

CAMPOUT FINALE

Written by

Jan Fredric Dalby

1174 West 900 South, Mapleton, Utah 84664  
801-520-3294  
Jfdalby1@gmail.com

WGA #2265808

FADE IN

EXT. BIG BOX STORE - NIGHT

A rusty old four-door sedan pulls into the parking lot, dings a shopping cart, and slides to a stop on wet pavement.

SUPER: "Thursday - 6:25 PM"

Distant lightning and rumbling THUNDER. Light rain falls.

QUINN WALKER, 36, an oddly handsome geek with messed up hair, casually dressed in nothing that matches, gets out.

Steps in a puddle and doesn't notice.

Flings the car door closed.

Struggles to pull up his jacket zipper and plods to the entrance.

INT. BIG BOX STORE - NIGHT

Quinn passes through automatic doors. Still works on his zipper.

Gives up on the zipper and looks down. Sees his wet shoes and pant legs and stomps his feet.

Grabs a wobbly-wheeled shopping cart, and pulls a folded paper from his coat pocket.

Scans a childishly-lettered, hand-written list.

Stuffs the list in his pocket and accelerates the cart toward the back of the store.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT SECTION

Quinn stops, glances back and forth at the list and the shelves as he finds, grabs, and puts items in his cart.

-- three-man tent

-- two sleeping bags

-- knife

-- flashlight

-- fishing pole kit and bait jar

-- two mess kits

-- lighter

Sees "camping shovel" scrawled on the list.

Looks around confused. He can't find it.

Rolls cart away, perturbed.

#### GARDEN SUPPLIES SECTION

Quinn maneuvers the cart back and forth.

Scans shelves up and down, side to side.

Picks up a small trowel.

QUINN

(mumbling)

Now where would a camping shovel  
hide? Next to camping rakes?

Picks up a small hand rake, scowls, and frustrated, tosses  
both tools back into the display. He can't find a camping  
shovel and races away.

#### CAMPING EQUIPMENT SECTION

Quinn searches shelves more closely.

Finally, crawling on his knees, finds a camping shovel hidden  
on a bottom shelf.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Ah-ha! There you are you little  
devil!

Notices a hatchet cased in a belt holder next to it.

Picks up both. Eyes the hatchet. Chops the air.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Not on the list, but pretty cool.

Quinn gets up and puts camping shovel and hatchet in the  
shopping cart.

Quickly turns and navigates toward the store front.

On the way, he slides to a stop.

Grabs and tosses a six-pack of root beer and a large bag of  
Cheetos in the cart and zooms to checkout.

## CHECKOUT REGISTER

Quinn swipes a credit card.

## EXT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT

Quinn loads the purchase in the back seat. Slams the door.

Plops down in the front, closes his door, and drives off in the rain.

Lightning flashes and THUNDER cracks.

## EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Lightning flashes in the distance.

A lighted sign - "Franklin City Hospital" - shines through rain in front of the well-lit hospital.

THUNDER rumbles.

## INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

## SKYE'S ROOM

SKYE WALKER, 10, a slight, mop-top boy, confident and cheery, sits up in bed.

On the night stand is a framed photo of a "smiling younger Skye with a small fish on a string as he stands next to his proud dad."

On the floor by the wall is a backpack.

Skye holds a tablet that plays a pretty, but haunting tune.

His mother, CARI KING, 32, strikingly beautiful and dressed for a runway walk, coat over her arm, listens and smiles.

She plays with her smartphone.

CARI

That's nice, Skye. Is that an I-Tune you downloaded?

SKYE

(slightly irritated)

No, mom. I made it on my tablet. It came with really easy software.

See,...

Skye holds up his tablet for Cari to see.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
You just have to click this icon  
and...

Interrupting, the room door opens and FAYE HARRIS, 29, Skye's overly enthusiastic nurse, enters. She carries a small tray loaded with medications.

FAYE  
Hello Mrs. King. Time for your meds, Skye.... Oh, that is so pretty. Another one of your fabulous creations?

SKYE  
Yes, Miss Faye. I've been working on it since Monday. It's called "Sunset Lake."

FAYE  
Perfect! I can see it now, quiet, serene,...  
(singing)  
"Summertime, and the livin' is easy; fish are jumpin', and the cotton is high..."

Cari stops looking at her phone and interrupts.

CARI  
I need to go home now and put your sister to bed, Skye. I'll bring her by tomorrow after school. Okay?

Skye rubs and licks his chapped lips.

SKYE  
(mumbling)  
Okay, Mom. I miss her.

CARI  
Don't do that. Your lips will bleed.

Faye puts down the tray on the side table.

Picks up a tube of flavored Chapstick from the tray.

FAYE  
Will this do the trick?

Skye lights up. Holds out his hand.

SKYE  
Can I have it, Miss Faye? Please? I  
may need it later.

FAYE  
Sure Skye, add it to your  
collection.

Faye flips the Chapstick to Skye.

He catches it and twists it open.

CARI  
Nice catch. Now you be good for  
Miss Faye. Okay?

Skye applies Chapstick to his lips and mumbles.

SKYE  
I will Mom.

Cari turns to leave.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
Mom?

Cari turns around at the door and faces Skye. She's impatient  
but fakes interest.

CARI  
Yes, Skye.

SKYE  
I love you, Mom. Will you pray for  
me. And Daddy?

CARI  
(puzzled)  
Of course. And I love you too.

Cari turns and walks out the door.

Glances back at Skye through the door.

He smiles and waves goodbye.

Cari waves back, smiles, and quickly pulls her hand down.  
She's embarrassed.

HALL NEAR SKYE'S ROOM

Cari starts down the hall, pauses as if to go back in, but  
instead hurries down the hall toward the elevator.

## SECOND FLOOR ELEVATOR

Cari pushes the down button. The elevator doors open. DING.

Cari steps in and turns around.

Puts her smartphone in her purse and pulls out a hankie.  
Glances around self-consciously and wipes her eyes.

CARI (CONT'D)  
(mumbling)  
Pray for his dad, my ex, the bum?  
That'll be the day.

She starts singing, softly, as she pushes "Floor 1" button.

CARI (CONT'D)  
"Your daddy ain't rich, but your  
mama's good looking..."

Cari smiles as the elevator doors close.

## SKYE'S ROOM - LATER

Faye looks back at Skye from the door.

FAYE  
Those pills will get rid of pain...  
And they'll make you sleep like a  
baby. But you know that.

Faye chuckles to herself.

SKYE  
(groggy)  
I know. Thanks Miss Faye. Bye.

FAYE  
Good night, Skye. Sweet "Sunset  
Lake" dreams.

Fluorescent lights from the hall shine on Skye. His eyes  
reflect the hall lights. Faye slowly closes the door.

Skye sits up in the dark and spits the pills into his hand.

Lightning momentarily brightens the room. Skye puts the pills  
in a small plastic bag, hides it, and lies down, eyes wide  
open.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Quinn's car whooshes past. Two red taillights reflect on rain puddles in the street.

The car zips toward a large, lit-up building (the hospital).

SUPER: "Friday, 5:47 AM"

Rain falls, lightning flashes. Low roll of THUNDER.

**EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

Quinn's car pulls into the parking lot, bumps into the curb, and then parks in a space between two other cars.

Headlights go out and engine stops.

Thunder RUMBLES.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT

Quinn opens the glove box, takes out small flashlight.

Pulls the shopping list from his pocket, turns on the flashlight, and shines it on the paper.

He turns around and scans his purchases in the back seat.

The flashlight beam gradually dims. Quinn is frustrated.

QUINN  
Batteries! We need batteries too.

Quinn turns around and sees Emergency Room entrance doors open.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

EMT 1 and EMT 2 rush out and jump into a waiting ambulance.

Engine starts, and lights, siren, and emergency lights go on.

Ambulance screeches from its parking stall under a canopy and side-slips when it reaches the wet pavement.

Races down the street.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn watches the ambulance drive away.

QUINN  
(whispered)  
He's gonna do it. Tonight.

Quinn takes a big breath, opens his door, and steps out.

EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Quinn steps into a puddle, shuts his car door, and high-steps through the puddle to the sidewalk.

QUINN  
Oh man, that's all I need - again.

Quinn stomps to the E.R. entrance and stops at the door.

As he looks down at his wet shoes and pant legs, the automatic doors open.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

EMERGENCY ROOM

Inside lights frame Quinn standing at the entrance, looking down at his wet shoes and pant legs.

EMT 3, at the counter, glances up and smiles.

EMT 3  
You okay? Need help?

Quinn enters. Each step SLOSHES.

QUINN  
Yeah, can we use the bathroom?  
It's... an emergency.

EMT 3 nods at Quinn, looks down at his computer screen.

EMT 3  
Sure, it's down the hall on your left.

QUINN  
Thanks.

HALLWAY FIRST FLOOR

Quinn sloshes down the hall leaving a trail of water, finds the men's room, and enters.

MEN'S ROOM

Quinn enters and steps toward the stalls. He glops a trail of water.

Looks back, stops, and extracts a wad of paper towels from the dispenser. Bends down and tries to mop up the puddles.

Frustrated - there's too much water - he chuck's the wet paper towels toward the trash. They stick to the wall.

Enters the last stall by the window. Closes the door, locks it, and sits. Puts his head in his hands. Gives a big sigh.

SKYE'S ROOM

Skye's bed looks occupied, but he stands in the dark at the door, fully dressed, wearing a jacket and his backpack.

Skye peeks out.

HALL OUTSIDE SKYE'S ROOM

Skye looks in both directions and sees no one. He hears COMMOTION down a side hallway.

Creeps slowly across the hall to a door marked "Exit."

Halfway there, he hears a TRAY DROP. He's startled and stops.

Dashes toward the exit, opens the door, and goes through.

STAIRWELL FLOOR TWO

A big "2" is on the wall. Skye breathes hard, pauses, and holds the rail. He steps slowly down the stairs.

Stops briefly on the landing halfway down. Deep breathes.

Slowly descends to the floor marked "1."

HALLWAY FIRST FLOOR

Skye peeks out the door and hears EMT 3 talking somewhere down the hall. Crosses the hallway.

EMT 3 (O.C.)  
(barely audible)

Yes sir.... Just one call.... No,  
not yet.... But we may have some  
activity with the storm building.

Skye opens the men's room door with effort and enters.

EMT 3 doesn't see him.

MEN'S ROOM

Skye slips but doesn't fall on the wet floor.

Tiptoes to the stall next to the window and stops.

SKYE  
(whispered)  
Dad, is that you?

The stall door lock CLICKS and the door opens.

QUINN  
Yes, Skye, it's me. I'm here.

They hug.

Quinn squats, puts his hands on Skye's shoulders, and talks to him closely.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Sure ya wanna to do this?

SKYE  
(seriously)  
Yeah, Dad. This is what I want. I'm tired of this place. God wants me to be with you. And everybody looks at me funny.

Skye hands Quinn a cell phone.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
Here's the phone. Good way to signal you and clear the way.

QUINN  
An untraceable prepaid - used maybe illegally. But I don't think God will mind? Anyway, let's go son.

Quinn pockets the phone.

They walk to the men's room door.

Quinn slips on the puddles but doesn't fall. Skye laughs.

SKYE  
Why's the floor all wet, Dad?

QUINN

Probably because water follows me  
everywhere.

SKYE

That doesn't make sense.

QUINN

I know. I don't understand either.  
Maybe it's a sign.

HALLWAY FIRST FLOOR

Quinn and Skye sneak out of the men's room and step slowly  
but deliberately toward the Emergency Room exit door.

QUINN (CONT'D)

(whispered)

Stay close to me, on this side.

Quinn shifts Skye onto his side away from the ER desk. Slips  
again. Recovers. Skye muffles a laugh.

QUINN (CONT'D)

(loudly to EMT 3)

Thanks, you're a life saver.

EMT 3

No problem. You guys be careful out  
there. Storm's pickin' up.

EMT 3 glances up at them, waves, and then concentrates on his  
work.

QUINN

Sure thing. Thanks.

The automatic doors open.

Behind Quinn and Skye. EMT 3's radio comes to life. BUZZ.  
Then...

EMT 3

You gotta be kidding me!... The  
place is empty?... Well, come on  
back.... (Unintelligible complaint)

Quinn and Skye quickly shuffle out.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The door closes behind Quinn and Skye.

Quinn picks up Skye.

They look at each other closely, smile, look back at EMT 3, and shrug their shoulders.

Quinn walks briskly to his car. It's raining more heavily.

QUINN'S CAR

Quinn opens the passenger door, helps take off Skye's backpack, and winds up to toss it in the back.

SKYE  
Careful, Dad, my tablet's in there.

QUINN  
Oh, oops. Sorry.

Quinn carefully stows the backpack on the back seat with all the other supplies.

As he starts to close Skye's door...

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Seatbelt, Buddy!

Skye reaches for the seatbelt.

Quinn closes Skye's door and hurries around the back of the car.

Splashes through a deep puddle and gets in the car.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn buckles up and sees Skye shivering.

He starts the engine and turns the heater to max.

He reaches into the back seat and produces a bag of Cheetos.

QUINN  
Tah-dah! Trip munchies!

SKYE  
Wow! Mom won't let me have junk food. Thanks, Dad.

Quinn rips open the bag, offers Cheetos to Skye.

Skye grabs a handful. Quinn reaches in and grabs some too. He hands the whole bag to Skye.

They munch loudly, smiling, waiting.

**EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

The ambulance pulls in under the canopy.

EMT 1 and EMT 2 get out and disappear into the hospital.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn and Skye look at each other with a guilty smile.

QUINN  
(with mouthful of Cheetos)  
I gueth we thould make our getaway,  
par'ner. Thure you thtill want to  
go?

SKYE  
(with Cheetos in mouth)  
Yeth, Dad. Thith ith wight. Tank  
you for hepings me. I wuve you.

They lean forward for a hug, but seatbelts bring them to a jerked stop.

They laugh through Cheetos.

Quinn holds up his left hand for a high-five.

Skye slaps it with his right hand.

