

THE MORNING WIND

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"The Morning Wind"

FADE IN:

INT. HANK'S DEN - NIGHT

HANK PATTERSON, 40, pecks away at his keyboard, stops, stares out the window to the night's first stars, then back at his computer screen.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

A page of words -- hodgepodes of phrases like "The quick brown fox..." and "Every good man must come to the aid of his country" -- goes black. We hear a CLICK. The words disappear.

New words form at the top of the page, quickly: "The Morning Wind". The cursor drops down several spaces, spells out: "A novel by"...

The cursor drops down, blinks, several times... then adds "Henry Patterson". The cursor skips backwards, removes the last four letters in "Henry", replaces them with "a-n-k" -- "Hank Patterson."

Hank leans back, stares at the screen... scrolls down on his keyboard until a new page is before him. Page 1. The cursor sets off again, placing the words on this fresh start: "There was no other woman for him... only her..."

A KNOCK at the door. Hank types some more, turns.

AMY (O.S.)

Hank?

HANK

Uh-huh?

AMY, 37, green mudpack on her face, peeks in...

AMY

I'm sorry.

HANK

No, it's okay.

AMY

Will you listen for him while I jump
in the shower?

(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)
(Hank nods)
How's it coming?

HANK
I don't think Stephen King's got
anything to worry about.

AMY
Yet.

Amy pushes the door open wider, leaves...

Hank settles back in at the keyboard. His eyes narrow. His fingers get going.

ON THE SCREEN

The cursor flies: "She was everything to him. The stars, the moon... and the -- "

A noise in the hallway behind him. Hank types some more.

JASON (O.S.)
Stop it! You're going to pull my
whole arm off, dammit!

Hank turns to the door to see...

JASON, 8, sleepwalking down the hallway...

INT. HANK'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Hank follows Jason, who's talking gibberish now, eyes closed.

Hank scoops him up gently, kisses him on the head, carries him through a doorway...

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hank carefully lays Jason back in bed, holds his hand and strokes his forehead, while the boy continues to babble on nonsensically, until he finally just stops cold.

Hank kneels on the floor beside the bed, pulls a blanket up over his son, sits on the floor, looks over at THE ROUGH-HEWN WATCHMAN TOTEM on Jason's dresser... closes his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

AMY (O.S.)
Okay, you can open 'em up.

INT. HANK'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

INSERT: "FOUR MONTHS AGO"

ON HANK'S EYES, CLOSED: They open slowly.

Amy's holding a big brown cake with candles blazing. Hank looks around.

MARNIE, 62, applauds. Jason blows a noisemaker.

Amy sets the cake down in front of Hank, kisses his head.

AMY

Happy 40th, honey. I love you.

HANK

I don't know if I have enough breath
for all these. No sign of our
daughter yet?

Amy shakes her head.

JASON

Can I help?

HANK

Okay, let's do it, pal.

Hank and Jason lean over and blow out the fire with ease.
They high-five.

AMY

And this is from me.

She pulls a small tie box from behind her back. Hank shakes
it, eyes Marnie. Hank quickly dispatches of the wrappings,
pulls out a certificate, reads it to himself.

AMY (CONT'D)

It's a great place. Penny in the
office went there. She loved it.

HANK

Where is it? Up in the mountains?

AMY

Very secluded. The leaves might be
changing. They have hiking trails,
streams, hot springs.

Marnie cranes her neck to read along.

MARNIE

I don't see why people go to the mountains. Cold, damp. What's the big fascination? Henry's never gone in for that. Why not try Vegas or someplace, on me?

AMY

Thanks a lot. We'll do this, right, Hank?

MARNIE

How about the beach? I'd take one day at the beach over a month in the --

Amy eyeballs Marnie. Mom gets the point.

JASON

Grandma can stay with us. I'll teach her Nintendo. Splatoon 3 rules.

HANK

Well, I can't deprive my mother of being ruled by a Nintendo game, can I? Thanks, Amy. Thanks, Mom... a lot.

Marnie ignores him, takes the brochure, reads. Hanks pulls Amy close and they kiss like a long-married couple. Marnie cheats a look their way, as Jason bangs his fists on the table playfully...

JASON

Cake! Cake! Cake!

HANK

(eyeing the door)
Okay, her loss. Cake.

Amy hands Hank the knife, and he makes the first cut... RIGHT THROUGH THE "A" BETWEEN THE "H" AND "P" IN "HAPPY."

INT. HANK'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Hank sits on the edge of his desk before a class full of high school juniors.

HANK

Okay, tomorrow and Monday you'll have a substitute. You know what that means...

BATES, 17, consummate wiseass, pounds on his desk.

BATES
Par-tay har-tay!

HANK
Mr. Bates. Pithy, as always. It means you'll have 2 days to work on your book reports. I don't want to hear excuse one when I get back. Use those 2 hours to work. Next week, we'll revisit substance and format. On Friday, you turn in 3 pages... no U-R-Ls and no AI. I'll know. Do your own work.

BATES
Man, it's homecoming weekend and all.

HANK
Hey, I was young once... and all. I'm into the big weekend thang. That's why you're taking class time. We cool?
(nothing but vapid stares)
Okay, take off.

Students blast out of their desks. LEAH, 16, lingers, strides slowly toward the exit, stops at Hank's desk...

LEAH
Weekend "thang"? That's pretty lame and condescending, don't you think?

HANK
My greatest hope is that you'll someday forgive me.

Leah sighs, walks out.

INT. HANK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Amy pulls a coat sweater out of the closet, folds it in half on the bed, beside a big green suitcase. Hank's standing at the window.

AMY
Want me to pack your P-coat?
(off Hank's distraction)
Well?

HANK
How old is this kid again?

AMY

Which kid?

HANK

What's-his-name. The one we haven't met yet.

Amy stands beside him at the window. They look out to see...

A black sports car at the end of the driveway. Leah climbs out, leans back in through the window, way in, laughs, steps back, waves as the sports car SQUEALS off.

AMY

Nineteen.

HANK

Well, that's way too old for her.

AMY

You wanna tell her, or should I?
(nudges Hank in the gut)
Are you feeling lucky, punk?

Hank sits on the bed, watches Amy pack.

HANK

You sure you're comfortable taking off with her... and him... ?

AMY

You know what? Call me gullible, but I trust her, Hank. I just trust her.

HANK

Yeah, so do I, I guess. Him I'm worried about. I was his age once.

AMY

(sits beside him)

You're right. Look how you turned out. Damn, what should we do, lock her in the bathroom? No, the basement. That's it. We should tie her up first, don't you think? Your mother can hand feed her 'til we get back. We --

HANK

Okay, okay. I'll shut up.

AMY

She's an honors student.

HANK
I know. It's just that --

JASON (O.S.)
NO, STOP, I DON'T WANT TO!

HANK
I'll get him.

Hank hops up, pulls open the bedroom door, to find

Leah locking the stairs gate behind her, then hurrying to Jason, who stands in the hall corner, going through the motions of urinating.

Leah walks Jason back to his bedroom.

LEAH
It's okay, Jas. You're just sleeping,
that's all. Dreaming.

AMY
(joins Hank at the door)
She is despicable, isn't she?

Hank sets off for the closet, pulls out his P-coat, tosses it on the bed.

INT. HANK'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Late. Quiet. Hank peeks into the refrigerator.

LEAH (O.S.)
Hey...

Hank wheels, momentarily frightened.

HANK
Oh... hi. Can't sleep?

LEAH
Little hungry.

Hank pulls out a couple of sealed containers, motions for her to sit, as he pops open the containers, pulls a plate out of the cabinet, scoops out some mac and cheese.

HANK
This okay?

Leah nods, sits. Hank shoves the plate in the micro, tabs a button, and the oven WHIRS to work. Hank leans back.

HANK (CONT'D)
So, how's everything?

LEAH
Like?

HANK
I don't know... how's your boyfriend,
for instance?

LEAH
Boyfriend. SO tired.

HANK
Sorry, what are we calling it
nowadays?

LEAH
He's just a guy I hang with.

The micro DINGS. Hank pulls the plate out, grabs two forks from a drawer, pulls a chair out next to Leah's, sits. He grabs for the pepper shaker, shows it to her. She nods.

