

The ROARING WINDS pound the vehicle. Kate's flung to the side. The straps barely able to hold as Kate's dazed hand tries to find the anchor lever... pull it again to hold her place on the ground.

EXT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

The tornado churns violently around... lifting it up so that the anchors are only reaching for air... as the trailer begins to rise... lifting the vehicles rear end... the swirling winds pulling everything up into the vortex... the tarp rips away, and the polymer pours into the core.

INT. TYLER'S SUV - DAY

Flipping upside down... blood dripping down Kate's face as she stares out the window slats... up the throat of the monster... and the vehicle begins spinning faster... faster... the storm viciously whipping the vehicle.

EXT. PRAIRIE OUTSIDE LAWSON - DAY

Tyler stares at the tornado as it roars closer. A HONK from behind him... Boone and Lily in Lily's van.

BOONE

We've gotta go, Ty. Right now.

Tyler hesitates... doesn't want to go... but finally begins to turn... just as the ROAR SEEMS TO SOFTEN... the violent churning slows... the charge stops... and that thick dark funnel cloud thins... fades...

LILY

Oh my God...

BOONE

You gotta be shittin' me.

...until there's nothing left but that wide scar in the earth... and Tyler's battered vehicle lying upside down in the center of it.

Tyler charges across the field toward it.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

One of the SUV'S BATTERED DOORS SQUEAKS OPEN... Kate drags herself out, bloodied and bruised but still very much alive. Tyler charges to her, yelling as he runs.

TYLER

You okay?!

Kate smiles, nods... and he pulls her into a tight hug.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I can't believe what you did.

EXT. LAWSON, OKLAHOMA - STREET - DAY

Scott's SUV stopped in the street. Mason looking out his open window... watching Kate and Tyler hug. Mason smiles.

GRANDMOTHER

Who is that?

MASON

The girl who stopped a tornado.

INT. DARLENE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Darlene's laughing through tears as she watches Kate and Tyler hold each other.

EXT. LAWSON, OKLAHOMA - DAY

Ben's taking photographs of Kate and Tyler... then lowers the camera, just watches them... smiles.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Kate and Tyler start toward Lawson.

KATE

Sorry about your car.

TYLER

Yeah, not exactly how I'd have done it, but we can work on your technique for next time.

KATE

I'm never doing that again.

The rest of the Team rushing to meet them...

KATE (CONT'D)

And I want my own t-shirt.

...swarming over Kate.

AND WE RISE HIGH INTO THE AIR... until we can see that the full view of that giant scar torn into the earth... and stopping right at the town's edge.

FADE OUT.