Cheetos dust flies. They both laugh again.

SKYE  
Yeah. Let's go!

Quinn puts the car in reverse, turns on wipers, backs out.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn's car turns toward the exit. Car lights go on.

Pulls out of the parking lot and hits the curb, hidden by a large puddle.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The curb bump makes Skye drop a Cheeto headed for his mouth.

QUINN (O.S.)  
That curb again! It follows me  
everywhere.

Skye bends down, finds the Cheeto on the floor.

Quinn looks at Skye and frowns.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Car floors are grubby, son. Don't eat that.

SKYE  
Nothing down there is worse than  
what I've got.

Skye plops the Cheeto in his mouth.

QUINN  
You're probably right, but...

Quinn glances at Skye, who happily grabs another handful of Cheetos, and smiles.

Quinn concentrates on driving.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The hospital is visible behind Quinn's car.

The car whishes away and disappears into the storm, taillights fading and rooster-tails rising.

Lightning flashes followed by THUNDER.

EXT. KING MANSION - DAY

Rain still comes down, lightly. Clouds cover the sky. It's barely light.

TNT, KING MANSTON = DAY

## MASTER BEDROOM

Digital radio alarm clock goes off showing 6:45 AM. An elevator version of "Raindrops keep falling on my head..." is playing.

Cari slaps it off, rolls over, and wakes her husband, ED KING, 42, delicately handsome, robust, and self-conscious.

CARI  
Time to get up, sleepyhead.

Ed rolls toward Cari, throws his arm around her, pretends he's asleep.

CARI (CONT'D)  
Not today, mister. You've got a meeting with the boss. Up and at 'em.

Cari pushes Ed's arm off her and gets up.

Ed, feigning disappointment, slowly rises, sits on the bed.

Ed yawns and stretches.

ED  
Oo-kay, you're right. Big day.

CARI  
I'll get AUDREY up. You make yourself look sharp. The red tie is best.

Cari goes out the door.

Ed heads to the bathroom.

KITCHEN (LATER)

AUDREY WALKER, 7, Skye's precocious, often bossy little sister, has a fuzzy-bee-clip in her hair.

Sits at the table spelling words in her alphabet cereal. Spells "GOD."

Cari drinks a cup of coffee.

Looks at the clock on the wall. It reads "7:45 AM"

Ed enters and Cari gives him cup of coffee.

ED  
THANKS.

Ed takes a sip. Then another.

CARI

You look sharp. Careful. Don't spill. Audrey, quit playing. We've got to leave soon.

ED

You look so pretty, Audrey. I love that little bee in your hair. Don't let it sting you.

Ed pats Audrey's hair.

AUDREY

It's fake, Ed. And I like bees. And honey.

CARI

You should call him Dad, Audrey. Don't be rude.

AUDREY

But my Daddy doesn't live here anymore. He's Ed.

ED

That's okay by me, Audie. Call me whatever you want.

Cari busies herself putting things away.

CARI

Audrey, do you want to see Skye after school?

AUDREY

Oh yes, Mommy. He's making a new song for me.

Ed puts down his coffee cup and grabs a briefcase and a couple of granola bars.

ED

Gotta run. We're meeting for lunch?

CARI

At the Allegro, noon, after your meeting. With good news - I hope?

ED

That's what I expect.... Bye, buzzy-bee-Girl.

AUDREY

Bye, Ed.

Ed kisses Cari, pats Audrey on the head and pretends he was stung.

ED  
Ow! Bad little bee!

Audrey chuckles. Ed goes out the door. Cari is busy again.

CARI  
Okay Audrey, let's go. I have things to do too.

Audrey puts "GOD" in her mouth.

CARI (CONT'D)  
You have all your things? Don't forget your raincoat. One-two-three, hurry, hurry.

Audrey springs from her chair.

EXT. KING MANSION - DAY

DRIVEWAY

Cari helps Audrey into the back seat, buckles Audrey's seat belt, and gets in the driver's seat.

Her cell phone rings. She answers, settles into her seat, and closes the door.

INT. CARI'S CAR - DAY

CARI  
Hello... What?... When?... I saw him last night...  
(upset, voice rising)  
He was there... Yes, of course...  
No, I don't know... I'll be there soon.

Cari, now frantic, puts her phone in her purse, latches her seatbelt, starts the car, and puts it in gear.

EXT. CARI'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Cari's car bolts out of the driveway and almost hits a passing car that HONKS.

INT. CARI'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Cari accelerates and swerves around traffic.

AUDREY

What's wrong, Mommy? Why are you  
driving so crazy?

CARI

(driving erratically)

Just some grown-up things. I'm  
going to take care of it.

Audrey holds on. It's a fun ride.

AUDREY

Wee-e-e!

EXT. AUDREY'S SCHOOL - DAY

Cari's car cuts in front of another HONKING car and pulls  
into the drop-off lane, slides to a stop on wet pavement.

Cari darts out, opens Audrey's door, and unbuckles her.

Push-hugs Audrey toward the school.

CARI

Have a good day, sweetheart.

Before Audrey can respond, Cari turns and gets into the car.

AUDREY

(yelling)

I will, Mommy. - Go fix things.

Cari speeds off. Almost hits another car. It HONKS.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - DAY

Quinn's car negotiates several curves on a wet road.

Stops at a roadside convenience store/gas station.

But no more rain: the sun shows through clouds.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Quinn parks at a gas pump in front of the store.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Quinn turns off the engine and looks at Skye.

Skye is awake, but groggy.

QUINN

You brought some meds, right?

No response. Quinn ruffles Skye's hair.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Skye, are you awake? Where's your  
meds?

SKYE

Uh, yeah Dad. They're in my  
backpack.

Quinn reaches in the back seat and pulls the backpack to the front.

He goes through it and pulls out a plastic bag full of pills.

QUINN

Here they are. Which ones do you  
get in the morning? Skye... ?

Skye's eyes are droopy. He's still groggy.

QUINN (CONT'D)

(rubs Skye's hair again)

Skye, which pills do you need now?

SKYE

Uh... I get two yellows, and one  
big white one in the morning.

Quinn picks the pills out of the bag.

He reaches into the back seat, fishes around, RIPS open a carton.

Pulls a can of root beer to the front, opens it. It FIZZES.

QUINN

Can you take pills with this?

SKYE

(eyes light up)

Sure, but Mom won't like it.

Quinn hands the soda and pills to Skye.

QUINN

I know. But we're on vacation. She won't mind... and she won't know.

Skye takes the pills one at time. Swallows with difficulty.

SKYE

That tickles. I'll feel better in a while. These are pretty strong meds. - I guess I'm a druggy. Is that bad?

QUINN

Of course not. You're under doctor's orders. That's different. Those pills are like food. Your body needs them to survive.

SKYE

Kinda like Cheetos and root beer?

QUINN

Sure. But not as tasty.

They smile. Quinn unbuckles his seat belt.

QUINN (CONT'D)

But we need gas, and I have to buy batteries too... and real food. Froot Loops for breakfast, hot dogs for lunch... and dinner? Sound okay?

SKYE

Really? Wow! We are on vacation. Can I come in too?

QUINN

No, you rest till your meds kick in. You're a little woozy. You be okay here alone?

SKYE

Yeah, but will you please buy some M and M's, a Twix bar, and some...

QUINN

Whoa there, partner! All that sugar will make you bounce off the walls.

Skye gives Quinn a "you've-got-to-be-kidding" look.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
But you do need a little pick-me-up. I'll get a supply of goodies.

SKYE  
Thanks, Dad. You're the best.

Quinn opens the car door and holds up his keys.

QUINN  
Lock up. I have the keys.

SKYE  
(mumbles and swigs soda)  
Okay, Dad.

EXT. QUINN'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Quinn gets out of the car and steps into a puddle. Skye laughs. Quinn closes the car door. Hears the locks click.

Quinn gives Skye a thumbs-up and stomps toward the store entrance.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

SKYE'S ROOM

Cari sits in a chair, distraught, teary.

DETECTIVE RICK WRIGHT, 48, suit and tie, all business and often obsessive, squats down and looks around and under the bed.

OFFICER WILLIAMS, a teenage-looking 25, Rick's partner, takes photos with his phone.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR STRICTON, 52, short and straight-laced, stands next to Nurse Faye.

RICK  
(getting up)  
Did you notice anything unusual before you left last night, Mrs. King?

CARI  
(emotional)  
No, everything was fine. Skye was happy. He played me a new tune he composed on his tablet.

RICK

Your son's name is Skye King?

Rick smiles and looks at Williams, who shrugs his shoulders.

CARI

No, his name is Skye Walker. His dad and I are divorced. I'm now married to Ed King.

RICK

Skywalker, like in Star Wars?

CARI

No. Skye. Walker. His dad, Quinn Walker, and I were watching Star Wars when we...

RICK

Okay, I get it. Can you think of any reason Skye would run away?

Cari is indignant.

CARI

Run away? He is... He couldn't... There's no way...

Rick holds up his hand.

RICK

I'm sorry. I had to ask.

STRICTON

Officer Wright, Skye has a terminal illness. This hospital and his medications are the only things keeping him alive and comfortable. If he ran away,...

Stricton glances at Cari. Cari stares back.

STRICTON (CONT'D)

Well, he couldn't last more than a few days without his medications.

Cari looks away and cries. Faye kneels to comfort her. Rick scratches his head and taps twice on the end of the bed.

FAYE

He'll be okay, Mrs. King. We'll find him.

Rick hesitates.

RICK

Sorry to ask this, Mrs. King, but  
do you and your husband have... how  
shall I put this... lots of money?

CARI

(still emotional)

Well, yes, I guess. Ed's doing very  
well. He's working a deal now that  
could bring in millions. This week.

Cari composes herself and stares at Rick.

CARI (CONT'D)

You don't think Skye was kidnapped,  
do you?

RICK

That's a possibility we need to  
consider. Is your husband aware of  
what happened?

CARI

Yes, I called him and he's on the  
way.

RICK

Nurse Harris, you were the last one  
to see Skye. Did you notice  
anything different or unusual?

Faye rises and faces Rick.

FAYE

No, he took his medicine. I tucked  
him in and left. The night staff  
told me this morning they noticed  
he was gone when they went to wake  
him for morning meds.

RICK

What time was that?

FAYE

They do rounds starting at 6:30 and  
got to his room at about 7:15. They  
looked for him, but...

Faye gets emotional.

FAYE (CONT'D)

Then they called Mrs. King and the  
police. When I got here at 8:00 I  
learned... I feel so bad.

RICK

So he could have disappeared  
between about eight last night and  
seven-fifteen this morning?

CARI

Disappeared? You mean taken -  
kidnapped - don't you!

Ed enters the room and goes straight to Cari.

ED

What? Skye was - kidnapped?

RICK

We're not sure, but we have to  
consider it. - Mister King, I  
presume?

Ed squats down next to Cari.

ED

Yes, and you are?...

RICK

Detective Rick Wright. This is my  
partner, Officer Williams.

Williams and Ed exchange nods. Ed puts his arm around Cari.

ED

So what do we do now? We'll do  
anything - pay anything - to find  
Skye and bring him back.

RICK

First, let's tap your phones - in  
case it was a kidnapping for ransom  
- while I check out other leads.

Williams CLICKS a photo of the picture on the night stand.  
Rick looks that direction.

ED

Okay, we'll do whatever you say.  
But who'd kidnap Skye? No one knows  
about the deal I'm working, and...

Ed stops mid-sentence and watches Rick approach the night stand.

Rick picks up the photo of Skye and Quinn. He taps it twice  
and puts it down.

RICK

Does Skye's father, Quinn Walker,  
right?... Live in town?

CARI

Well, yes.

RICK

We need to tell him what happened  
and see if he knows anything. How  
can we contact him?

CARI

He works at a call center but his  
cell phone is broken. - Or he  
didn't pay the bill.

RICK

Okay, folks. Thanks. Go home. I'll  
send Williams to handle things  
there while I check out - other  
details.

Rick shakes Ed's hand, nods at the rest. Rick raps twice on  
the door as he leaves.

RICK (CONT'D)

We'll find Skye.

Rick walks out. Williams follows.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - DAY

Quinn's car winds along the narrow two-lane mountain road.

The sun is up and weather nice.

Quinn's car slows at a sign, "Sunset Lake - 12 Miles." An  
arrow points down an unpaved road.

Quinn's car turns onto Sunset Lake Road.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - DAY

Quinn's car bounces and slips along a rocky, muddy unimproved  
road.

The main highway disappears behind them.

Quinn pulls the car over at an opening and stops.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - DAY

SKYE

Why are we stopping, Dad?

QUINN

We need to eat. Let's picnic on those rocks over there. Okay?

SKYE

Good idea. I'm hungry. And I'm feeling better too.

QUINN

Chocolate power, I assume?

Skye smiles and nods yes. Chocolate is smeared on his face. Quinn licks his finger and wipes the chocolate from Skye's face.

QUINN (CONT'D)

I'll bring the cereal and milk. Can you make it to those rocks over there?

SKYE

Yeah. I'm pretty sure.

Skye opens his door. Quinn turns around to the back seat and grabs a grocery sack and two mess kits.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - DAY

Skye gets out, and walks slowly, a little wobbly, to some nearby boulders and sits down.

Quinn gets out with the mess kits and a grocery sack.

Steps in a mud puddle.

QUINN

Dang! What's with these puddles?

SKYE

(laughing)

You better learn how to walk, Dad. -  
Maybe swim.

Quinn smiles, walks to the boulders, and sits next to Skye.

Quinn puts down the grocery sack, removes the mess kits from their containers, and hands one Skye.

Quinn fights to open his mess kit and is frustrated.

QUINN  
(turning to Skye)  
You know how to open this thing?

He looks at Skye, whose mess kit is already open.

Skye hands his open mess kit to Quinn and takes Quinn's.

SKYE  
I'll handle this, Dad. You get out  
the Froot Loops and milk.

Quinn picks up the grocery sack. Takes out cereal and milk.

Skye opens the other mess kit easily.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
Tah-dah!

Quinn smiles.