HANK
We shouldn't be eating this stuff this
time of night.
(she digs in)
Leah, all I'm gonna say is I've been
where you are. Don't get too attached
to any one person right now. In the
long run, probably not gonna work out.

Leah finally looks right at Hank.

LEAH
And you're telling me this why?

Hank thinks about it, shrugs... eats a forkful of food.

EXT. HANK'S HOUSE - DAY

Jason lifts a small tote into the trunk of Hank's silver Volvo Wagon. Amy SLAMS the hatch closed.

AMY
Okay. That's it.

JASON
Are you gonna bring me back something?

AMY
Of course. Any suggestions?

JASON
Something, um, awesome.

Hank and Marnie huddle near the front porch.

MARNIE
I still think this is such a dumb idea.

HANK
Yeah, well, it's Amy's idea, and I'm gonna make the most of it. You'd've done the same thing for Dad.
(Marnie rolls her eyes)
Mom, I never told you this, but, um, Jason... you gotta keep an eye on him when he's asleep because he... um...

MARNIE
Walks in his sleep.

HANK
Yeah. Right. How'd you know?

MARNIE
You walked in your sleep 'til you pubed. Talked, too. Well, more like swearing, really. Swore like a damned sailor.

HANK
I did?

MARNIE
You did.

LEAH (O.S.)
So, that's where he got it.

Hank turns to find Leah standing right behind him.

HANK
How much did you just hear?

LEAH
Didn't hear the pubing part.

She hands Hank a bottle of water.

HANK
(eyes Leah, calls to Amy)
Let's get going, hon.

He pecks Marnie on her cheek.

HANK (CONT'D)
Thanks, Mom.
(turns to Leah)
Be good, huh?

LEAH
We'll see...

MOMENTS LATER

Marnie and Jason wave as Hank's car backs out of the driveway. Leah sits on the porch stoop, yakking on her cell.

INT. HANK'S CAR/MOVING - DAY

Hank drives. Amy leafs through a brochure.

AMY
Can't wait to soak in a hot spring.

HANK
You know what my mother just told me?

AMY
Can't imagine.

HANK
I used to sleepwalk. Just like Jason.

AMY
So?

HANK
So? What do you mean, "so"?

AMY
I mean, so, big deal. You did it. He does it. The doctor said it's something he'll grow out of. You grew out of it... didn't you?

HANK
Yeah, I know, but... Jeez, what else did I pass on to my kids?

AMY
(back to her brochure)
Next best thing to cloning.

Hank eyes her, guzzles a swig of water, drives on.

EXT. A MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Hank's car winds around a curve, as it climbs. The river water below shimmers in the morning sun.

EXT. THE OLYMPUS LODGE - DAY

Total rustic. A main cabin, four smaller cabins cut into dense pine woods. Hank's Volvo pulls up.

INT./EXT. HANK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Amy can't wait to get out.

AMY
It's so beautiful up here, huh?
(takes deep breath)
Smell it. You can smell it.

HANK
Colder up here... but nice.

Amy leans over for a kiss.

AMY
So, can you relax a little and enjoy?

INT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - DAY

Hank and Amy sign in. A tall, handsome boy, CAPH, 19, assists. He hands Hank a key with a bark tag.

CAPH
We've got you up in Aphrodite. It's the best one, really. Great view. Quiet.

AMY
She was the goddess of love, right?

CAPH
Yes, ma'am.

HANK
How's the cell phone reception up here?

AMY
Hank!

CEPH
Depends. Usually it's for crap.
Especially if you get between the
peaks. Sometimes though, on clear
days, it's... pretty clear.

AMY
Was there a god for pessimism?

CAPH
Probably. I'll ask the expert. Cass!

AMY
I was just kidding.

Hank walks over to warm his hands at the stone fireplace,
reads a wood-burned plaque on the wall.

INSERT WALL PLAQUE:

"The morning wind forever blows, the poem of creation is
uninterrupted; but few are the ears that hear it. H.D.
Thoreau"

BACK TO SCENE:

CASS, 37, natural, unrefined beauty, pops her head out
through the office door.

CASS
You need me, Caph?

CAPH
Was there a pessimist god?

AMY
No, I was kidding.

CASS
(steps all the way out)
Ares. Zeus's son. He was the dark
one.
(extends her hand to Amy)
I'm Cass.

AMY
Amy. We spoke on the phone.

CASS
Right. You made it okay. Welcome.

AMY
That's my husband, Hank. Hank!

Hank turns, stares.

Cass stares back. Definite history between them.

AMY (CONT'D)
Hank, this is Cass. She's the owner.

HANK
(doesn't budge an inch)
Hello.

CASS
Hello.
(a beat, then to Amy)
Caph got you all taken care of?

AMY
Yes, we're in Aphrodite.

CASS
Good. Good. You need anything, just
come on down. Trails are all marked.
Be sure you stay on them. Boats at
the dock. Caph'll fix you up with
oars and gear. Kitchen's open all
day. We do dinner at six, breakfast
around eight.

AMY
Thanks.

Cass ducks back into the office, but not before catching one
last look at Hank.

AMY (CONT'D)
(walks over to Hank)
She was nice, huh?

ON HANK'S FACE...

INT. CABIN APHRODITE - DAY

A cozy little room. Big log-hewn bed. Fireplace. Skylight.
Amy busily unpacks. Hank stares out the window.

AMY
This is so exciting.

HANK
I don't know about this, Amy...

AMY
What? Wait. What?

HANK
I'm just not sure we should be doing
this.

AMY
Why the hell not?

HANK
I... um... well, the kids.

AMY
Dammit, Hank. The kids are fine. And
you know it.

Hank picks up a card from the writing table that reads,
"WIFI, the last thing you need. So, no."

HANK
No wifi.

AMY
Are you going to piss on this whole
weekend?

HANK
(sets the card down)
No. No, I'm not. Let's go for a
walk or something.

Amy rushes him, bearhugs him, knocks him back onto the bed.

AMY
I'll take the "or something."

She kisses Hank, but he's not responding. Doesn't stop her.
She peels off her jacket, then her blouse. Hank watches.

INT. CASS'S OFFICE - DAY

Cass sits at her desk, checks through her guest log.

INSERT GUEST LOG:

Cass's finger stops at "Amy and Hank Patterson."

INT. CABIN APHRODITE - DAY

Amy sits on the edge of the bed, buttons up her blouse.

HANK
Sorry.

AMY

Don't worry about it. No big deal.

Amy walks over to a small table, picks up a piece of fruit from a basket.

HANK

Nice basket, huh?

AMY

Beautiful.

It's obvious that Amy's mood has soured.

HANK

How about that walk?

EXT. PINE TRAIL - DAY

Hank and Amy poke along, holding hands. They come to clearing, an overlook, and stop. Hank's winded.

HANK

Wow. Look at this, would you.

THEIR POV

A pristine lake fed by the river, cut into the mountainside, giant pines rising all around. A natural spectacle.

HANK (CONT'D)

Wanna sit here?

AMY

Yeah, I do.

HANK

(hands Amy a water bottle)
It's so... beautiful.

AMY

(hands the bottle back)
So, you're glad we came?

HANK

Yeah. Sure.

AMY

(elbows him)
That's the spirited buck I married.

They watch the lake change as clouds race across the sun.

Two hikers, RON and KAREN, jog down the mountain path, stop at a log bench, begin necking, until they spy Hank and Amy.

RON
Oh, how's it going?

HANK
Fine. You?

Karen giggles, applies some much-needed lip balm.

RON
Honeymoon.

AMY
Congratulations.

KAREN
Thanks. You?

HANK
Birthday.

RON
Cool. See you at dinner?

AMY
Definitely.

KAREN
Ciao!

Karen and Ron dash off down the hill, laughing as they go.

HANK
Anybody can run down a hill.

INT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

Six guests sit at the main table, Hank and Amy, Ron and Karen, and LIONEL and ESTELLE, 60's, English. Caph and HERMAN, 45, a tall, striking, big-framed Makah tribe descendant, serve them.

AMY
(to Caph)
Looks wonderful.

CAPH
Cass cooks everything. Her own recipes, too.

Herman shoots him a look, tsks, right over Hank. (He constantly makes that involuntary "tsking" sound.)

CAPH (CONT'D)
Hers and Herman's.

ESTELLE
Where is our fearless leader this evening, dear?

CAPH
Headache or something.

LIONEL
Oh, too bad. I was hoping she'd regale us with more of her Grecian wisdom.
(to Hank and Amy)
Mizz Cass's quite the mythologist. Is that a word? Anyway, our esteemed hostess has such a keen way of feeding our collective soul, apart from our nightly repast.

Caph sets a plate in front of Hank, moves on.

KAREN
I'm like so starved.

RON
Yeah, wonder why...

They all laugh, except Hank, who stares off at Caph, as he heads back to the kitchen. Amy leans close to Hank.

AMY
What a nice kid, huh?

HANK
Extremely.

AMY
Looks about what's-his-name's age...

HANK
Yeah, so?

AMY
Just thinking out loud.

Herman "tsks". Hank looks up at him. Herman stares back.

Caph ducks into the kitchen.

AMY (CONT'D)
 (nudges Hank)
 What kind of a name is Caph?

INT. CABIN APHRODITE - NIGHT

Amy lies asleep. Hank stands at a window, staring out at the quarter moon. He looks over at Amy, pulls on a pair of pants, throws his P-coat on and quietly ducks out the door.

Amy rolls over, eyes open.

EXT. OLYMPUS DOCK - NIGHT

Hank sits on a piling, gazes up at the amazingly vivid array of constellations.

He holds a palm straight up over his head toward the zenith, shifts his palm over toward the Northeast, one palm length, two palm lengths... He retracts his hand, gazes up...

CASS (O.S.)
 The lazy M. Right where she belongs.

Hank wheels to the voice. Cass, arms crossed in front of her, sweater around her shoulders, walks out onto the dock.

CASS (CONT'D)
 How are you, Hank?

HANK
 I don't know. Okay, I guess.

Cass stands beside him now, aims her gaze skyward.

CASS
 Still look at stars, huh?

HANK
 No. Not much. Not anymore.

CASS
 Too bad. Remember their names?

Hank shakes his head, can't take his eyes off her.

We see the constellation CASSIOPEIA TWINKLING OVERHEAD.

CASS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Schedar's the brightest. The knees
 are Ruchbah.
 (MORE)

CASS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Gamma Cass holds down the fort in the
middle and across from Schedar,
straight up from Polaris' zenith is --

HANK
Caph. He's your son?

CASS
So, you do remember... their names.

HANK
I just did.

Cass leans across from him against the railing.

CASS
Funny how things come back.

HANK
And some things go away.

CASS
You didn't need me dragging you down.

HANK
Dragging me down? We were --

A gold Chevy Suburban SKIDS to a stop up at the main cabin.

They watch Caph climb out of the passenger side, lean in,
stand back and wave as the Chevy wheels around. We can read
its side door, "California Department of Forestry."

Caph looks out toward the dock, hands on his hips.

CASS
(waves to Caph)
Better go.

HANK
What? Just like that? I need to talk
to you. Find out what... happened.

CASS
Life happened, Hank. You've got your
life now. I've got mine. We were a
long time ago. That was another life.
(heads off, turns back)
Did you ever write your novel?

HANK
No. I never did.

CASS
Too bad.

HANK
Guess I lost my inspiration.

CASS
(after a beat)
So, what do you do now?

HANK
I'm a teacher.

CASS
A teacher. Good for you. Bet you're
a great teacher, Hank.

Cass pulls her sweater tighter, strides up the grade toward
Caph. They walk off arm in arm.

EXT. HOT SPRINGS - DAY

A warm sun burns overhead. Amy wades into the springs,
settles under the water up to her neck.

AMY
Died and gone to heaven.

Hank sits on a rock on the bank under a willow.

AMY (CONT'D)
Come on. Don't be a baby.

Hank pulls off his T-shirt, wades in slowly toward Amy.

AMY (CONT'D)
Well?

HANK
Warm.

AMY
Do you like it?

HANK
Uh-huh.

AMY
Hank, where did you go last night?

HANK
When?

AMY

When you went out... late.

HANK

Oh, for a walk.

(cheats a look toward her)

You wouldn't believe how bright the stars are out here.

AMY

Maybe you could show me.

HANK

Is it me, or does this water smell?

AMY

Better not be you.

CAPH (O.S.)

It's geothermal. Full of minerals.

Amy and Hank look up to the ridge behind them to see Caph on horseback, Ron and Karen behind him, also on horses, but smooching during the stop.

CAPH (CONT'D)

Chloride, sodium, potassium, sulfate, boron, stuff like that. Pretty good for you, really, if you can stand the smell. You still want to raft later, Mrs. Patterson?

AMY

Yes, Caph. I'd love it.

CAPH

Okay, cool. Meet you at the dock around noon?

AMY

We'll be there.

Caph leads Ron and Karen off around the bend in the ridge.

AMY (CONT'D)

He seems like such a nice kid.

HANK

He's her son. Did you know that?

AMY

Yeah, so?

HANK
What's this about a raft?

EXT. RIVER/LEVEL TWO RAPIDS - DAY

BOOM! A raft slaps down out of whitewater.

Caph steers the four man raft from the back, while Hank and Amy, lifejackets on, paddle away over the sides.

CAPH
All right! Dig, dig, now!
(all dig in, fast strokes)
Okay, here we go again!

They shoot into a flurry of whitewater, around some jutting rocks, and into some heavier rapids. Caph looks concerned as the raft spins sideways toward a huge boulder jutting above the surface.

CAPH (CONT'D)
Hold on!

Amy and Hank do just that, as Caph commandeers the raft in a last second turn away from danger... and into a calm.

Amy SCREAMS IN DELIGHT!

AMY
That was so fun!

Hank's still holding on for dear life. Caph eyes him.

INT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - DAY

Cass straightens up the front desk area, leans below, works out of sight. Herman strolls up quietly, tsks, turns to go.

CASS (O.S.)
I'm here, Herman.

Herman stops in his tracks. Cass totes a few old ledgers.

HERMAN
Oh, I thought you were...

CASS
No, I'm here. I been meaning to get these old ledgers out from under this counter...

HERMAN

Oh. Okay.

CASS

Don't think we need to keep everything forever, do you?

HERMAN

No, ma'am. That's wise thinking.

Herman starts to walk off again.

CASS

Herman, did you want something?

HERMAN

(stops)

I... I didn't mean to bother you.

CASS

Now, why would you say that? You could never bother me.

HERMAN

Okay, then.

CASS

Okay, then. So?

HERMAN

(tsks, moves back to her)

I cleaned out the stables pretty good and changed out the rooms.

CASS

Great.

HERMAN

(rubs his head, "tsks")

I'll be needing some more money.

CASS

Well, okay. How much more?

HERMAN

I'm not so sure.

CASS

You want to figure it out and check back with me?

HERMAN

Okay, I'll do that. Thank you for letting me talk to you about it.

CASS
You don't have to thank me for that.

HERMAN
(as he leaves)
Okay, then, thank you. Tsk.

EXT. ON A RIVER BANK - DAY

Amy and Hank eat sandwiches. Caph uses a twig to trace concentric circles in the dirt.

CAPH
Yeah, fires shut us down for a while.
Wasn't sure if we'd make it. Over
fifty thousand acres.

AMY
That's awful. Aren't you going to
eat?

CAPH
Not hungry. Course, I was just a kid
then.

HANK
When was that?

CAPH
(coughs a little)
Two years ago.

He coughs again. Amy hands him a bottle of drinking water.

AMY
You okay, hon?

CAPH
(sips)
Uh-huh. Cold or something coming on.

AMY
(eyes a shade tree)
Guys mind if I take a little siesta?

CAPH
No, ma'am. We'll head back in a half-
hour, okay?

Amy settles in under the tree, offers a "thumbs up."

CAPH (CONT'D)
Your wife's nice.

HANK

Thanks. Your mom seems... nice, too.

Caph eyes him curiously, starts collecting debris, stuffing it in a plastic bag which he cinches tight.

CAPH

Yeah, she is.