QUINN  
You're so smart.

Quinn rips open the Froot Loops box.

Pours a lot in both mess kits.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Is that enough?

SKYE  
Wow, Dad! That's way enough.

Quinn opens and splashes milk on cereal in both mess kits.

They spoon Fruit Loops into their mouths and chomp.

Lots of SLURPS, dribbles, and smiles.

EXT. KING MANSION - DAY

No more rain. The sun sparkles on the grass and trees. The unmarked police car is parked in front.

INT. KING MANSION - DAY

LIVING ROOM

Officer Williams sets up electronic equipment on a table in the nearby dining room.

Cari paces near the sofa and watches.

Ed enters from the study. He finishes a phone call.

ED

Okay... Thanks... Of course, we'll keep you apprised... Next week then... Okay. Bye.

Ed gives his phone to Officer Williams.

He stops Cari's pacing and takes her hand.

ED (CONT'D)

I cancelled all my appointments, even the big meeting scheduled for today. They understand completely and offered support. I even called the bank, just in case.

CARI

I want to know what's going on. Skye needs his medications. We should have heard something by now. I hate this.

ED

Officer, have you talked with Detective Wright yet? What's he doing?

WILLIAMS

I'm sure he's on this big time. He's one of the best, so don't worry.

ED

Easy for you to say.

WILLIAMS

I'm sorry. I mean Rick knows his business. He's thorough. He'll find out what happened.

Williams hands cell phones back to Cari and Ed.

WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

There. Your phones are all set up. We can listen and record all calls on this machine. Now we wait.

ED  
That's the hard part.

Ed hugs Cari tightly. They sigh.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - DAY

Quinn's car slowly bounces around a turn in the muddy dirt road and descends into a wide gorge.

Slides to a stop where the road fords a small stream.

Quinn gets out, steps in a puddle, and walks to the river's edge. Looks across the shallow stream.

QUINN  
(yelling to Skye)  
I think we can make it.

SKYE  
(yelling out the window)  
Are you sure, Dad?

Quinn scampers back to the car, and gets in.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

QUINN  
If we get a running start, it  
shouldn't be a problem. Let's give  
it a try.

Quinn puts the car in gear and backs up.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Quinn's car stops when he backs into a tree with a CLUNK. Two pinecones fall in the roof. CLANG, CLANG.

The engine REV'S. Clicks into "drive."

The car charges ahead.

Enters the stream. Water SPLASHES everywhere - over the hood, on the windows, in the air.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Quinn sees the windshield blanket with water. Turns on wipers, fights the steering wheel. Careens back and forth.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The car sends rooster-tails high in the air. It fishtails forward.

BANGS into river rocks, sideslips, but still plows forward. Suddenly slows. The engine REV'S. More water SPEWS everywhere The car bucks and slips close to the other side.

Suddenly it springs from the stream and slides to a stop. Water drains from the car.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - DAY

QUINN  
(whooping and yelling)  
Yee-ha! Wow! We made it!

SKYE  
All-right! Way to go, Dad! That was awesome!

They high-five.

QUINN  
Gee, I hope we don't have to do that again.

Skye stares at Quinn. Big pause. Quinn smiles, stares back.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
What?

SKYE  
Uh, Dad. We are coming back, right?

QUINN  
Oh yeah. Duh! Well, at least we know we can do it.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Quinn's dripping car motors up from the gorge and vanishes down the road into the forest.

EXT. CALL CENTER - DAY

Rick's car drives up and parks. He gets out.

INT. CALL CENTER - DAY

Rick enters and approaches the RECEPTIONIST at a counter.

Taps his badge twice on the counter.

RICK

Hi, I'm Detective Rick Wright. I'd like to talk to Quinn Walker, please.

RECEPTIONIST

Okay, do you know which section he works in? We've got over a hundred employees.

RICK

Yeah, he's in the call center, the help desk I think.

RECEPTIONIST

Okay.

The receptionist operates her phone.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Hi, I have a Detective Wright here for Quinn Walker... Yes... Okay, I'll tell him.

Receptionist disconnects phone.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

I'm afraid this is Quinn's day off. He works four tens, Monday through Thursday. Sorry.

Rick taps the counter twice.

RICK

Okay, thanks.

Rick turns, scratches his head, and leaves.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - DAY

Quinn's car negotiates the final few turns of the road.

A small lake, Sunset Lake, appears.

The car comes to a stop next to a stand of trees.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SKYE  
We're here, Dad. We made it!

QUINN  
Yup. With hardly any glitches.

SKYE  
(holding up the bag)  
And an empty bag of Cheetos. - Can  
we go fishing now. - Please?

QUINN  
Let's take some time to set up camp  
first. Then we'll eat hotdogs.  
We'll fish after that.

SKYE  
Okay, but what if we catch some  
fish? Can we eat them for dinner?

QUINN  
Only if you clean and gut them.

Skye sticks out his tongue and wrinkles his nose.

SKYE  
Yuck! Let's just let'em go if we  
catch any. Hot dogs sound better.

QUINN  
Good call. How you feeling? Time  
for meds again?

SKYE  
I'm doing okay. All that sugar gave  
me energy. And besides, I always  
take meds at night. And morning.

Quinn points to a tree near a flat spot where campers  
obviously set up before.

QUINN  
Okay. But go rest under that tree  
while I unload and get our camp set  
up and get lunch ready.

SKYE  
But I want to help.

QUINN  
You can. You be the boss and tell  
me what to do...  
(MORE)

QUINN (CONT'D)  
(pointing to the tree)  
From over there.

SKYE  
(getting out of the car)  
Really? I get to boss you around?

QUINN  
You bet, son. I'm ready!

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - DAY

CAMPSITE MONTAGE - QUINN AND SKYE HAVING FUN AT THE CAMPSITE

-- Skye sits on a log. He gestures to Quinn what to do.  
-- Quinn unloads the car and tosses sleeping bags at Skye.  
-- Quinn tomahawk chops air with the hatchet. Skye laughs.  
-- Quinn gathers fire wood - and chops two willow sticks.  
-- Skye unwraps and assembles fishing pole kit.  
-- Quinn builds a fire using food wrappers and junk from car as starters. Lots of smoke. Both CHEER when flames appear.  
-- Skye whittles points on the willows and jams hotdogs on the sticks.  
-- Skye cooks hotdogs over the fire while...  
-- Quinn reads instructions, struggles, and finally puts up the tent. Both CHEER!  
-- Skye directs Quinn to scrape out a trench around the tent with the camping shovel.  
-- Quinn and Skye consume hotdogs. They squirt small condiment packages on hotdogs and at each other.  
-- Quinn and Skye fish by the lake. Quinn steps in the lake. Both laugh.  
-- Skye catches a small fish. They unhook it and let it go. Quinn congratulates Skye.  
-- They hug and wipe fishy hands on each other's backs. They laugh.  
-- Quinn loads batteries he bought into the flashlight.

END MONTAGE

Quinn and Skye sit on a log at the campsite. Quinn puts his arm around Skye.

The fire crackles. Clouds form in the distance.

EXT. QUINN'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Rick's car drives up and parks.

Rick gets out, looks at his smartphone.

Walks down a corridor looking for Quinn's apartment.

Climbs steps and stops at apartment 213. KNOCKS. No answer.

RICK

(loudly)

Quinn Walker, this is detective  
Rick Wright. Are you home?

He KNOCKS loudly again. No answer. A NEIGHBOR LADY opens the door in apartment 212.

NEIGHBOR LADY

(irritated)

Shh! My baby's sleeping.

RICK

Sorry. I'm Detective Rick Wright.

(shows his badge)

Have you seen Quinn?

NEIGHBOR LADY

Not since yesterday. And I see his  
car is gone. It's usually parked  
down there.

The neighbor lady gestures to an empty parking place at the end of the complex.

NEIGHBOR LADY (CONT'D)

Is Quinn in trouble?

He taps twice on Quinn's door.

RICK

No, I just need to pass on some  
information. Sorry to bother you.  
Thanks.

Rick turns away.

NEIGHBOR LADY  
Sure hope you find him. He's a real nice guy.

As Rick negotiates the stairs, he gets out his phone and talks as he walks.

RICK  
Hi, this is Detective Wright. Can you look up a vehicle description and plate number for Quinn Walker?... Yeah, he lives in apartment 213, 2025 North Cedar... Thanks.

Rick ends the call and meanders down the apartment sidewalk.

EXT. AUDREY'S SCHOOL - DAY

Ed pulls up in front of the school. Audrey runs to the car. Ed gets out and opens the back door.

AUDREY  
Hi, Ed. Where's Mommy? She was gonna pick me up.

ED  
She's busy, so she asked me to come and get you. Is that okay?

AUDREY  
Sure.

Audrey gets in, and Ed helps her buckle up.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
Mommy got a call this morning, and it made her go crazy. What's wrong? Are we going to see Skye now?

Ed closes the door but doesn't answer Audrey. He walks around to the driver's door and gets in.

INT. ED'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

AUDREY  
What's wrong with Mommy?

ED  
(turning to Audrey)  
Something's happened to Skye.

AUDREY  
Oh no! Did he die?

Audrey starts to cry.

ED  
No, no... He's - he's missing.

AUDREY  
(still upset)  
No, he's in the hospital. He stays  
there now cuz he's so sick. How can  
he be - missing? That's impossible.

ED  
We don't know what happened. We're  
looking for him. The police are  
helping.

Audrey cries again.

AUDREY  
I want Mommy. Take me home. Now!

ED  
We're on the way.

EXT. ED'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ed's car quickly pulls out of the pick-up area and races  
away. Several cars HONK at him.

EXT. KING MANSION - DAY

Rick's car pulls up and stops. He gets out and walks to the  
front door and knocks twice.

Audrey opens the door.

INT. KING MANSION - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ENTRY HALL

AUDREY  
Are you the other police man guy  
looking for Skye? Did you find him?

ED  
(from another room)  
Come in Detective Wright.

AUDREY

Well, Police man Wright, where's my brother?

RICK

We're still looking.

Ed and Cari approach Rick. Audrey runs to Cari.

CARI

Any news, detective Wright?

They walk into the...

LIVING ROOM

RICK

Not much. Any ransom calls yet, Williams?

From the dining room, Williams speaks up.

WILLIAMS

No sir. All quiet here.

Ed and Cari sit down on the sofa. Rick pulls up a chair and sits facing them. Audrey approaches Rick.

AUDREY

Ran-some? What's that?

RICK

It means if somebody took Skye, he wants money, a ransom, for his return.

AUDREY

Ed, you got lots of money. You can buy back Skye, can't you?

ED

Of course, Audie. But Detective Wright, what's taking so long. If this were a kidnapping, I would expect a call by now.

AUDREY

What's a kid-napping? Is Skye asleep somewhere?

ED

It's when somebody takes someone away and they don't want to go.

AUDREY

That's not nice. Did someone take  
Skye?

RICK

We don't know yet, sweetie.

AUDREY

But you'll find Skye, won't you,  
mister police man.

RICK

That's my job.

Turning to Ed and Cari.

RICK (CONT'D)

What do you know about Skye's dad,  
Quinn? Has he been in touch with  
you, or has he visited Skye lately?

Cari is flustered.

CARI

I know he visited Skye Monday  
night, or was it Tuesday? I haven't  
seen him in a while. He may have  
visited again, but I'm not sure.

RICK

Who would know when Quinn visited  
Skye?

ED

You mean you think Quinn may have  
kidnapped Skye?

RICK

I don't know. I'm just looking at  
all possibilities.

Audrey stomps.

AUDREY

Daddy wouldn't do that. He's the  
best Daddy ever!

CARI

Yeah, I can't imagine Quinn doing  
something like that. He's so - so  
spineless. When Skye got sick, he  
just folded into himself. It's one  
reason, among many, we divorced.

Audrey gets on Cari's lap.

AUDREY  
Mommy?

Audrey talks to Cari eye-to-eye.

CARI  
Yes dear.

AUDREY  
You told me you and daddy fell out  
of love. Not that Skye made you  
stop being married. He just got  
sick.

CARI  
No, it's not Skye's fault, Audrey.  
It's complicated.

Rick taps twice on the coffee table and gets up.

RICK  
Okay. But we're looking for Quinn  
just to be sure.

Rick steps toward the front door. Stops. Turns back.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Who tracks Skye's visitors?

CARI  
Well. There's no sign-in log.  
Family members can come and go as  
they please. It's not very secure.

RICK  
That's not good.

CARI  
Probably someone at the nurses'  
station can help you.

RICK  
Okay, I'll check with them.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Late in the day, clouds form in the distant mountains.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

NURSES' STATION SECOND FLOOR

Rick approaches the station.

Faye is behind the counter with MARGIE, a young medical technician.

Faye looks up, sees Detective Wright, and is encouraged.

FAYE  
You found Skye?

RICK  
Hello, Miss Harris. No, we haven't.  
We're still trying to figure out  
what happened. I have a few more  
questions.

FAYE  
Sure, but I told you everything.

RICK  
You were the last person to see  
Skye, right?

Faye looks down, embarrassed and looking guilty. She lifts her head.

FAYE  
Yes, Detective Wright. As I told  
you, I gave him meds at about seven-  
forty-five, said good night, turned  
out the light, and... But I told  
you all this already.

Rick looks at his smartphone.

RICK  
And you left at eight, right?

FAYE  
Yes, that's when my shift is over.  
I went straight home.

Faye gets emotional.

FAYE (CONT'D)  
You don't think I?...

RICK  
No, no...

FAYE

I told you. I learned he was gone  
when I arrived this morning...

RICK

(interrupting)

Well, I talked to the whole night  
staff. They didn't hear or see  
anything... What am I missing?

Rick taps the counter twice and turns to Margie.

RICK (CONT'D)

Are you here during the day too?

MARGIE

Yes, sir. I mainly answer phones,  
track staff members, and monitor  
room calls and vitals on the  
computer.

RICK

Do you know Quinn Walker, Skye's  
father?

MARGIE

Oh yes, he comes in several times a  
week, but usually after I leave. He  
works late. He's so good with Skye.