HANK

Must be hard, you two running the place without a man around...

CAPH

I go ahead and pretend I'm a man.

HANK

I didn't mean --

CAPH

It's cool.

HANK

So, you two go it alone, huh?

CAPH

Us and Herman.

HANK

I don't think he likes me.

CAPH

Oh, you mean, "tsk"?

(Hank nods)

Doesn't mean anything. Just a little quirk that helps make him Herman.

HANK

That's a very nice way of putting it.
Glad it's not just me.

CAPH

(eases out a smile)

I don't know, maybe...

Caph flips the trash bag over his shoulder, struts off toward the river's edge and the raft. Hank's eyes follow him, before drifting back toward Amy, her hat tipped low over her face.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

A roaring fire. Ron, Karen, Estelle, Lionel, Hank, Amy, Cass and Herman sit around the fire.

Herman tends to some treats that are cooking on sticks over the blaze. Cass has her audience wrapped around her finger.

CASS

Orpheus, desperate to bring his love Eurydice back from the dead, played a beautiful song on his lyre, a song that even brought tears to the eyes of Hades the King of the underworld and his Queen Persephone, who was so moved, she begged Hades to allow Eurydice to rejoin Orpheus among the living. Hades agreed, but with one condition... that Eurydice would follow Orpheus back to the sunny world and that Orpheus would agree not to look back, to trust that she was behind him...

(looks at her audience one by one, stops on Hank)

... but nearly to earth, Orpheus was filled with doubts, assumed Hades was about trickery and deceit and turned to be sure this wasn't the case.

Caph walks along the trail with NATE, 28, tall, thin, striking in his Ranger's uniform. Caph grabs for Nate's hand as they approach the group. Nate swats it away. Hank sees this. Caph and Nate sit. Caph eyes Hank, his mother.

CASS (CONT'D)

And when his eyes found Eurydice, still behind him, climbing closer to the light, Hermes appeared and carried her back to the underworld. Orpheus, crushed, devastated, began to play the saddest music ever heard. A band of nymphs begged him to stop, to leave the sadness behind and dance with them instead. When he refused, the nymphs tore him to pieces and cast his body into a river.

KAREN

(nestled against Ron)

So, he never found his love again?

CASS

Only in death.

HERMAN

Tsk. Marshmallow kabobs anyone?

INT. CABIN APHRODITE - NIGHT

Hank and Amy are in the throes of passion, Hank really giving it to her under the spread. Amy starts silly laughing, tries to stifle it, but can't.

HANK

What?

He stops, rolls off her, towels the sweat from his face. But Amy just keeps laughing.

AMY

Wow! Where did that come from?

HANK

What?

AMY

That. All that. I mean, it was like we were young again or something.

HANK

Probably just the air up here.

AMY

Well, let's definitely get several gallons to go.

(scrunches her pillow)

HANK

So, you... ?

Amy holds up three fingers, one at a time. Hank settles back, interlocks his fingers behind his head.

HANK (CONT'D)

Who's your daddy?

AMY

That would be you.

A GROWL outside, sends her flying into Hank's arms.

AMY (CONT'D)

Shit, what was that?

HANK

Want me to check it out?

AMY

No!

Another DEEP GROWL...

INT. HANK'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jason and Marnie, on the floor, are duking it out Nintendo style. Marnie seems to have caught on, much to Jason's chagrin.

MARNIE

You didn't think I'd really let you win, did you?

JASON

No, I didn't think you'd even be able to... you played before.

MARNIE

Did not.

JASON

Did, too.

MARNIE

No way, Jose. I'm a first timer. You just need to concentrate a bit harder. Letting an old woman like me kick your butt. I might even tell your pals.

JASON

Grandma, c'mon...

Leah drifts by behind them, quietly, and she's almost gone.

MARNIE

Where to, Leah?

LEAH

Oh, just out.

MARNIE

Not good enough. I need names, dates, mo-bile numbers.

Leah walks back into the living room.

LEAH

His name's Travis; it's not a date, we're just going to the mall, and my number's on the pad in the kitchen.

MARNIE

Dinner at 5:30. No bargaining.

(waits for a nod)

(MORE)

MARNIE (CONT'D)

Now, go grab a couple twenties out of my purse and buy yourself something, and bring a surprise home for me and the rookie here.

Leah leans close and kisses Marnie on the cheek.

LEAH

You're the best.

MARNIE

I know. I know. But come 5:31 I become the beast from the east if there's only two of us in this house.

INT. HANK'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Leah finds Marnie's purse, opens her wallet, which is jam-packed with cash. She lifts out just two twenties, hesitates, closes the wallet, and is off.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Hank and Amy sit on horseback, going nowhere. Up ahead, Caph, Ron, Karen, Estelle and Lionel clop along.

HANK

Well, this is fun. Horse hates me.

AMY

He doesn't know you well enough to hate you. Give him some time.

HANK

Thanks a lot.

AMY

(giggles, calls out)
Caph! Help?

HANK

Oh, you had to do that?

Caph turns on his saddle, brings the others to a stop, wheels his horse around.

HANK (CONT'D)

How embarrassing is this?

AMY

It's not your fault. Relax.

HANK

If I relaxed anymore, they'd stick a cross and wreath right here on the trail.

(re the approaching Caph)

This kid, I don't know.

AMY

I like him. What's wrong with him?

HANK

Something funny about him.

AMY

He seems sweet. Maybe should hook him up with Leah.

HANK

Not sure Nate would approve of that.

AMY

What?

CAPH

(rides up)

Sorry about this. I shouldn't have put these two together. They team up. You take Major.

Hank looks over at Major, a huge horse, who NEIGHS.

HANK

No, it's okay, really. I'll just wait it out.

CAPH

No, can't. Hold everybody up.

Caph climbs down off Major, pulls the reins over to Hank, who reluctantly climbs down. Caph helps Hank up onto Major.

CAPH (CONT'D)

Major's a pro.

HANK

That makes one of us.

Once Hank is settled onto the saddle, Major clops off, up the trail toward the others. Hank looks behind him, shrugs.

Caph climbs up on the stalled horse, kicks him once, and both horses start off after Major.

INT. HANK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Marnie pulls a pan of eggplant out of the oven, looks up at the clock.

INSERT CLOCK: 5:25.

Jason drops black olives onto a big salad.

JASON
She won't be here. She never comes
home when she's supposed to.

MARNIE
Wanna bet?

Jason eyeballs his grandmother, thinks better of it.

JASON
I'm not betting with you.

MARNIE
That's my boy.

Leah breezes in, carrying a box from Cinnabon, and a couple of small shopping bags.

LEAH
Hey. I made it, right?

MARNIE
(eyeballs Jason, who rolls
his eyes)
Just. What'd you bring us?!

She goes for the bags. Leah looks over at a grinning Jason.

INT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - NIGHT

Cass, Herman and Caph gather up dishes, as the lodgers mill about. Hank grabs a big, empty salad bowl, heads for the kitchen.

Amy's eyes follow him.

Hank meets Cass coming out through the kitchen door. She relieves him of the bowl... or tries to.

CASS
That's okay. We'll take care of
everything.

The bowl in both their hands.

HANK
I need to talk to you.

Cass looks over at Amy, who's been cornered by Lionel.

Herman buses the table, watches Hank and Cass out of the corner of his eye.

CASS
Not a good idea, Hank.

HANK
The dock. Midnight.

Hank hangs onto the bowl. Herman walks up, tsks.

HERMAN
I'll take that bowl.

He snatches it away from Hank with ease.

CASS
Thanks, Herman.

HANK
Yeah, thanks.

Herman drifts backwards, until he's through the kitchen door.

HANK (CONT'D)
How about it?

CASS
I don't think so. Let it go, Hank.

Cass walks back into the kitchen, leaving Hank alone. Caph immediately walks out through the kitchen door.

CAPH
We'll take care of it, really. We don't need any help. At all. I mean, that's what you're paying for, right?

HANK
Right.

Hank wanders back toward Amy and Lionel.

LIONEL
Two teachers in the family. Your children must be as bright as brass.

He waits for Hank to answer. So does Amy.

HANK
I'm sorry, what?

AMY
Our brilliant kids. Rex and Rhoda?

HANK
Oh, right. Smart kids.

Hank looks off toward Caph, who backs his way into the kitchen, his arms full of plates, his eyes on Hank.

INT. CAPH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Caph's asleep, snoring lowly, an open book, "Dept. Of Forestry" over his face. Cass pushes open the already cracked door. She tiptoes over to Caph, tries to delicately extricate the book from him.

CAPH
(he sits up)
I wasn't asleep. Reading makes my eyes tired.

CASS
(off the book)
Looks interesting.

CAPH
(he coughs a little)
Nate's hooking me up with an interview with his supervisor. Says I should bone up, you know, impress him a little, and he'll put in a good word with the Secretary of Agriculture. He knows him personally.

CASS
So, you're just going to leave the old lady in a lurch, huh?

CAPH
I'd still live here. You got Herman.

CASS
Yeah. Has he said anything to you about a raise?

CAPH
Uh-uh. He asked for a raise? Really?

CASS
Kind of.

CAPH
What's he need more money for?

CASS
People always want more, Caph. You
can't blame them, right?

Caph wipes his brow. Cass feels his forehead.

CASS (CONT'D)
Feeling okay? You're a little warm.

CAPH
Got a cold or something, that's all.

CASS
I'm gonna get you some aspirin. You
should just try to get some sleep.

CAPH
Mom, I don't want any aspirin. I'm
okay, really.

CASS
Sure?
(Caph nods)
Good night.

CAPH
Night.

Cass starts to pull the door closed.

CAPH (CONT'D)
Mom.
(Cass looks back in)
You meeting him out on the dock
tonight?

CASS
Who?

CAPH
That married guy.

Cass pulls the door closed.

EXT. THE OLYMPUS LODGE - NIGHT

Herman sits out on the porch, putting the finishing touches
on a small totem (which we recognize from Jason's room).

Hank sits down in the rocker beside him, while Amy walks toward the dock with Lionel and Estelle.

HANK
That's something.

HERMAN
(shows the totem, tsks)
What, this?
(Hank nods)
Just finishing it up. I sell 'em.

HANK
Really? I'd like to buy it.

Herman fine tunes an edge, hands the totem to Hank.

HERMAN
You must have pretty good money, huh?

HANK
What? Who me?
(Herman nods stoically)
No. Not really. Why'd you say that?

HERMAN
Man says he'll buy something, doesn't ask how much first... he's sure he's got enough. That's a good thing.
(looks toward Amy)
Man with money can always get at least one good woman to love him.

HANK
(hands it back)
Okay, how much?

HERMAN
Twenty-five.

Hank reaches for the totem.

HANK
May I take another look?

Herman "tsks", hands the totem over reluctantly.

HERMAN
You can paint it yourself. But you need to use bright colors, okay?

HANK
(examining the work)
It's really something.
(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)

What does it mean? I mean, they tell a story, don't they?

HERMAN

I learned from my father. His craft mostly featured the watchmen, to protect his boat from sea creatures. I carry on with that tradition. We all need protection.

HANK

He was a fisherman?

HERMAN

Ferryboat Captain. Up in Washington state.

HANK

What brought you down here?

HERMAN

Allergies. Too much rain. Too much wind. You put that watchman in your house, you can throw away your A-D-T.

HANK

And would you describe this as "awesome"?

HERMAN

Well, I would... but I could be biased.

HANK

Sold American... or Native American.

Herman points at him. Hank reaches for his wallet. Thunder CLAPS overhead. Herman looks up, gazes warily at the sky.

HERMAN

We're in for one tonight. Tsk.

INT. CABIN APHRODITE - NIGHT

Hank, P-coat on, checks on Amy, who appears to be sound asleep. He tiptoes toward the door, past the Watchman on the dresser, ducks out. Amy sits up in bed.

INT. HANK'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jason meanders down the long hallway, talking to himself.

Marnie and Leah, both in bathrobes, step out into the hall at the same time. Marnie watches.

MARNIE

My god, this brings me back...

LEAH

He doesn't know what's going on.

MARNIE

His eyes are open, but his sense is shut.

Leah looks at her, surprised.

LEAH

Wow, grandma, you know Macbeth.

MARNIE

You'd be surprised what I know.

EXT. OLYMPUS DOCK - NIGHT

Hank walks down the length of the dock, leans against a post, stares out across the water. RELENTLESS THUNDER, LIGHTNING FLASHES. Rain begins to fall. Hank pulls the P-coat up over his head, finds cover under the bench canopy.

FOOTFALL on the dock, behind him. Hank turns. Caph walks out onto the dock. The rain comes harder. They yell over it.

CAPH

She's not coming.

HANK

What?

CAPH

You heard what I said. What the hell's going on, anyway? You got a wife. You don't need to be hitting on my mother.

HANK

Hitting on her?

CAPH

What, my English isn't good? Lay off her, man.

Caph coughs, takes a step toward Hank.

CASS (O.S.)
It's all right, Caph.

Cass, black umbrella up, steps out onto the dock, reaches Caph, strokes his wet hair off his forehead.

CASS (CONT'D)
You're sopping. Go back inside.
You're gonna get sicker. Now, go.
I'm okay.

CAPH
He's got a wife.

CASS
I used to know Hank.

CAPH
When?

CASS
A long time ago. Go inside, okay,
hon?

Caph eyes Hank a beat, reluctantly stomps back up toward the main lodge, where Herman stands out on the front porch.

CASS (CONT'D)
Tell Herman to go to bed, too.

Caph waves back, "whatever."

AT FRONT PORCH

Caph runs up the steps. Herman "tsks."

HERMAN
She okay out there?

CAPH
Hell, no.

He stops and stands with Herman as they watch Cass step closer to Hank, who sits back down under the canopy cover.

ON DOCK

Cass turns and waves to Herman and Caph with a shooing motion. They take the hint and slip inside the lodge.

Cass walks out to the end of the dock, pulls her jacket close around her, sits on the wood bench beside Hank, the umbrella stem-up between her legs.

CASS
Sorry about that.

HANK
I don't think they like me much.

CASS
Caph thinks he's my protector. Herman said he sold you a totem, so you made his A list.

HANK
Yeah, for twenty-five bucks.

CASS
Wow. They've gone up. Maybe he doesn't like you much.
(looks to the roiling water)
We didn't expect this.

HANK
No, we didn't.

CASS
I meant this storm. We didn't expect this.

HANK
Oh...
(a beat)
If you don't mind me asking, where's you know, your other half? Caph's father?

CASS
Well, I do mind you asking... but he's gone... long gone.

HANK
Caph's a smart one. A hard worker. Looks out for you. You gotta be pretty proud of him.

CASS
My kid's my life. What about you?

HANK
Oh, yeah. Two. Leah and Jason. She's our sixteen year old thirty year old and he's eight... our resident sleepwalker.

Cass starts to say something, just smiles instead...

HANK (CONT'D)

What?

Cass shakes her head. They sit, quiet for a few beats.

HANK (CONT'D)

Cass. We grew up. How did that happen?

CASS

I don't know, but I'm glad it did. I hated being young.

HANK

Get out. You were such a free bird.

CASS

I was bluffing. I didn't have a clue, and I was scared as hell.

HANK

Scared? Of what?

CASS

Of being scared, of not knowing. Everybody else seemed to know what they wanted, where they were going.

HANK

They did? Like who?

CASS

Like you.

HANK

Me?

CASS

You were going to college. You knew you were going to write. You had your scholarship, your car, your future. Your mother right there behind you all the way. You were all set.

HANK

But, things change. They did change. Everything changed. Everything changed when you left.

CASS

I didn't do it to...

HANK

Why did you, Cass?

CASS
It's a long story. A long, old story.

She turns away from him. He turns her face back to him with his hand. She's crying.

HANK
You're crying.

CASS
Rain...

She leans close, close enough to kiss him.

Amy, a jacket up on her head, lets out an audible GROAN as she trips near the shore end of the dock, gathers herself, and dashes off, stumbling in the dark.

They turn to catch sight of her leaving.

HANK
Amy...

Amy runs away from the cabins and into the woods.