FAYE

And Skye worships him. Quinn was  
here Sunday, and then Tuesday and  
again Wednesday evening - after I  
left, I think. Have you talked to  
him yet?

RICK

No. He's off today and not at his  
apartment.

FAYE

He really needs to know what  
happened. He'd be devastated  
knowing Skye's missing.

RICK

We'll let him know as soon as we  
locate him. If you hear from him or  
see him, call me.

Rick hands Faye and Margie business cards.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Well, I've got more checking to do.  
Let me know if you think of  
anything else.

FAYE  
We will.

MARGIE  
Goodbye, detective.

Rick taps on the counter twice and walks away.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - DAY

CAMPSITE

The campfire CRACKLES and Skye roasts hotdogs. His tablet plays his "Sunset Lake" tune.

Dark clouds form nearby. Wind picks up. The sunset peeks through the clouds. Quinn searches Skye's backpack.

QUINN  
Time for more meds? You seem pretty tired. We had a busy day.

SKYE  
It was fun, Dad. Just what I wanted. Thanks for rescuing me.

QUINN  
It was perfect, except for getting my feet wet so often.

SKYE  
Yeah, why is that?

Quinn pulls the pill bag out of the backpack.

QUINN  
I told you: Water follows me. Which pills are for night?

SKYE  
Another big white one, two yellows, and a blue one. I think the blue one helps me sleep.

Quinn hands Skye a root beer and the pills.

QUINN

You'll need the blue one. It looks like we're in for another storm.

SKYE

But the trench you dug around the tent will keep out rain water.

Skye puts the white pill in his mouth, takes a swig of root beer, and swallows. He gags and coughs.

QUINN

Are you okay? That looks so hard for you.

SKYE

(breathing deeply)

I'm okay.

Skye pretends to put the other pills in his mouth and takes a gulp of root beer.

Throws the pills in the fire while Quinn isn't looking.

SKYE (CONT'D)

I'm tired of taking pills.

QUINN

I don't blame you, but you only have morning pills left. So let's hope we don't get stuck here. I want to get you back by lunch time.

Skye pulls the hotdogs from the fire.

SKYE

These look done.

Skye presents the smoking, black hotdogs to Quinn.

QUINN AND SKYE

(laughing together)

Yummy! Charcoal dogs!

They wrap the hotdogs in buns, squirt mustard and catsup from tiny packets on them, and take a bite. CRUNCH!

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

SKYE'S ROOM

Faye stands in the open door. Scans the room, puzzled.

Enters and walks over to the far wall.

FLASHBACK - SKYE'S ROOM LAST NIGHT

-- Skye's backpack is leaning against the wall.

-- Skye says, "It's called 'Sunset Lake'."

-- Tablet music plays.

-- The photo of Skye and his dad by a lake.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Faye looks around the room:

-- No backpack.

-- No tablet.

-- She checks... No personal clothes in the closet.

She picks up the photo, still there.

She examines it closely.

FAYE  
(whispers)  
Sunset Lake.

Faye leaves Skye's hospital room.

NURSES' STATION - LATER

Faye approaches Margie.

FAYE (CONT'D)  
Hey Margie, have you ever been to  
Sunset Lake?

MARGIE  
No, but I've heard it's beautiful.  
And hard to get to. Dirt roads,  
streams to cross.

FAYE  
I wonder...

MARGIE  
(interrupting)  
What? You planning a vacation? I  
can think of classier places than  
Sunset Lake. Las Vegas, Hawaii,...

FAYE  
No. Just wondering. Thanks.

Faye turns away from Margie.

Takes her smartphone from her pocket and types: "S-u-n-s-e-t L-a-k-e" and hits "Navigate."

Sees a map and "3 HRS, 22 MINS from Your Current Location."

Closes that screen sees "6:24 PM" on her phone.

Puts her phone in her pocket.

A BING sounds on Margie's computer.

MARGIE  
Looks like room 220 needs something.

FAYE  
I'll go check.

Faye walks away.

FAYE (CONT'D)  
(to self)  
Are you at Sunset Lake, Skye? With your dad?

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT

CAMPSITE

The campfire still glows dimly.

Wind blows hard. Sparks fly away and fade in the dark.

Light rain falls. A flash of lightning in the distance is followed by a low RUMBLE of thunder.

A flashlight beam shines through the tent wall. The beam dances around.

INT. TENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The walls of the tent shimmy in the wind.

Quinn and Skye huddle in separate sleeping bags.

Skye holds the flashlight.

QUINN

Let's make animal shadows. Shine  
the flashlight on my hands.

SKYE

Okay.

Quinn cups his hands and makes a dog with his hands while  
Skye shines the flashlight on them.

QUINN

How's this?

The large shadow makes the shape of a dog on the wall of the  
tent.

SKYE

(laughing)

Sweet!

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT

CAMP SITE

A large dog head shadow dances on the wall of the tent. Then  
a bird, followed by a bat, and something unrecognizable.

The wind drowns out most of Skye's laughter.

The walls of the tent breathe in the whipping wind.

Lightening flashes again, closer, then THUNDER.

More rain falls. Heavier now.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

QUINN

I think we need to save the  
batteries. We may need the  
flashlight later.

SKYE

Okay, Dad. You're pretty good  
making those shapes.

QUINN

I practice every day at work.

SKYE

Sure, Dad. Here.

Skye hands the flashlight, still on, to Quinn.

Quinn points the flashlight up from his chin at his face.

QUINN  
(in monster voice)  
Vee need to shleep now, little boy!

SKYE  
(laughing)  
Yes, Mister Dracula.

Quinn turns off the flashlight.

The dim fire outside the tent provides a little light through the tent wall.

A dark shape passes between the glowing embers and the tent. It casts a shadow on the tent wall behind Skye.

QUINN  
Uh, Skye, did you put all the food  
and goodies in the car?

SKYE  
Yeah, Dad. I did. Why?

QUINN  
And you don't have anything but  
your pills and your tablet in your  
backpack here in the tent.

SKYE  
Yup. Except for the rest of the root beer. Oh, and some tubes of flavored Chapstick. My lips get dry at night - a lot.

The shape passes between the fire and the tent again. A stick CRACKS and there's a snorting sound.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
What's that, Dad?

QUINN  
I think we have a visitor.

Suddenly, the tent wall bulges in and a claw makes a small rip in the tent wall.

Skye and Quinn scoot themselves in their sleeping bags to the opposite side.

SKYE  
What is it, Dad?

QUINN  
It might be a bear.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CAMPSITE

A flash of lightning reveals a large bear sniffing at the wall of the tent.

CRACK of thunder. More rain.

INT. TENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The bear's paw RIPS through the wall of the tent and fishes around.

Quinn and Skye SCREAM. Quinn grabs the hatchet.

SKYE  
What's that for, Dad? You gonna  
fight the bear?

QUINN  
It's just in case.

SKYE  
Really? Please don't.

Quinn holsters the hatchet.

QUINN  
Where's your backpack? We need to  
get all the Chapstick out of here.  
And the root beer too.

Skye feels around and almost gets scratched by the bear's paw reaching through the hole.

Pulls the backpack to Quinn.

The bear paw retreats.

Quinn reaches in the backpack and pulls out a handful of Chapstick.

The tent wall bulges in again. The bears sticks in its paw farther and fishes around again.

Quinn holds up a wad of Chapstick tubes.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Your lips aren't that dry. Are  
they?

SKYE  
Mostly.

The bear withdraws its paw.

Quinn finds the root beer can. He waits.

The bear paw jabs in again and then withdraws.

Quinn rams the handful of Chapstick through the hole, drops it, withdraws his hand.

Stuffs the root beer can through the hole quickly with his other hand, withdraws his hand.

Backs up next to Skye.

Silence for a few seconds. The paw reaches in, fishes around.

Quinn and Skye SCREAM. The wind picks up. Rain falls harder.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
Dad, my cub scout book says to make  
yourself big if you meet a bear.  
How can we do that - in a tent?

QUINN  
We stand up. Like this.

He picks up the backpack and puts the tablet and flashlight inside. He Tosses the backpack over his shoulder and clips the hatchet in its case to his belt.

Still in sleeping bags, Quinn helps Skye stand up.

Quinn tips the tent towards its tied-up opening.

The tent is now on its end. The two hold up their sleeping bags with one hand and the tent with the other.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CAMPSITE

Lightning flashes and reveals a tent standing on its end.

Lightening again reveals a bear. It stands tall and GROWLS at the tent. Loud THUNDER.

Rain falls and the fire STEAMS and goes out.

INT. TENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn and Skye exchange a quick conversation.

QUINN

Okay, Skye. We're big now. Do we make noise?

SKYE

I think so. Let's try.

QUINN AND SKYE

(loudly, shaking the tent)

Grrr! Woo-hoo! Go away bear!

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CAMP SITE

A lightning flash reveals the tent bobbing around. THUNDER.

The bear is nearby.

It backs away.

Quinn and Skye YELL more and shake the tent.

QUINN AND SKYE

Arrgh! Grrr! Scram bear! Get lost bear!

The bear retreats into the woods.

INT. TENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

QUINN

Shh. I think it's gone.

SKYE

Yeah, we did it. Now what?

QUINN

I think we should spend the rest of the night in the car.

SKYE

Me too.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CAMPSITE

Quinn and Skye's sleeping bags poke out from the tent opening now at its bottom. They hop and meander in the direction of the car.

Veer off the wrong way.

Lightning flashes reveal the wind- and rain-buffeted tent:

-- Bumps into a tree.

-- Goes through a puddle.

-- Hits a bush and almost tips over.

Quinn pokes his head out of the tear made by the bear.

The tent rotates. Quinn spots the car. He pulls his head in.

The whole tent turns and waddles toward the car.

QUINN'S CAR

The tent bumps into the car.

Quinn pokes his hand through the hole and opens the car door.

Quinn and Skye lift up the tent, crawl out of their sleeping bags, and scurry into the car.

Quinn pulls in sleeping bags, and closes the car door.

The tent flies away in the wind.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn takes off the backpack. Quinn and Skye huddle in the front seat.

Wet, muddy sleeping bags and the backpack are scrunched around them. It's crowded. They can hardly move.

Quinn pushes one sleeping bag into the back seat. He puts the backpack on the front seat floor.

QUINN

I'm glad your backpack, pills, and tablet are still with us.

SKYE

But I think the tent blew away.  
What about the bear?

QUINN

I think it's...

A flash of lightning suddenly reveals the bear: It stands right outside the car looking straight at Quinn.

QUINN (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Not gone!

Quinn and Skye SCREAM together. Quinn pulls the sleeping bag over themselves to hide.

CRACK of thunder. They huddle quietly.

EXT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The bear leans on the car and rocks it back and forth, and GROWLS.

Quinn and Skye SCREAM loudly. The car horn HONKS. HONK! HONK!

A nearby flash of lightning CRACKS and FIZZES, immediate and very loud THUNDER, with HEAVY RAIN.

The bear lopes away quickly.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

HEAVY rain pounds the car.

Skye and Quinn still huddle together under a sleeping bag.

SKYE

I'm pretty sure the bear left.

QUINN

I think you're right. How are you doing?

Quinn lifts the sleeping bag off. They look around through the windows. Lightning flashes. No bear.

SKYE  
I'm okay. Sort of.

QUINN  
You need some sleep. It's been a rough day. Very different from the past few months.

SKYE  
But exactly what I wanted, Dad. Except for the bear... And the rain... And the lightning... And thunder.

QUINN  
And charcoal dogs.

They laugh and smile.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Why don't you crawl in the back and lie down.

SKYE  
Okay.

Quinn helps Skye climb into the back seat and wraps a damp sleeping bag over Skye.

Heavy rain POUNDS the roof of the car.

Quinn lies down in the front seat. A few seconds pass.

SKYE (CONT'D)  
Dad, can I listen to music on my tablet?

QUINN  
Sure.

Quinn passes the backpack to Skye.

Skye takes the tablet out of the backpack.

Quinn lies down and waits. A few seconds pass. No music.

SKYE  
Uh, Dad. The tablet needs charging. But I have a car-charging cable.

QUINN  
Okay, hand it to me.

Skye takes a cable from a small side pocket in the backpack, plugs it into the tablet, and hands them to Quinn.

Quinn plugs the cable into the power outlet, fishes his keys out of his pocket, inserts the key, and turns the ignition to the accessory position. The tablet lights up.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Now what? The cable won't reach back there.

SKYE

Hold it up. I'll turn it on.

Quinn holds up the tablet.

Skye gets up, leans over the seat, taps the tablet screen a few times, and his "Sunset Lake" tune plays.

He adjusts the volume to be heard over the pounding rain and taps the "repeat" icon.

Quinn places the tablet on the dash.

Skye lies back down in the back seat and pulls the sleeping bag up to his chin.

Quinn lies down and pulls his sleeping bag over him in front.

Rain drums on the roof of the car. The music continues.

QUINN

That's nice, Skye, one of your best.

SKYE

Thanks, Dad. I made it for Audrey - and for us.

Lightning flashes and thunder BOOMS.

Rain PELTS the roof in sync to the music.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The tablet glows in the front window of Quinn's car.

Heavy rain falls through the trees. Lightning and THUNDER.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A small SUV (Faye's car) drives along the highway through heavy rain. Franklin City lights fade behind her.

Lightning flashes in the distant mountains ahead.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye struggles to see through her windshield.

Car wipers work hard as rain falls heavily.

Her smartphone is in a holder stuck on the windshield.

Screen displays a GPS map and "3 HRS, 2 MINS to Sunset Lake.'

Faye is blinded by lights from an on-coming semi. Splashed rain douses her windshield.

The semi HONKS loudly.

She maintains control.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Faye's car zips past the oncoming semi and continues along the highway.

EXT. KING MANSION - NIGHT

Rain falls heavily. Lights are on inside.

INT. KING MANSION - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM

Ed, Cari, and Audrey are on the sofa. Ed's arm is around Cari. Cari, half asleep, leans on Ed. Audrey is asleep, head on Cari's lap.