Hank scrambles to his feet and takes off after her. THUNDER BANGS close.

CASS
I'll get a flashlight.

HANK
No, it's okay. I'll find her.

Cass runs off after him, stops...

Hank disappears into the woods.

CASS
Hank, no!
(turns to the lodge)
CAPH!

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Amy, out of breath, tripping, groping in the dark and the wet, stops and slides down beside a pine tree, fights the rain off her face.

HANK (O.S.)
AMY!

AMY
(to herself)
Leave me alone... you son of a bitch.

ON HANK -- Who eyes the flashes of LIGHTNING overhead.

HANK
Amy!

ON CAPH -- A flashlight beam cuts through the trees.

CAPH
MRS. PATTERSON!

ON HERMAN -- Another flashlight in another dark place.

HERMAN
Tsk. Tsk. Tsk. MRS. PATTERSON!

Herman steers the light ahead, walks quickly, cautiously after it. Wet, so wet.

ON HANK -- He turns, works his way deeper into the trees and darkness.

ON AMY -- She pushes herself up, steps slowly, carefully, her hands out in front of her, feeling for trees, slipping. Her jacket draped over her.

She's frightened now, turning in one place, on the verge of panic. A gust of wind blows the jacket away from her. She's frozen and SCREAMS.

A light beam finds her face.

Amy GASPS, then takes a step toward Caph's flashlight beam.

CAPH
No! Stay right where you are.

Amy freezes in her tracks.

Caph, training his flashlight beam down, finally reaches her.

CAPH (CONT'D)
(calls out)
It's okay! I got her!

Amy's sobbing. Caph doesn't quite know how to handle that. He awkwardly covers her with his windbreaker, drapes his arm around her shoulder.

CAPH (CONT'D)
Okay... okay. We'll go back. Just
hang on to me. Walk where I walk.

AMY
(crying)
I just wanted to do something nice.

CAPH
Uh-huh... But you gotta stay on the
trails, remember?

Amy looks up at him, as they walk toward Herman's flashlight.

HERMAN
She okay?

A SCREAM stops them in their tracks.

ON HANK -- lying on his side on the ground, grabbing for his
right leg, the lower half caught in a #6 Kodiak Bear trap.
Blood flows freely from the leg, and Hank grimaces...

HANK
Help! Here!

ON CAPH/HERMAN -- They turn toward Hank's voice.

HERMAN
You get her out. I'll go after him.
Tsk.

AMY
What? What is it?

CAPH
C'mon, let's get you out of here.

HANK (O.S.)
Aaahhhh...

Herman sets off toward Hank.

ON HANK -- Grabbing at his leg. Herman's flashlight beam
shines down on him through the POURING RAIN.

HERMAN
No, don't.
(hands Hank the light)
Hold this on it.

Hank barely able to sit up from the pain, steers the beam
onto his leg, hand trembling.

Herman uses his massive strength to unspring the trap.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Pull your leg back.

HANK
I can't.

HERMAN
Pull it back!

Hank gradually retracts his leg, and Herman lets the trap spring back, and he tosses it out of the way.

He gently lifts Hank up into his arms.

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Tsk. Okay, shine the light down that way. We're both in trouble if I step on one of those things.

Herman carries Hank toward the light.

EXT. THE OLYMPUS LODGE - NIGHT

While Cass and Caph comfort Amy, Herman carries Hank and the flashlight toward the main cabin.

Amy SCREAMS.

CASS
Stay with her. I'll be right back.

She dashes into the lodge.

The other guests mill about on the porch in their nightwear, Karen and Ron in next to nothing, just basically umbrellas.

Herman stands there, arms full of Hank, at the porch. Cass runs out with several blankets, lays them out below Hank.

Herman lowers Hank, who's going in and out.

HERMAN
Tsk. Tsk. He lost a bunch of blood.

Lionel and Estelle comfort Amy, who's beside herself.

AMY
It's my fault. He ran after me.

ESTELLE
He'll be fine, dear, just fine.

LIONEL
Sure he will.
(whispers to Estelle)
Can't lose all that blood like that.

AMY
I just wanted him to have a nice time.

She SCREAMS again when Caph tears away at Hank's trousers,
and we see the ghastly wound.

CAPH
(turns to Estelle)
Keep her back.

CASS
Call Nate, Caph. Hurry!

Caph dashes off. Hank MOANS, reaches up for Herman's hand.
Herman takes it.

HANK
Thanks...

HERMAN
Shh, now. Tsk. Lie still.

Amy's sobbing. Estelle walks her away, but she hurries right
back.

Caph runs back outside.

CAPH
He's on his way. He said to tie him
off above the knee. Good and tight.

Ron jumps in, starts tearing up one of the blankets, hands a
strip to Cass, who cinches off Hank's leg above the knee.
Ron applies some additional twists, looks over at one of
Herman's totems, just in the early stages.

RON
Throw me that.

Herman grabs the totem, tosses it to Ron, who quickly uses it
to garrote down on the tourniquet.

AMY
I'll get my car.

CAPH
No, Nate'll drive. We gotta wait for
him. He knows these mountain roads...
(MORE)

CAPH (CONT'D)
and he's got all kinds of first aid
stuff.

CASS
(to Hank, his eyes exploding)
You're gonna be okay.

RON
What happened?

AMY
Oh, god. Oh, god.

CASS
(to Ron)
Trap. They're all over the place out
there. Ever since a bear got a kid in
town.

They look down at Hank, who's staring up at Cass.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HANK'S CAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

HANK AT 19, flat on his back in the back seat of his Buick,
his knees propped up. CASS AT 17, long hair, on top of him,
both hands on his shoulders, her back against his knees.

She leans close, kisses him softly on top of the nose, rises
back up, playfully.

HANK AT 19
More, please.

She repeats, kissing his forehead.

HANK AT 19 (CONT'D)
Wow, you're so beautiful.

CASS AT 17
Am I?

HANK AT 19
Hell yes you are.

CASS AT 17
Do you love me, Hank?

HANK AT 19
On the lips this time, okay?

Young Cass hesitates.

CASS AT 17
Tell me you love me first.

HANK AT 19
C'mon, okay? What are you doing to me?

Young Cass leans close, presses her lips gently on Young Hank's, and they kiss passionately...

Hank opens his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NATE'S CHEVY - NIGHT

Nate drives as fast as possible through the rain. Amy's in the back with Hank, who's unconscious. Back of the Suburban, seats folded down.

AMY
Can't you go any faster?

NATE
Can but won't, ma'am.

Nate fights the rain, looks in his rearview, to Amy, and behind her HEADLIGHTS.

The Chevy swerves in the mud. Nate corrects, Amy falls over sideways, picks herself up.

NATE (CONT'D)
Sorry about that.

Nate checks the rearview again. Hank's eyes barely open...

AMY
You're gonna be okay, hon. Nate's got you bandaged up good.

Hank MOANS. His eyes close.

AMY (CONT'D)
He keeps passing out.

NATE
I shot a little sedative in him.
We're almost there. Hold on.

Nate cranks the Suburban hard. Amy holds on.

EXT. TOMKINS VETERINARY CLINIC - NIGHT

Nate's Chevy SKIDS to a stop out front, followed closely by Cass's muddy 4Runner.

Cass, Herman and Caph pile out of the 4Runner, rush to Nate's Chevy.

DOCTOR TOMKINS, 39, black, blond-tipped locs, runs out, hands a huge umbrella to Cass, as Herman, Nate, Amy and Caph slide Hank out of the back doors.

NATE

Let's keep that leg up...

Amy looks over at the building, and the sign: "Tomkins Veterinary Clinic"

AMY

This place isn't for people!

NATE

All we got right now, in this weather.

CASS

(to Amy)

Don't worry, Dr. Tomkins knows his stuff.

Amy looks very worried.

As they're carrying Hank in, Dr. Tomkins uses his stethoscope to check Hank's respiration.

DR. TOMKINS

Let's go. Let's go. Quick. Quick.

INT. HANK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The lamp clicks on, and we see Marnie on the phone.

MARNIE

How did it happen?

(...)

Who? I'm losing you.

(...)

Hello?

Leah, sleepy, pushes open the door.

LEAH

What is it, grandma?

Marnie covers the phone.

MARNIE

It's... Henry. Your father's had an accident.

Leah's eyes go wide, begin to tear. She runs for her grandmother, hugs her hard.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC/LOBBY - NIGHT

(ANIMAL and BIRD SOUNDS invade this scene throughout.) Amy hangs up the phone, walks down the short hallway to the lobby area, where Cass, Caph and Herman wait.

CASS

He's gonna be okay.

Amy nods bravely, as she stares out the window to the storm. Rain pelts down.

HERMAN

Don't usually rain this hard this soon.

Dr. Tomkins and Nate walk in, trailed by PEG TOMKINS, 35.

DR. TOMKINS

Oh, there you are.

AMY

What's going on?

DR. TOMKINS

Well, he popped his anterior tibial artery, just above the tarsus... ankle. So he lost a bunch of blood. He's all tied up and cleaned up, but we need to transfuse him. We don't stock human blood. Surprise. But, we put some O in him and got him stabilized. He's one of the rarer type, though. Once the storm breaks, we can get him out --

CASS

Doctor Tomkins, what blood type is he?

DR. TOMKINS

B-positive. How have you been, Cass?

Peg eyes them both.

CASS
Good, I've been good. Long time.

DR. TOMKINS
Long time.

He catches Peg's inquisitive glance.

DR. TOMKINS (CONT'D)
Way before us, honey. Way...

HERMAN
He could have some of my blood, tsk,
but I think I'm just that big one that
most everybody's pretty much got.

DR. TOMKINS
Right. We gave him some of ours.

AMY
I'm O, too. Thank you, Herman.

DR. TOMKINS
Not sure how lucky we'll get with it
even when we --

CASS
Caph's B something, I think.

They all turn to Cass.

DR. TOMKINS
Well, we can check that out.

Cass nods. Caph looks down.

CAPH
Thanks a lot, Mom.

CASS
Caph, someone needs help.

CAPH
I know, but...

Amy kneels down in front of Caph.

AMY
It's okay if you don't want to. I
understand.

Caph looks up at her, over to Nate.

CAPH

Okay. What the crap. I got plenty of blood, right, doc?

DR. TOMKINS

Enough to share. We'll get you sampled, a quick check. Go from there.

(Caph looks hesitant)

It's nothing. Come with me.

NATE

You don't have to do this, Caph.

CASS

Nate.

CAPH

No, it's okay. I'll do it.

Caph rises, reluctantly follows Dr. Tomkins out of the room. Peg follows after them into the hallway.

DR. TOMKINS

(as they walk out)

You're not taking any antibiotics or insulin? No hepatitis or drug use?

Now, there's a question I don't usually ask.

CAPH

Got a little cold or something.

DR. TOMKINS

Nothing else? Just a cold, huh?

(Caph nods)

Okay, we're cool, then.

Amy sits down where Caph had been. She looks over at Herman and Nate. They get the hint.

NATE

Herman, check out this little bobcat back here. Trap got him, too.

HERMAN

Tsk. Oh. Okay.

Herman and Nate leave Cass and Amy alone.

CASS

Caph and Herman go out and round up those traps once a month, but they can't get 'em all. Bastards planting them so close to us like that.

(MORE)

CASS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Listen, I --

AMY

No, I don't know what I saw... with you and Hank. I don't know what's between you, but I want to thank you.

CASS

I knew Hank when we were teenagers. That's all. I had this huge schoolgirl crush on him. It was stupid of me to ask him to meet me out there tonight. He didn't want to, but I insisted. I'm sorry.

AMY

Thank you.

(Cass nods. Amy rises.)

Will you come sit with us? Maybe you two could catch up.

CASS

No, you go. I'll wait here for Caph.

Amy nods, walks out. Cass watches her go.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC/EXAM ROOM

Peg removes a blood pressure tourniquet from Caph's arm. Tomkins walks in.

PEG

Okay, B-P's good.

(to Caph)

You're sweating.

CAPH

Needles. They scare me.

PEG

Yeah, me, too...

CAPH

Doc, could I talk to you... like alone?

PEG

(off Tomkins' look)

Why don't I... ?

DR. TOMKINS

Good idea, honey.

They watch Peg leave. Caph looks around at the animal body diagrams on the walls.

CAPH
Um... you asked me before about the...

DR. TOMKINS
Hepatitis?

CAPH
The other one.

DR. TOMKINS
Drug use.

CAPH
I know you and my mom used to... I mean, you won't talk to her, right?

DR. TOMKINS
Not if you ask me not to.

CAPH
Okay, cool. Nothing major, you know, but every now and then, I'll go up by myself into the mountain and blow a little weed.

DR. TOMKINS
You do?
(Caph nods)
You're not supposed to do that.

CAPH
I know, but I --

DR. TOMKINS
(calls behind him)
Peg!
(to Caph, quietly)
No, man, you're supposed to share.

Peg pushes right back inside, like she was listening on the other side of the door.

DR. TOMKINS (CONT'D)
(winks at Caph)
Let's drain this critter.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC/LOBBY - NIGHT

Herman peeks in.

HERMAN

You okay?

Cass can only nod and start to cry. Herman's about to leave, but steps back inside the spare little room, sits beside Cass, tsks.

HERMAN (CONT'D)

Nate's off talking to the doc.

CASS

Okay...

Herman sizes her up, tsks.

HERMAN

When I was a little kid living up in the cold, wet country I had this big, black shaggy-haired puppy named Choo. Tsk. Me and Choo went everywhere together, slept together, tsk, hiked, fished, even school. He'd sit outside all day and wait for me, you know? Tsk.

(Cass nods)

So, one day, I come out from school, and Choo's gone, vanished, tsk, into thin air. I went out looking, but, he was sure gone, all right. No doubt about it. My mother told me to stop moping and find me a new dog. She didn't understand. Choo was my dog.

CASS

That's a sweet story, Herman.

HERMAN

Not finished yet.

CASS

Sorry.

HERMAN

So, I grow up and all. I'm a teenager now, huh? Tsk.

(Cass nods)

I see this pickup truck driving through my town... in the back is Choo, a big ol' dog now, but Choo still, you know? Tsk. This pickup pulls up to the tackle store, and the driver gets out. It's a dude with only one leg.

(MORE)

HERMAN (CONT'D)

I guess he's rigged his truck so it can still drive with a one-legged driver or something, I don't know. But he pulls out a crutch from the back, and Choo hops down to be with him. I run up to this man and Choo, and I call out. "Hey, Choo, it's me, Herman." You know what happened?

CASS

He remembered you, didn't he, Herman?

HERMAN

Tsk. No, ma'am, don't think he did, cuz he and that one-legged dude just walked right up on into the tackle store, like I was invisible.

A tear drips out of Herman's right eye and runs down his long, brown face. Cass notices, and pats his hand.

HERMAN (CONT'D)

It's not a good feeling, invisible.

(a beat)

But I figured sometimes you gotta go after things you think are yours and sometimes you gotta back on off. I never wanted no other dog after that.

Cass eyes him curiously.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC/ER ROOM

Amy sits beside Hank, who's pale. Heavy bandage around his lower leg. Blood bag hangs off to one side. Amy takes Hank's hand. Hank wakes up, groggily, looks around.

HANK'S POV: Animal diagrams (respiratory, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, urogenital systems, etc.).

HANK

What is this place?

AMY

It's a hospital. Kind of...

HANK

Animal kind of?

A beat.

AMY

I talked to Cass.

HANK

You did?

AMY

You could have just told me.

HANK

Amy, I didn't want you to --

AMY

I know. You were protecting her. She told me it was her idea, meeting you out there. You didn't want to. I know that. But, you could have said something right up front, first day.

HANK

I tried to. Really, I...

THUNDER BOOMS OVERHEAD.

AMY

I know... I know.

Dr. Tomkins, Peg and Caph walk in, Tompkins pushes a chair up toward Hank's bed. He's almost out again.

Amy clears the way, noticing the drain in Caph's arm and Peg holding a blood bag.

DR. TOMKINS

Thought we'd eliminate the middle man.

Tomkins settles Caph into the chair, lifts his bag up onto the hook over Hank's table. Hank opens his eyes, rolls them toward Caph.