Officer Williams sits at the nearby dining room table, head in hands, maybe dozing.

Rick paces by the gas fireplace.

Rick's cell phone rings. Everyone except Audrey looks up.

RICK  
(puts phone to ear)  
Wright here.

Rick listens for moment.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Are you sure?

Rick listens again.

ED  
What is it?

Rick gestures to wait.

RICK  
Okay, thanks.

Rick ends the call and sits down across from the sofa.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Can you think of any reason Quinn  
would buy a bunch of camping gear?

CARI  
What? The only time he's ever  
camped was at a church father-son  
outing a few years ago. And someone  
else furnished all the equipment.

RICK  
Well, he purchased camping stuff  
last night using a credit card.

ED  
That doesn't make sense.

RICK  
This morning he also bought gas and  
made a purchase at a store in the  
mountains - about three hours out  
of town.

CARI  
You think Quinn took Skye to do  
what? Go camping? That's crazy.

RICK  
Where was the father-son campout?

CARI  
(trying to recall)  
Sunset Lake, I think.

Cari pauses and has a sudden look of realization.

CARI (CONT'D)  
That's what Skye named the tune he  
composed on his tablet - "Sunset  
Lake."

RICK  
The gas station Quinn stopped at is  
on the way to Sunset Lake.

Ed gets up. Audrey wakes up.

ED  
Good God! You think Skye is with  
Quinn up in the mountains? In this  
storm? Camping? What an idiotic  
thing to do!

RICK  
I'd put money on it. Williams and I  
should head up there right now.  
Since there's no sheriff or highway  
patrol nearby - and a helicopter  
won't fly in thus muck - we'll have  
to drive.

CARI  
We're going too. I can't stand  
staying here and not knowing.

Cari gets up.

Audrey speaks up and stands.

AUDREY  
Me too. I want to see Skye.

ED  
That's right. This is about our  
family.

Williams stands and comes to Rick's side. It's a face-off.

RICK  
Sorry, but it's too dangerous....

ED  
(interrupting)  
Look, we're going up there with or  
without you. No more discussion.

The family stands together. Everyone stares at Rick.

RICK

Okay, but this is highly unusual. -  
Williams, call the precinct and  
tell 'em we need the big SUV

Williams gets out his phone and makes the call in the background.

WILLIAMS

(overlapping)

Yes, this is Officer Williams.  
Detective Wright and I will need  
the big SUV... Tonight... We'll  
pick it up in fifteen minutes...  
Thanks.

Rick turns to Ed and Cari.

RICK

(overlapping)

I'll call the hospital and ask them  
to prepare a supply of medications  
for Skye. Can you guys throw  
together some snacks and get  
dressed for rain and bad weather.

ED

(looking at Cari)

We can do that, right honey?

CARI

Anything to bring back Skye.

RICK

Good. Then we'll meet you at the  
hospital in forty-five minutes.  
We'll leave from there - together.  
Will that work?

ED AND CARI

Yes, sir.

AUDREY

Me too, sir.

CARI

Thank you, Detective Wright.

RICK

Okay, let's get going, Williams.

Rick taps twice on the fireplace mantel.

Rick and Williams walk to the front door.

It SLAMS shut while Cari goes to work.

CARI

Ed, put some food, drinks, and goodies in a cooler. Whatever you can find. I'll get Audrey ready.

Ed heads to the kitchen.

ED

I'm on it.

Cari and Audrey rush toward bedrooms in the back of the house.

CARI

Let's go, honey. We're going to find Skye.

AUDREY

Yay!

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT

QUINN'S CAR

Rain still pelts the car. Lightning and THUNDER.

Super: "Friday - 10:16 PM"

The glow from the tablet in the front window has gone out.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT

Skye stirs in the back seat. Quinn snores in the front. No music plays.

SKYE

Dad?

No response.

SKYE (CONT'D)

(louder)

Dad? Are you awake?

QUINN

(snoring stops)

Huh, what?

SKYE

I'm cold.

Quinn sits up and turns on the flashlight. Shines it on Skye.

Skye sits up. He shivers and is pale.

QUINN  
Here, come up with me.

Quinn helps Skye over the seat and holds Skye close in the front.

He pulls the sleeping bag up over them.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Is that better?

SKYE  
Yes, Dad. You're warm.

Skye puts his head down on Quinn's chest.

QUINN  
Good. Try to sleep some more.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT

QUINN'S CAR

The flashlight goes out.

Heavy rain falls. Lightning jumps cloud to cloud. RUMBLING THUNDER.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Faye's car, a small SUV, drives through rain. Lightning flickers in the distance. ROLLING THUNDER.

A semi approaches, brights on.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye flashes her brights.

The semi doesn't dim lights.

Faye holds up her hand to shield her eyes from the semi's bright lights.

The semi is upon her and HONKS. Water sprays her windshield.

Faye puts both hands on the steering wheel.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The semi blasts past Faye's car.

The car's wheels drop off the pavement on the right-hand shoulder.

Mud and rocks carom and splash up.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye struggles to bring her car back onto the pavement.

The car bounces and slips and tips farther off the road.

Faye jerks the steering wheel to the left.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye's car pitches onto the road.

It crosses the center line toward the left-hand shoulder.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye jerks the steering wheel to the right.

The car heads right but the rear end spins toward the front.

Panicking, Faye slams on the brakes.

EXT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye's car does two three-sixty spins but stays on the road.

The car stops sideways in the middle of the road.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye leans on the steering wheel. She shakes uncontrollably.

Looks up and sees headlights in the distance coming from the same direction as the previous truck.

FAYE

Oh God!

Faye looks around and orients herself. Hears a loud AIR HORN.

She grabs the steering wheel and steps on the gas pedal.

EXT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The car lurks ahead. Swerves off the road and then back into her lane, the direction she was originally heading.

Skids and side-slips back and forth.

The oncoming semi zips past Faye's car, HONKS, and douses her car completely.

Faye's car stops, and then creeps ahead.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye drives. Slowly. She shivers and tries not to cry.

Through the windshield Faye sees lights ahead, a gas station.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

The door opens. Faye walks in, dripping wet.

A male CLERK, 22, wearing a stained logo shirt, looks up from reading a book at the check-out counter.

CLERK

Whoa, lady. Kinda late to be out in  
this weather.

Faye shakes sprinkles of water from her hair.

FAYE

You're telling me. I just about got  
run off the road by a semi.

CLERK

Probably a logging truck. They run  
all night. You okay?

STORE COUNTER

FAYE

Almost. Maybe.  
(big exhale)  
Listen. Did you see a guy with a  
boy come in earlier today?

CLERK

I wouldn't know. Got here at eight.  
Graveyard shift.

Faye eyes the hotdogs rolling on a cooker.

FAYE

Okay. Those dogs been there long?

CLERK

Oh no, ma'am. I put 'em on fresh  
when I started my shift.

Faye looks at a wall clock. It shows 11:25.

Faye stares at the smiling clerk. Tilts her head to the side  
quizzically.

The clerk continues to smile.

FAYE

Well, I'm hungry anyway. I'll take  
one. And a soda. And twenty bucks  
of gas. Regular.

CLERK

Sodas are in the fridge on the back  
wall. I'll ring up your gas.

STORE EATING AREA - LATER

Faye sits at a tiny table by the front window with a half-eaten hotdog.

Her hand holds a soda can. It shakes.

She puts the soda down.

Faye stares out the window at a log truck that blasts by on  
the highway.

Gets up, throws away the rest of the hotdog, zips up her  
coat, and picks up the soda.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Uh, ma'am, don't forget to pump  
your gas.

FAYE

(approaching the door)  
Thanks. How far to Sunset Lake?

CLERK

The turn-off is about thirty miles up the road. The sign might be hard to see in the rain. - It's not a good road. Maybe even washed out.

FAYE

Thanks.

Faye walks out into the rain. The door closes behind her.

CLERK

(mumbling)

Crazy woman. Sunset Lake? Geez.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Faye hangs up the gas pump nozzle, replaces the gas cap, takes the soda off the car's roof, and gets in the car.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye puts the soda in a holder, CLICKS her seatbelt, puts the key in ignition, and starts the car. Wipers SLAP. Headlights go on.

Her smartphone, still in the windshield bracket, lights up.

It shows the time: "12:15 AM" and then jumps to the map with text: "45 MINUTES TO SUNSET LAKE."

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Faye's car pulls onto the highway.

Another semi passes by going the other direction. Faye's car taillights disappear into the rain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A large police SUV plows through the rain on the winding road. Emergency lights flash.

A large semi passes it in the opposite direction. The semi splashes water all over the police SUV

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The semi tail lights disappear in the window behind Ed, Cari, and Audrey, belted in the back seat. Audrey leans on Ed, his arm around her; both are dozing. Cari is wide awake.

Rick drives. Williams rides shotgun.

RICK  
Another swig, please.

Williams hands Rick a large soda.

Rick takes a long chug and hands it back.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Thanks. This road is brutal.

WILLIAMS  
Especially after such a long day.  
And in this weather. Want me to  
drive?

RICK  
No, I'm good. The convenience store  
isn't far. We'll stop there for gas  
and a quick leg stretch. We can  
switch there.

WILLIAMS  
Sounds good.

Cari leans forward on the back of the front seat.

CARI  
How much longer?

RICK  
Maybe an hour, maybe more in this  
weather.

Rick locks his grip on the steering wheel. Another semi zooms by. Cari cringes. The police SUV sways slightly.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Geez, why so many trucks on the  
road... at night? They're ganging  
up on me.

Rick pounds the steering wheel twice with his fist.

WILLIAMS  
(to Cari)  
Rest stop in a few minutes.  
(MORE)

WILLIAMS (CONT'D)  
We need gas. That's where Quinn  
filled up and bought stuff.

CARI  
Maybe someone saw Skye. Can't we go  
any faster?

RICK  
Wish we could. Police lights can't  
straighten a slick, winding road.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The police SUV surges ahead through the rain.

Headlights and flashing emergency lights reflect off the road  
and sparkle in the rain.

Over the tree tops, lights from a few houses and the  
convenience store appear far off in the distance.

Lightning flashes.

EXT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT

Lightning flashes followed quickly by THUNDER. Rain falls  
lightly.

Quinn's car rests among trees next to the lake.

A flashlight turns on in the car.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT

Skye trembles in Quinn's arms in the front seat.

QUINN  
Skye, what's going on? What can I  
do?

No response. Quinn shines the flashlight in Skye's face.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Oh my God!

Skye's face is pale. His eyes barely open. He shivers.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Skye! Wake up. Please wake up.

Quinn's eyes moisten. Skye slowly reaches out to Quinn.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Skye, what's going on? What can I do?

SKYE  
No. More. Pills.

QUINN  
But you still have some.

Quinn desperately searches for the backpack among the sleeping bag mess.

Skye pulls Quinn back.

SKYE  
No, Dad. No. More. Pills.

Quinn hugs Skye tightly and is emotional.

QUINN  
But you need your pills, son. I'll find them.

Quinn tries to get away from Skye's grip. Skye squeezes tighter. He whispers.

SKYE  
Dad. It's okay. I want this.

QUINN  
No-o-o! I'll get you back to the hospital. You'll be okay.

Skye releases his grip on Quinn and relaxes.

Quinn seizes the opportunity to sit up. Gently leans Skye against the seat back.

Finds the backpack and rifles through its pockets. Locates an empty plastic bag.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Skye, where are your pills?

No answer. Skye looks asleep, his face content.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Skye, what did you do?

No answer.

Quinn grabs the steering wheel. He pounds on it.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
No! No! No!

Quinn hugs the steering wheel. He sobs.

SKYE (O.S.)  
(whispered)  
Thank you, Dad. I love you.

Quinn looks at Skye breathing softly, smiling, eyes closed.

QUINN  
(resolutely)  
I'll get you home. You'll see.

Quinn reaches in his pocket for his keys. Not there.

Feels at the ignition slot. There they are.

He turns the key. CLICK. He turns the ignition off, then on. Another CLICK. Again. No noise at all.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Oh God, no.

Quinn turns the ignition off then on again. Still nothing.

He grabs tablet in the front window. It's plugged in.

He follows the cable down to the power socket and unplugs it. Turns the key again. Nothing.

He pulls the burner phone from his pocket. Turns it on. No signal. He puts the phone back in his pocket.

He puts his elbows on the steering wheel and lays his head in his hands. He slowly moves his head back and forth.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
(muttering)  
What have I done? Oh Skye, I'm  
sorry. Dear God, please help me.

Rain falls softly now. It PATTERS on the roof of the car.

EXT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT

Light rain falls from high in the sky toward the car.  
Lighting jumps from cloud to cloud far away. Muted THUNDER.

## EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Through forest trees, Faye's car lights snake along the highway.

Headlights shine ahead briefly on a sign. The car passes it.

Suddenly the car's brake lights shine and the car skids to a stop.

The car backs up, back-up lights shine on the wet road. The car skids to a stop. Back-up lights go out.

## INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Through the wet windshield and dancing wipers, Faye sees a sign lit up by her headlights: "Sunset Lake - 12 Miles." An arrow points down an unimproved road.

Faye puts the car in drive, turns the steering wheel, and guns the engine.

Faye's car's headlights reveal a muddy road. Streamlets flow down the middle. The car stops.

Faye's hand reaches for the four-wheel-drive lever on the console. She CLICKS it into four-wheel-drive.

The dashboard's "4x4" light comes on.

Faye grips the steering wheel tightly, takes a deep breath, and gives the car a little gas.

The bumpy road rocks Faye in her seat.

## EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

Faye's car rocks and bounces along - very slowly.

Disappears down Sunset Lake Road, its lights darting up and down, left and right.

## EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

The police SUV approaches.

Its headlights paint the gas pumps and storefront through light rain.

The SUV stops at the pumps. All lights extinguish.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

The door opens. Rick enters first followed by Ed, Cari, and Audrey.

Through the door the clerk sees Williams pumping gas.

CARI

Do you have a restroom?

CLERK

Yes, ma'am. In the back past the coolers.

CARI

Thanks.

Cari and Audrey scurry toward the coolers and restroom.

Rick and Ed follow.

COUNTER - LATER

Rick and Ed approach the clerk. They wipe their hands on their pants.

RICK

(to clerk)

Did you see a guy with a young boy, about ten, come by here yesterday?

CLERK

Now that's weird.

RICK

What? How so?

CLERK

A lady came through about an hour ago asking the same question.

Rick and Ed exchange a confused glance.

ED

A woman?

CLERK

Yup. She got some gas and sat over there by the window and had a soda and one of them dogs.

The clerk gestures to the small table by the window and to the hotdog roller.

Rick and Ed gawk at the shriveled, nearly black hotdogs slowly rolling.

RICK  
So what did you tell her?

CLERK  
I couldn't tell her much 'cuz I started my shift at eight.

RICK  
Can you describe the lady?

CLERK  
Well, she was all wet. Wore a rain coat. Hungry too.

Rick flashes his badge at the clerk.

RICK  
(impatiently)  
No, kid. What did she look like.  
Hair color, height, age.

CLERK  
Oh, sorry, officer. Well. She had brown hair. She was maybe twenty-five or thirty. Perhaps five-seven or eight. She seemed worried and frazzled.

Cari and Audrey exit the bathroom and approach.

CARI  
What's going on?

ED  
This kid says a lady came by about an hour ago asking about a man and a boy.

CARI  
What? A lady?

RICK  
Do you know anyone about thirty, brown hair, five-seven or eight, Someone who might know about Skye and Quinn?

Cari pauses. Everyone looks at her. She turns to the clerk.

CARI

Did you see what kind of car she  
was driving?

CLERK

Hard to see through the rain, but  
it looked like one of them dinky  
foreign SUVs.

CARI

Nurse Faye Harris has one of those.  
I saw her leaving the hospital once  
when I was visiting Skye. That  
description sounds like her too.

Williams comes in shaking water from his coat.

WILLIAMS

What's going on?

ED

We think Nurse Harris may have  
figured out what happened and come  
through an hour ago.

WILLIAMS

That's good, isn't it? We may need  
a nurse.

AUDREY

Yeah, Mommy. Miss Faye loves Skye.  
She's nice.

RICK

Okay, but why didn't she say  
anything?

Rick knuckles the counter twice.

CARI

That doesn't matter. We should get  
going before it's too late.

RICK

(to clerk)

How far to Sunset Lake?

CLERK

Weird! That lady asked the same  
question.

RICK

Geez fellas. So, how far?

CLERK

About an hour away. Might be tricky  
to see the sign in this weather.  
Watch for it on the right.

RICK

Thanks.

The group scrambles to the door.

CLERK

Hey, the sign is thirty miles up  
the road. Then it's a dirt road for  
maybe ten miles.

(loudly as they leave)  
It's rough, probably a river by  
now.

The store door closes. Through the window, the clerk sees  
everyone darting to the police SUV through light rain.

EXT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT

No rain. A trace of lightning flashes in distant clouds. The  
only sounds are a LIGHT BREEZE and the DRIPPING of rain drops  
on the car from trees above. Quinn's car is dark inside.

INT. QUINN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn is holding Skye, rocking slowly. Muffled sobs.

QUINN

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. God  
forgive me.

Quinn looks out the window. No rain. The moon shines through  
parted clouds and reflects on the lake.

Quinn finds the flashlight and turns it on. Skye's breathing  
is shallow, eyes closed. Skye looks content.

Quinn shines the flashlight on the tablet and backpack. He  
puts the flashlight on the dash.

Grabs the backpack, stuffs the tablet inside, and zips it up.  
Lengthens the backpack straps.

Opens the door. The dome light comes on dimly. It fades out.

QUINN (CONT'D)

I'll get you out of here, buddy.  
You'll see.

## EXT. SUNSET LAKE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Quinn steps out of the car into a puddle. He doesn't notice.

Puts on the backpack and gently lifts Skye from the car and holds him to his chest with one arm. Skye's head on Quinn's shoulder.

With his other arm, Quinn retrieves the flashlight. The hatchet in its holder still hangs from his belt. He slams the car door.

Points the flashlight at the campsite, his car, then down Sunset Lake road.

Slogs down the road through mud and puddles, while carrying Skye.

Looking down from treetops, Quinn's flashlight dances back and forth on the road. The light sparkles in the puddles.

Clouds part and the half-moon casts shadows over the campsite and shines up from the lake surface.

Quinn and Skye disappear down the road.

The flashlight beam bounces back and forth along the road, through the trees, and vanishes into the forest.

## EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

No rain. Through trees, Faye's car headlights bounce up and down, left and right.

Fights puddles and mud. Slips sideways, back and forth, but still moves forward, very slowly, along the road.

Slides around a bend and drives down into a wide gorge. Headlights sweep around the corner and reveal a wide river, cutting across the road.

## INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye grips the steering wheel and hits the brakes.

## EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

Faye's car slides to a stop ten feet from the river bank.

## INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye looks out the windshield. Her car's headlights stretch across a raging river to a spot where the dirt road leaves the river and climbs into a forest.

FAYE

You've gotta be kidding me.

Faye leaves the car running, lights on, puts it in "Park," and sets the parking brake. She opens the door and gets out.

## EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

Faye steps out into a puddle. She creeps up to the river bank in front of the car.

The headlights paint her shadow all the way across the river.

The RUSHING river is a foot below a ledge cut away by the surge.

FAYE

No way.

The river bank suddenly gives way and crumbles under Faye's feet.

Faye lurches backwards and falls in the mud on her butt. Kicks at the crumbling ledge and pushes herself back.

Turns onto her knees and crawls toward her car. Water laps at her feet.

Faye gets up and scurries to the hood of her car and leans between the headlights.

The river broils by. Its bank peels away toward Faye.

Faye darts around the car and gets in. The engine revs.

The river watches Faye's car back away. All four wheels fling mud, sand, and rocks at the roaring river.

## INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye's foot hits the brakes.

Her car slides toward a tree. She closes her eyes.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

Faye's car suddenly stops. It CLUNKS against a tree.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye's head bangs against the headrest and bounces forward. All movement stops. Pinecones drop on the hood. CLUNK, CLUNK.

Faye opens her eyes. Holds her breath. Exhales slowly.

Through the windshield, Faye sees the raging river broiling by in her car's headlights. Faye's hands squeeze the steering wheel.

FAYE

Now what?

Faye sits quietly. Stares straight ahead.

The car's engine PURRS. The river outside ROARS.

Faye releases her grip on the steering wheel, relaxes, clasps her hands together, and bows her head.

FAYE (CONT'D)

Oh God, please tell me what to do.

EXT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

The moon looks down on the river ford. Faye's car sits nearby.

Its lights trace an impassible path across the river. Several trees float by, charging downstream.

Headlights go out.

The river noise drowns out the PURR of the engine.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - NIGHT

From above, high beams reach out and frame the slick highway and forest wall tunnel flowing by in front of the police SUV.

Flashing front and rear emergency lights add eeriness to the scene.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT

Windshield wipers slap back and forth and SQUEAK on the dry glass. Williams drives. Rick rides shotgun.

RICK  
Williams, you can turn off the wipers now.

WILLIAMS  
Oh, right.

Williams CLICKS off the wipers.

RICK  
What's that ahead?

The police SUV slows. A sign appears on the side of the road through the windshield: "Sunset Lake - 12 Miles." An arrow points down a dirt road, now a muddy mess into the woods.

Ed leans over the front seat.

ED  
That's it!

Cari leans forward.

CARI  
What? Sunset Lake?

RICK  
No, the road to the lake.

Williams turns onto Sunset Lake Road.

The police SUV rocks and everyone bounces around.

AUDREY  
(suddenly alert)  
What's going on?

CARI  
We turned on Sunset Lake Road.

AUDREY  
Can you see Skye?

The going gets rougher. The police SUV slips to the side.

Audrey SCREAMS. Everyone is jostled around.

ED  
No d-dear, we've still g-g-got a  
ways to g-go.

The police SUV stops.

WILLIAMS  
We need four-wheel drive.

Williams turns a knob on the dash. A WHIRRING sound occurs. The "4x4" dash light comes on.

WILLIAMS (CONT'D)  
That'll help a bunch.

RICK  
Right. Go for it!

Rick taps twice on the dashboard.

Williams gives the police SUV gas. The engine ROARS. The vehicle bucks.

Rick grabs the handle by the window.

Audrey grabs Cari.

Ed braces himself on the back of the front seat.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

All four tires on the police SUV spin. Mud splatters the side of the vehicle. The tires grip the muddy road.

The police SUV lurches ahead with a series of jerks.

Through the forest, the police SUV headlights carom on and off the tunnel of trees and the gloppy road. The emergency flashers are still on.

The police SUV vanishes slowly. Red emergency flashers go out. Headlights dance deep in the forest and disappear.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

The moon looks down on a flashlight beam that slowly wanders along a muddy road bordered by massive trees.

Quinn slogs along the road and holds Skye in one arm against his chest. Skye's head rests on Quinn's shoulder.

Quinn sweeps the flashlight in front of him and steps around puddles and streamlets dotting the road. It's slow-going.

QUINN  
I'll get you home, Skye. Just stay  
with me.

Quinn marches on but trips and falls. The flashlight flies away. Quinn grasps Skye tightly with both arms.

Rolls onto his back into a mound of soft, wet grass, still holding Skye. Hears a CRACK from the backpack.

The flashlight is stuck in a bush nearby. Its beam shines straight up into the trees.

Quinn looks up, disoriented.

Sees scattered clouds, the moon, and a blanket of stars in the night sky through illuminated trees. Exhales and rests.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Look Skye. It's so beautiful.

No response.

Skye rests face down on Quinn's chest wrapped in Quinn's arms. Skye doesn't move.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Skye? You should see this. Skye?

Quinn hears one long EXHALE from Skye. Then nothing. Skye is still.

Quinn squeezes Skye tightly and sobs.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Skye? Skye? Oh no! Come back. Don't leave me. Oh Skye, what have I done? Dear God.

Quinn's whole body shakes.

Skye takes one long breath, exhales. Then breathes slowly.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Oh Skye.

Quinn still sobs. He holds Skye tightly and rocks.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Thank you, God.

The starry sky looks down on Quinn and Skye. Quinn lets out a long sigh.

The flashlight beam shines up and marks where they lie.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye's head is bowed. Her car's engine PURRS. The river outside GURGLES by loudly.

She looks up. Everything is dark.

Except for the tops of a few trees across the river, up the embankment, and down the road. She sees lighted tree tops.

Faye rubs her eyes, shakes her head, and looks again. The light is still there.

FAYE  
Oh God, thank you. Could it be?

EXT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye's headlights suddenly light up the river.

A loud HONK, HONK, HONK followed by a pause disturbs the night. Again, HONK, HONK, HONK. It repeats over and over.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

QUINN IN THE GRASS

Quinn sobs and lies on his back holding Skye.

Quinn hears a NOISE, three noises, far off. Opens his eyes.

Turns his head, listens, and puts his head down. But there it is again.

Quinn sits up, cradling Skye, and listens carefully.

Muffled far off, he hears, HONK, HONK, HONK. Then again.

Quinn gets up, holding Skye.

Retrieves the flashlight and points it down the road.

EXT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Over the edge of the forest on the opposite side of the river the light in the trees goes out.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye sees the treetop light disappear. She smiles.

FAYE  
Thank you, God.

She honks again. HONK, HONK, HONK. Over and over. HONK, HONK, HONK.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

Quinn carries Skye and strides down the road, splashing in puddle after puddle.

Slips. Doesn't fall. Points the flashlight straight ahead.

The HONK, HONK, HONK continues and gets louder. So does the ROAR and SPLASH of the river.

Quinn sees the forest lit up down the road. Approaches the section of the road that drops to the river ford.

Emerges into a flood of headlights and a raging river.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT

Faye sees a MAN carrying SOMEONE emerge from the road across the river. The honking stops.

Faye gets out.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Faye runs to the river's edge. But not too close. She pauses. The bank is still unstable.

She stands between her headlights and waves and yells.

FAYE  
Hello! It's Faye! Nurse Harris from the hospital! Hello-o-o! Quinn?  
(MORE)

FAYE (CONT'D)  
Quinn Walker? Is that you? Skye?  
Skye Walker?

The man yells and waves. The ROAR of the river drowns out what he says.

QUINN'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Quinn sees SOMEONE waving in front of a car, but the car lights blind him and the river ROAR drowns out anything either of them yells.

Approaches the river's edge.

FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Faye sees the man approach the river's edge, waves her arms, and yells.

FAYE (CONT'D)  
No! No! Don't go there! It's  
dangerous! Stop! Stop!

QUINN'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Quinn gets close to the rushing river. He sees that the bank is washed away. He peers over the ledge.

The bank gives way. Quinn steps back.

The bank collapses more. He steps back again. More collapse.

He steps back further and quickly. He's safe now, out of danger.

Quinn looks across the river. The person is waving more frantically. He looks up and down the river's edge.

QUINN  
Now what?

Quinn hears - through the roar of the river - a soft, calm whispered answer. It's Skye's voice in his ear.

SKYE (O.S.)  
Go upstream.

Quinn shines the flashlight on Skye's face.

Skye's eye's are closed. He breathes slowly.

Quinn shines the flashlight upstream.

SKYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
(whispers softly)  
Go upstream.

Quinn looks back at Skye. His eyes are still closed. He breathes slowly. He looks asleep.

Quinn points the flashlight upstream again. Sees a primitive two-track path.

FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Faye paces back and forth. Sees the flashlight across the river sweep around and then point upstream.

The person walks that direction and disappears out of her headlights.

Faye stands still. She speaks out loud, but not yelling.

FAYE  
What are you doing? Where are you  
going?

Faye hears - through the roar of the river - a soft, calm whispered answer. It's Skye's voice in her ear.

SKYE (O.S.)  
Go upstream.

FAYE  
Skye?

SKYE (O.S.)  
(whispered)  
Go upstream.

Faye sees the beam of the flashlight across the river move upstream into the forest along the river's edge.

Faye walks upstream, a safe way back from the edge.

She trips and falls. She can't see.

She returns to her car and gets in.

The car CLUNKS into gear and slowly turns upstream.

Its headlights reveal a narrow, primitive two-track path that disappears into the forest.

The car stops at the entrance to the path.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye breathes heavily. She grips the steering wheel tightly.

FAYE

Okay, Skye. I'm going upstream. I'm coming.

She guns the engine.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD

FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Faye's car launches into the two-track path.

It spews mud and rocks back to the river crossing.

Trees and bushes SCRAPE the side of the car.

Faye's car climbs upstream into the forest along the river's edge.

Its taillights disappear.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT

Everyone is wide awake. They hold on and bounce around with each jolt of the muddy dirt road.

Williams wrestles with the steering wheel.

AUDREY

(loudly)

Mommy, I'm scared.

CARI

Me too, dear. Me too.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

The forest looks down on the police SUV slowly moving along the muddy, puddled road.

Lights bounce up and down, left and right.

The moon reflects off the puddles.

The police SUV comes to a turn that drops down into a wide gorge.

Rounds the turn and accelerates down a small hill.

Brake lights come on, and the police SUV slides to a stop near the edge of a river.

The headlights and nose of the vehicle dip towards the water.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

RICK  
(yelling)  
Back up! Back up! Hurry!

Rick pounds the dash, twice. Williams rams the gear shift lever into reverse and GUNS the engine.

The front of the police SUV dips lower.

AUDREY  
Mommy, mommy!

RICK  
More gas! Come on! Go, go!

Rick POUNDS the dash again, harder, twice.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The police SUV wheels churn wildly and spew mud, sand and rocks toward the river. Rocks BANG on the wheel wells.

Suddenly the police SUV lurches back from the river.

It flies several yards, breaks lights come on, and it slides to a sudden CRACK and stops against a tree.

INT. POLICE SU. - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Everyone stares out the front window.

All three in the back seat are hugging.

Pinecones fall on the hood with a CLUNK, CLUNK,... CLANG. The engine RUMBLES. The river ROARS outside.

Through a muddy windshield, headlights point across the wide river ford and reveal a rushing, wild river, trees floating past, and the road exiting on the other side through the woods.

WILLIAMS  
(turns to Rick)  
We can't cross. The storm's runoff  
flooded the river ford... Now what?

Silence.

ED  
Yeah, now what?

AUDREY  
Are we there yet?

CARI  
(quietly)  
I don't think so, dear.

RICK  
Where's Nurse Harris?

CARI  
(whispers)  
Oh God.

AUDREY  
Where's Skye? Where's Daddy?

Silence.

Rick scowls and raps the dashboard with his fist. Hard.  
Twice.

RICK  
Darn! It!

Everyone freezes.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT

RIVER FORD

From other side of the river where the road leaves the crossing, two bright headlights stare across the rushing river.

Steam rises from the police SUV through the headlights. A large tree branch floats by.

EXT. TWO-TRACK PATH - NIGHT

QUINN'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Quinn carries Skye through a narrow tunnel of bushes and trees.

Pushes hanging branches away with his flashlight hand. The flashlight beam skitters all over.

Slips, falls, drops the flashlight, grabs Skye with both arms, and rolls onto his back to protect Skye.

The flashlight bounces into the brush toward the river and stops. Its beam points at Quinn.

Quinn painstakingly scoots and slides on his butt to the flashlight. He's careful to not knock it into the river.

Quinn retrieves the flashlight, and slides back to the path.

He sits quietly. Holds Skye tightly.

QUINN  
You okay, Skye?

No response. Quinn shines the flashlight on Skye's face. Skye breathes slowly. His eyes are closed. He's pale.

Quinn gets up, slips, maintains his balance.

Points the flashlight up the path.

Trudges forward in the mud. Slips again, but doesn't fall.

Pushes bushes and tree branches away with the flashlight, and moves ahead.

## FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Faye's SUV lumbers ahead. It SCRAPES on bushes and tree branches. It bottoms and CLANKS on boulders.

Faye's car headlights bore a tunnel in the narrow passage.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye concentrates, holds the steering wheel tightly. Her head bobs back and forth.

Through the windshield, tree branches part and the headlights spot an opening.

The car slows.

EXT. TWO-TRACK PATH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Faye's car comes to a stop. Headlights point to what looks like the two-track path dipping into the river.

From above, the moon lights up Faye's car on the river's edge. A tangle of trees and bushes clogs up the entire river.

On one side of the tangle, where the path ends, the water is calm, like a small, dammed-up lake.

On the other side of the tangle, a torrent ROARS out of the tangle-dam in a wide, ten-foot waterfall.

Headlights go out, the engine PURRS, and Faye steps out and tiptoes to the calm body of water.

She peers through the tangle of trees, lit up by moonlight, to the other side of the river. She looks for the glow of a flashlight.

FAYE

Quinn Walker! Skye! Are you there?

The waterfall's ROAR drowns out her words.

QUINN'S SIDE OF THE RIVER

Quinn breaks through thick brush into an opening where the path drops down to the river.

He slides down an embankment toward the ROAR of the river.

Quinn drops his flashlight. It rolls down the hill and marks his descent with flashes up and down, left and right.

Quinn's slide ends up next to the flashlight.

FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

A caroming light shines on and off through the tangle of trees and goes out.

Faye stares across the river, sees the beam of the bouncing flashlight. She yells again.

FAYE

Is that you? Quinn! Skye!

Faye runs back to her car, opens the door, and FLICKS on the headlights.

QUINN'S SIDE OF THE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Quinn picks up the flashlight.

Raises his gaze and sees a bright set of headlights suddenly appear and illuminate the tangle of trees.

QUINN

Thank you God! Skye, we can cross here! And someone's over there.

Quinn moves quickly to the water's edge and the tangle.

He points the flashlight into the glob of trees and traces a potential path through the tangle.

Quinn looks at Skye in one arm and the flashlight in the other.

QUINN (CONT'D)

(to himself)

How am I gonna do this?

FAYE'S SIDE OF THE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Faye stands at the edge of the tangle.

The flashlight beam from across the river dances through the tangle.

She paces back and forth. She's frustrated.

FAYE

(to herself)

What can I do?

Faye hears - through the roar of the waterfall - the soft, calm whispered answer. It's Skye's voice in her ear. Again.

SKYE (O.S.)

Help Dad.

Faye walks back and forth and examines the tangle of trees, the ROARING waterfall on one side, and the calm bulk of water that presses on the tangled trees on other side.

FAYE

Okay... I will... God help me.

Faye steps into the water at the river's edge. It's cold. She shudders. She grabs a branch from the tangle, and steps onto a fallen tree.

She grabs another branch and steps out farther.

The tangle shifts. Faye SCREAMS and hugs the branch.

QUINN'S SIDE OF THE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Quinn stands in the tangle on a fallen tree and leans against a branch and holds onto another.

Puts flashlight in his coat pocket, turned on, pointing up.

He clutches Skye tightly.

Through the tangle, the silhouette of SOMEONE bobs in and out of the headlights.

Quinn sees help coming and steps forward, feeling his way through the mess of fallen trees, step by step.

EXT. TANGLE OF TREES - NIGHT

From way downstream, Faye's car's headlights light up the churning waterfall and tangle of trees.

On the tangle, two figures, one with a flashlight pointing up and carrying someone, slowly maneuver toward each other.

A waterfall gushes from the tangle and creates an eerie mist.

Farther downstream, around a bend, a large SUV sits at the Sunset Lake Road river ford. Its bright lights point across the raging river.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT

RICK

I can't just sit here. I'm going to check things out.

The glove box opens and Rick retrieves a flashlight. The passenger door opens, the dome light comes on, and Rick gets out before anyone can respond.

He SLAMS the door. The dome light goes out.

EXT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rick traipses through the vehicle's headlights toward the river and momentarily disappears.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Williams, Ed, Cari, and Audrey strain to see what Rick is doing outside the SUV

Through the vehicle's windows, they see Rick's flashlight point in many directions: mainly to the ground, across the river, into the forest, back up Sunset Road.

EXT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rick's flashlight beam points down at a set of tire tracks, narrower than the track of the police SUV

The beam, always pointing down, follows footprints, small ones, along side the tracks, to and from the river's edge.

The beam sweeps along the tracks up to near where the police SUV sits. Half way there, the tracks turn and run up into the forest.

Rick turns and walks along the tracks. The flashlight beam settles on another road, a two-track path heading upstream.

Walks quickly back to the police SUV He gets in.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rick sits down in the front seat, passenger's side. He SLAMS the door.

CARI  
What is it?

RICK  
She's been here. I'm sure.

WILLIAMS  
Who, Nurse Harris?

RICK  
Probably. Smaller tire tracks and foot prints indicate she stopped, got out, went to the river's edge, but then drove up a narrow two-track road that way.

Rick gestures toward the forest.

ED  
Well, let's follow her.

RICK  
It's an ATV trail. This truck's too wide and too heavy. It couldn't make it. We'll have to go on foot.

ED  
I'm ready, let's go.

CARI  
Me too.

AUDREY  
Me three.

RICK  
No. I draw the line here.

Rick pounds the dash twice.

RICK (CONT'D)  
It's too dangerous. Williams and I will check it out.

CARI  
But what if Nurse Harris found Skye? I want to be there too...

RICK  
(interrupts)  
No! I won't have you risking your lives to...

AUDREY  
(interrupts)  
What's that?

RICK  
That's final. I won't...

CARI  
(interrupts)  
What's what, dear?

RICK  
Huh?

AUDREY  
(points out the window)  
That cloud. It's glowing.

Everyone looks out of the vehicle windows and in that direction to see what Audrey points at.

RICK  
Douse the lights, Williams.

Williams douses the headlights. Through the windshield, into the night, a shining cloud rises from the river way upstream.

AUDREY  
It's Skye.

EXT. TANGLE OF TREES - NIGHT

Through the rising mist, illuminated by the flashlight and headlights, Faye and Quinn (carrying Skye) fight through the tangle of trees and brush.

The waterfall below them ROARS.

Each of them slips, grabs branches, regains footing, and presses toward the other. They get ten feet from each other.

FAYE  
(yelling)  
Quinn! It's you! And Skye?

Quinn can barely hear over the ROAR of the falls. They inch closer: Eight feet apart.

The trees and branches are slippery in the mist.

Quinn slips. Then Skye slips from Quinn's grip. Faye SCREAMS. Quinn catches Skye and pulls him back in his arms. Quinn and Faye close in.

QUINN  
(yelling)  
Miss Faye! How did you?...

They are now six feet apart. They hear each other yell.

FAYE  
(yelling)  
I had a hunch.

They are four feet apart.

They press forward and reach out through a prison wall of branches. Pull branches, leaves, and twigs apart and touch.

MIDDLE OF THE TANGLE

QUINN  
(yelling)  
We're stuck!

With two free hands, Faye works hard to open a passage. Rips away branches and sticks. Tosses them down the falls.

Quinn pushes and strains at a large branch but can't move it or swing around either side of it.

A soft, calm, whispered voice penetrates the confusion. It's Skye's voice.

SKYE (O.S.)  
Use the hatchet.

Quinn continues fighting the stubborn branch.

SKYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Use the hatchet.

Faye reaches out to Quinn. Takes his arm and stops his violent struggle with the branch.

Quinn pounds the branch, angry and frustrated. Looks at Faye.

FAYE  
Do you have a hatchet?

QUINN  
What?

FAYE  
(loudly and sternly)  
Do. You. Have. A hatchet?

Quinn reaches down with his free hand and searches his belt. Nothing.

He carefully shifts Skye to the other arm. He reaches down to his belt. There it is: the hatchet.

QUINN  
Yes! - I do!

FAYE  
Pass Skye through! I'll hold him!  
You chop that branch away!

QUINN  
Okay!

Faye reaches through and takes hold of Skye. For a moment they both hold him. Quinn struggles to release his grip.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Careful! You got him?

FAYE  
Yes! You can let go!

Quinn releases Skye to Faye. Faye holds Skye tightly.

Quinn unsnaps the hatchet holder and pulls out the hatchet.

Bends down. As he does, his flashlight falls from his pocket and bounces down the waterfall into the depths.

Its light goes out.

QUINN  
Not now!

Quinn stoops and hacks at the branch. HACK, HACK, HACK...

Faye holds Skye up to the light from the headlights. Skye is pale. His breathing is very shallow.

FAYE  
Oh no!

Faye looks down at Quinn. HACK, HACK, HACK. She's frustrated and worried.

FAYE (CONT'D)  
Hurry, Quinn! Hurry!

Below her Quinn continues. HACK, HACK, HACK,...

EXT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The police SUV lights turn on and it maneuvers away from the tree a few yards, its headlights pointing toward the two-track path. The engine stays on.

Rick and Williams get out, close their doors, and walk to the back of the SUV.

They open the rear door. Dome lights come on.

They quickly retrieve watch caps, gloves, and gear for the hike upstream.

From inside the SUV, Cari turns around to the officers standing outside in back.

CARI  
Please hurry. I just got this awful feeling.

RICK  
We will. You guys stay put.

Audrey leans over the back seat.

AUDREY  
Thank you mister police mans.

RICK  
Sure kid.

Rick flicks on a big flashlight. He SHUTS the rear door. The dome lights go off.

Rick and Williams trudge toward the two-track path. The beam of the flashlight stretches out far in front of them into the forest.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ed, Cari, and Audrey sit huddled in the back seat.

They watch the two men and their flashlight beam disappear into the woods up the two-track path.

AUDREY  
Mommy?

CARI  
Yes dear.

AUDREY  
What happens when Skye dies?

Silence. Cari hugs Audrey tightly. Cari sniffles.

CARI  
He'll be with God, Sweetheart.  
He'll be with God.

AUDREY  
Good. Then he won't hurt any more.

CARI  
That's right, Audrey. He won't  
hurt.

EXT. TANGLE OF TREES - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

MIDDLE OF THE TANGLE

Quinn still works on the stubborn branch. HACK, HACK, HACK.

Faye holds Skye tightly.

FAYE  
(whispering)  
Oh God. Please help us.

Quinn continues. HACK, HACK, HACK,....

FAYE (CONT'D)  
Please! Hurry!

Faye hugs Skye tightly and whispers.

FAYE (CONT'D)  
Stay with us, Skye.

SNAP! The limb Quinn hacks finally breaks. Quinn stands and pulls the limb aside. He tosses it over the falls.

He puts the hatchet into the belt case, snaps the cover, and squeezes through the opening.

QUINN  
I'll take him now.

He reaches out and takes Skye from Faye.

FAYE  
We've got to hurry.

They scramble through the tangle of trees toward the shore.

They slip... and catch each other.

The tangle shifts slightly. There's a small RUMBLE and CRACK.

QUINN  
(yelling)  
Hurry!

They are close to the bank. They step in water up to their knees.

They wade to the shore.

They trudge out of the water.

RIVER EDGE NEAR TANGLE

Quinn (carrying Skye) and Faye stumble to the front of Faye's car. Its engine still runs. Lights still on.

They kneel in the muddy sand.

Quinn puts Skye gently down on the wet ground in the beam from the headlights.

He leans close to Skye. Skye isn't breathing. Skye has a peaceful look on his face.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Oh no! He's not breathing. Please do something!

FAYE  
Okay, tilt his head back.

Faye checks for obstructions in Skye's throat. She begins CPR on Skye's chest.

FAYE (CONT'D)  
One, two, three...

Faye continues counting. Quinn looks skyward.

QUINN  
Please, God.

Quinn cries and takes Skye's hand.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Oh, Skye, please come back. I'm sorry.

Faye reaches "thirty" and tilts Skye's head back and breathes into Skye's mouth. She does it again. Then she resumes chest compressions.

QUINN (CONT'D)  
(whispered)  
One, two, three, four...

EXT. TWO-TRACK PATH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rick and Williams fight through brush and the slippery path.

RICK  
How did a car make it through here?

WILLIAMS  
Don't know, but it must have. See?  
Tracks.

Rick shines the flashlight ahead. A clear set of fresh tire tracks disappear through the brush and broken branches.

RICK

Amazing!

Rick and Williams trudge on. A light is visible through the trees ahead.

EXT. TANGLE OF TREES - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

RIVER EDGE NEAR TANGLE

QUINN

Twenty-nine, thirty.

Faye breathes into Skye's mouth. No response. She breathes into Skye's mouth again. Nothing.

Looks at Quinn. Bows her head and sobs.

FAYE

Quinn, he's...

QUINN

Don't say it!

FAYE

He's gone, Quinn. I'm. So. Sorry.

Quinn puts his arms on Faye's shoulders. He shakes her. He weeps.

QUINN

Please. Try again! Do it!

The beam of a large flashlight suddenly shines on Quinn and Faye.

RICK

(loudly)

Quinn Walker, take your hands off  
her and put 'em on your head.

Quinn releases Faye and stares at the bright flashlight. He covers his eyes.

RICK (CONT'D)

Stand up Quinn. You're under  
arrest. - For kidnapping.

Quinn falls forward and hugs Skye. He cries. Rick shines his flashlight on Skye, then Faye.

RICK (CONT'D)

How's Skye?

Faye tears up and moves her head side to side.

Rick repositions the flashlight beam on Quinn.

RICK (CONT'D)  
And murder.

WILLIAMS  
(pointing at Quinn)  
He's got a weapon!

Rick shines the flashlight on the hatchet hanging from Quinn's belt.

Williams draws his gun.

RICK  
Hands on your head, Walker! Now!

Quinn slowly puts his hands on his head. Still leans over Skye. Sobs and shakes.

Rick hands the flashlight to Williams.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Come on. Get up.

Rick lifts up Quinn and pulls him away from Skye.

Rick removes the hatchet from its case on Quinn's belt. He tosses it away. Quinn's hands are still on his head.

Faye gently picks up Skye. She stands and presses herself and Skye against Quinn. She puts an arm around Quinn's neck.

Quinn hears a soft whisper.

SKYE (O.S.)  
Thank you, Dad.

To Rick's chagrin, Quinn slowly lowers his hands and wraps his arms around Skye and Faye.

Williams lowers and holsters his gun.

Rick looks at Williams and shakes his head.

RICK  
Okay, Quinn. Come on. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say...

A loud CRACK, CRACK, CRACK pierces the night. CRACK, BOOM!

Faye's, Quinn's, Skye's, and Rick's shadows from the headlights stretch across the tangle of trees.

The entire tangle pitches up and roils over and down the falls.

CRACK! CRACK! Suddenly the mass of trees and bushes drops out of sight. CRASH!

The dammed-up lake behind the tangle gushes after the tangle.

The river bank where the group stands follows the massive flow chunk by chunk.

RICK (CONT'D)  
We've got to get out of here! Now!  
Williams, you drive. Okay, Miss  
Harris?

Faye shakes her head yes.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Harris, Walker. Get in back with  
Skye! I'll ride shotgun. Hurry!

Everyone scrambles into Faye's car.

The river bank collapses closer to the nose of Faye's car.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Car doors SLAM shut.

Williams puts the gear shifter in "reverse," GUNS the engine, and turns the steering wheel.

Faye's SUV backs and turns sharply. The maneuver throws everyone sideways.

Williams tromps on the brakes and the SUV slides to a stop. It faces the two-track path.

RICK  
Quick! Go, go!

Rick pounds the dash twice.

Williams shifts into drive.

EXT. TWO-TRACK PATH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye's car bolts onto the two-track path.

It spits mud and sand toward the eroding river bank. Tail lights disappear into the overhanging trees and brush.

The river ROARS and RAGES.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ed, Cari, and Audrey sit silently in the dark in the back seat and stare up the two-track path.

The police SUV engine RUMBLES.

The river GURGLES loudly outside. No more roar.

CARI  
Where are they?

Ed reaches across Audrey and puts his arm around Cari.

ED  
They should be here soon.

AUDREY  
Mommy, I'm scared.

CARI  
Ed, can you get in front so you can see better?

ED  
Sure.

Ed opens the door, gets out, and CLOSES the door.

The driver's door opens. Ed gets in, sits down, and CLOSES the door.

He CLICKS on the headlights' high beams.

ED (CONT'D)  
My God! Look!

CARI  
What? What is it?

Cari and Audrey lean forward and peer through the windshield.

Headlights illuminate a massive clump of trees floating and rolling down the wild and massive river.

EXT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

From the forest behind the vehicle, the lit-up river is much wider and full of debris.

The water creeps closer and closer to the vehicle.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

ED

We need to back up.

AUDREY

What's wrong, Ed?

Ed puts the police SUV in reverse.

Ed turns and looks out the back windows.

ED

The river's a lake!

Back-up lights illuminate Sunset Lake Road. Ed slowly maneuvers the big SUV up the road to safety.

EXT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The police SUV stops up the road and looks down on the wide gorge, now filling with water.

Headlights make the river look like a slow-moving, debris-filled lake.

It's quiet except for the RUMBLE of the engine. No river roar, just a loud GURGLE.

EXT. TWO-TRACK PATH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Faye's SUV SCRAPES through brush and tree branches. Its headlights see only a few feet ahead.

It shoots through the last foliage before dropping into the wide gorge.

INT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Through the windshield Williams and Rick see the gorge. It's a small lake. They're going too fast.

RICK  
What the...?

Faye's car nose dives into the water. Big SPLASH!

The car's nose bounces up. The water isn't deep.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Keep moving, Williams! Head to the  
lights over there! Go! Go!

Rick pounds the dash twice and points to the headlights streaming from Sunset Lake Road across the water.

Williams keeps the gas pedal down.

EXT. FAYE'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The moon looks down on the car fighting its way across a small lake in the river at the ford crossing.

Water splashes everywhere. Four-wheel rooster-tails rise. Faye's car fishtails and steadily moves ahead toward the other headlights.

The car pops out of the river onto Sunset Lake Road.

INT. POLICE SUV - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ed watches headlights of Faye's car jump out of the water and slide to a stop directly in front of the police SUV

He holds his hand up to block the oncoming vehicle and the brightness of the lights.

CARI  
That's them! Get out! Get out!

AUDREY  
Skye's here! With Daddy!

Ed gets out of the front seat.

Cari bolts out of the back. Audrey is left behind.

EXT. SUNSET LAKE ROAD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

TWO CARS FACE EACH OTHER

Rick Gets out. He meets Ed first.

Cari also approaches. Audrey looks on from the back door of the police SUV

ED  
Did you find Skye? Did Quinn take him?

Rick holds Ed back.

RICK  
Yes, we found them.

CARI  
Where's Skye? Is he okay?

Cari pushes past Ed and Rick. Sees Skye lying motionless across the laps of Quinn and Faye in the back seat.

Faye looks up at Cari through the window. Faye has tears running down her face.

CARI (CONT'D)  
Noo-o! Noo-o!

Ed pushes past Rick to the other side of Faye's car. He rips open the back door. Quinn sits quietly cradling Skye.

ED  
You jerk!

Ed reaches in and gently grasps Skye. Tugs him carefully from Quinn's arms. He elbows Quinn in the process.

Quinn collapses forward and sobs.

Ed carries Skye to Cari. They hug, hold Skye, and cry.

CARI  
Oh Skye! Why?

Williams gets out, goes to the back seat and pulls Quinn out.

Faye gets out on the other side.

Cari glares at Quinn.

CARI (CONT'D)  
How could you? You, you...

Cari bursts out crying louder. Ed explodes at Quinn.

ED  
You stupid jerk! You killed Skye!  
What made you think you could...  
You didn't think!

Quinn hangs his head.

Faye tries to intervene.

FAYE  
Now, please, wait a minute.

ED  
No. You Quinn, you will pay for  
this.

AUDREY  
Daddy?

Quinn looks up. Tracks of tears run down his cheeks. He sees Audrey and smiles through his tears.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
Daddy?

Audrey still stands by the open back door of the police SUV  
The dome light shines on her angelic-looking face.

She smiles sweetly and hesitantly.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

Ed and Cari look at Audrey. They are shocked.

CARI  
What?

AUDREY  
Skye wanted this.

ED  
You don't mean that.

AUDREY  
Yes. It's true.

CARI  
How do you know, Audrey?

AUDREY  
Skye told me. - He just did.

Cari and Ed look at each other. Their jaws drop.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
Skye's happy now. - He doesn't  
hurt. - He's with God.

The moon and starry sky look down on the two vehicles. Their headlights and occupants face off against each other next to the new river lake.

A meteor zips across the night sky.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

A police car is parked among other cars in front of a church building.

It's a beautiful day.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The PREACHER bends a microphone down close to a tablet resting on the pulpit. He touches a cracked screen a few times.

A pretty melody plays and echoes through the building. It's Skye's "Sunset Lake" tune.

Ed, Cari, and Audrey embrace on the front pew. Cari sniffles.

Faye sits nearby. Her lips tremble.

Rick sits behind Cari.

The church is full of many FRIENDS and SUPPORTERS.

Quinn stands in the back next to Williams, also standing.

Quinn is in handcuffs.

Stares blankly and sadly at the assembled group, the small, closed casket in front, and rays of sunlight shining through church windows.

Watches Faye hesitantly rise and walk to the closed casket.

Faye takes a flower from her hair and gently lays it on the casket.

Audrey breaks from the tender family embrace.

She slowly walks up next to Faye.

Audrey removes a fluffy bee from her hair. She takes Faye's hand and looks up.

Faye kneels down.

Audrey puts the bee in Faye's hand and smiles. Faye returns the smile and stands.

Faye carefully places the bee on the flower on the casket.

She kneels down next to Audrey. They embrace. They smile.

Cari watches Faye and Audrey, and smiles awkwardly through tears.

A gentle, quiet voice whispers to Cari.

SKYE (O.S.)  
Daddy did this for me.

Cari chokes up. Ed hugs her tightly.

SKYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Forgive Daddy.

Cari turns around. She locks eyes with Quinn. She smiles sweetly.

Cari faces front, still smiling. Through tears.

SKYE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Mommy. I love you.

Cari turns around slowly and gestures to Rick.

He leans forward. Cari whispers something to him.

Rick is puzzled. Cari repeats her whispered message.

Rick nods and gets up. He walks slowly to the back of the church.

He whispers something to Williams. Williams looks puzzled. Rick nods.

Williams unlocks Quinn's handcuffs and takes them off.

Rick whispers in Quinn's ear and points up front.

Quinn is confused.

Rick whispers in Quinn's ear again and gestures to the front of the church.

Quinn walks slowly to the front of the church.

He kneels next to Faye and Audrey.

AUDREY  
Daddy.

Audrey and Quinn embrace.

QUINN  
Audrey, my little bumble bee.

Faye puts her arms around both of them.

From the back of the church, Rick and Williams watch Cari stand up.

Cari hesitantly walks toward Quinn, Audrey, and Faye. She puts her hand on Quinn's shoulder.

Quinn looks up. Picks up Audrey, stands, and faces Cari.

Faye retreats to her seat.

CARI  
I'm so sorry.

QUINN  
Me too. I miss Skye so much.

CARI  
We all do.

AUDREY  
But Skye is with God now. And he doesn't hurt. He's happy.

Quinn and Cari embrace Audrey. And each other.

In the back of the church, Rick turns to Williams.

RICK  
I think we're done here.

Williams nods.

WILLIAMS  
You're right.

Rick and Williams leave the chapel.

On the wall near the exit, Rick sees a picture of Jesus. He smiles and taps it gently with his finger. Twice.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Trees across the street sway in a light breeze and look down on Rick and Williams as they descend the church steps and get in their police car.

The car drives away.

Dark clouds form in the blue sky above mountains far away.

Lightning flashes in those clouds. It looks like rain.

FADE OUT.

THE END.