HANK

Sorry about this.

CAPH

It's cool.

HANK

(eyes closing again)

Maybe just warm it up a little.

Caph grins. Peg stands over by Amy, puts her arm around her shoulder.

ON THE BAG, doing its work.

EXT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - DAY

Hank's Volvo parked out front. Amy stands with Cass and Caph on the front porch.

Herman walks up to the Volvo, taps on the roof, leans in through the open window. Hank looks out.

INT. HANK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Hank's stretched out on the back seat, a set of crutches on the floor beside him.

HERMAN
You got everything?

HANK
Yeah.

HERMAN
Got your watchman?

HANK
Up front.

Herman looks around to the front seat. There's the totem, belted in on the passenger side.

HERMAN
Tsk. Good place for it.

HANK
Hey, Herman. Do me a favor?

HERMAN
I could.

HANK
I'd like to say goodbye to Cass and Caph. Think you can kind of keep --

Herman taps on the roof again.

HERMAN
Stay on those trails now.

He reaches his hand inside. Hank shakes it.

HANK
Thanks. You, too.

HERMAN
Working on it. Tsk.

Herman lumbers away toward the porch, while Hank watches.

EXT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Herman watches, waits, while Amy hugs Caph and Cass.

HERMAN

(to Amy)

You got a daughter home, right?

(Amy nods)

I do some nice primitive jewelry stuff. I could show you something. No pressure.

AMY

Well, okay.

HERMAN

Be right back.

Amy waits on the porch, while Caph and Cass walk toward the car. Amy's distracted, as she tries to listen to Herman hawk his wares, while also watching Cass and Caph at the window.

INT. HANK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cass leans in one window, Caph the other.

HANK

Sorry if I messed things up.

CASS

You didn't mess anything up, Hank.

She reaches inside for a shake, but Hank grabs her hand and just squeezes it instead, while Caph watches.

CASS (CONT'D)

I'll leave you two alone... Now that you're blood brothers, you've probably got some secret handshakes and stuff you need to work out.

HANK

Cass, I...

Cass pats Hank on the shoulder, walks off.

HANK (CONT'D)

I guess we are kind of blood brothers now, huh, Caph?

CAPH
I guess. Hurt much?

HANK
Not bad. You should come into the big city some time, I'll introduce you to my daughter.

CAPH
I'll be twenty soon. You said she's what sixteen? I'm a little old for her, don't you think?

HANK
Oh, no. I just think you'd be a great friend for her.
(a beat)
You're a good person. That's what counts. Take care of your mom, Caph.

CAPH
Always do.

Hank and Caph stare at each other a beat.

CAPH (CONT'D)
Well, I better...

HANK
(reaches for Caph's hand)
Thanks... for the...

He pokes his finger into his own arm. They shake.

Amy pulls open the front door, climbs in, chunky wood necklace in her hand.

AMY
Okay, I think we've had enough fun for one birthday.

Amy CRANKS the Volvo.

EXT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - CONTINUOUS

The Volvo makes a big turn, right around Caph, who offers a wave before walking back up to the main cabin, where Cass meets him with a big hug.

They walk on into the cabin, followed by Herman, who sneaks one last look back at the departing Volvo.

INT. HANK'S CAR/MOVING - DAY

Amy steers the car along the mountain road. Hank's quiet behind her, seems lost in thought. Amy watches him in the rearview.

AMY
You okay back there?

Amy reaches her hand behind her for Hank to take. He does.

HANK
Thanks, Amy. For taking care of me.

AMY
I'm here for you, Hank. You know that.

She turns back, drives on.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

The Volvo pulls up to Hank's house. Marnie, Jason and Leah run out to meet them.

Herman whittles on a new watchman.

Cass signs in another couple, introduces them to Caph.

Hank hobbles into his classroom on crutches. His students, including Bates and Leah, applaud.

Caph leads a group of weekend warriors on horseback, points out the falling leaves.

Herman scours the woods for bear traps, picks one up carefully, chucks it against a tree to spring it.

Cass sits out on the dock, looks up at the constellations, aims her hand into a formation.

Nate and Caph lie on the bank, feet toward the water's edge. Some space between them. Nate shows Caph a section he needs to read from "Dept. Of Forestry Handbook." Caph takes it.

Hank leans on his crutches in his skivvies, while Amy runs down a sleepwalking Jason in the hallway.

Leah climbs into the black sports car, while Hank and Amy watch from the upstairs window.

A "People" Doctor unwraps the bandages around Hank's leg, clips away the sutures.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC/EXAM ROOM - DAY

Dr. Tomkins scrambles to get a shot into a wounded, struggling doe on his exam table. Peg walks in, cordless phone in hand.

PEG
Better take this one.

DR. TOMKINS
Wanna give me a hand first?

PEG
Absolutely.

Peg sets the phone aside, locks down the doe's legs.

INT. DR. TOMKINS OFFICE

He's sitting on top of his desk, on the cordless.

DR. TOMKINS
Yes, of course I know what that means.
I'm a veterinarian, not an idiot.

Dr. Tomkins clicks off the phone, looks over to Peg, who's standing in the doorway, her arms crossed in front of her.

DR. TOMKINS (CONT'D)
Damn...

INT. SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Caph, slicked up in a tie and jacket, sits across from the Forestry Supervisor MR. DEAN, 48.

MR. DEAN
And you think your work at the lodge
would help you qualify for what we do?

CAPH
Well, I know I'd have a lot to learn,
but Nate says --

MR. DEAN
Yes, Nate seems to like you... Speaks
very highly of you.

CAPH
Thank you, sir.

Mr. Dean leans back in his chair, studies Caph, who begins a coughing jag that doesn't want to seem to stop.

MR. DEAN
Some water?

Caph nods. Mr. Dean gestures to the water cooler in the corner. Caph helps himself, chugs down a few cupfuls.

MR. DEAN (CONT'D)
You okay, son?

CAPH
Frog in my throat or something.

Caph sits back down across from Mr. Dean.

MR. DEAN
But you're sweating like crazy.

CAPH
I'm just a little nervous.

MR. DEAN
Think you could pass a physical?
Pretty tough stuff...

CAPH
No doubt, sir. No doubt at all.

INT. CASS'S OFFICE - DAY

Cass sits at her desk, pores over the books. Herman knocks on the inside of the door, tsks. Without looking up...

CASS
Howdy, Herman.

HERMAN
Just wanted to revisit that raise idea
I had from a while back.

CASS
Revisit, huh? Well, best I can do is
fifty more a week, Herman. That's
tops.

HERMAN
That's a good raise. A fair one, too.

CASS
(puts her work away)
I'm glad you think so.

HERMAN
Yeah, that'll help me with my plans,
all right. Tsk.

CASS
Would you like to share your plans
with me, Herman?

HERMAN
Yes, I would.

A beat.

CASS
Okay, then.

HERMAN
But not right now.

CAPH (O.S.)
Mom!

CASS
In here, Caph.

Caph flies into the room, all smiles.

CAPH
I got it. I think I got it!

HERMAN
What'd you get?

CAPH
I'm gonna be a Forestry trainee. Soon
as I pass the physical.

Cass extends her arms. Caph walks right into them.

CASS
Well, Herman, guess you'll be earning
that raise, huh?

CAPH
You got a raise, Herman?

HERMAN
I got a nice, fair raise, Caph.

CAPH
We'll have to celebrate tonight, huh?

Caph walks over to Herman, shakes his hand. The phone RINGS
on Cass's desk.

HERMAN

It helps me with my plan.

CAPH

Cool, what's the big plan, anyway?

CASS (O.S.)

Hope it still includes us. Yes, this is Cass Murphy.

(...)

No, Cass, not Caph. Caph's my son.

CAPH

Who is it?

CASS

(listens, nods)

Okay. Yes. Right away.

Cass hangs up the phone, stares up at Caph.

CASS (CONT'D)

Herman, would you... ?

HERMAN

Feeling I got some work to do.

Herman walks out slowly, lingering at the door, before he pulls it closed behind him.

CASS

Okay, let's see, where do we start?

CAPH

What? What is it? Who was on the phone?

CASS

Someone from the N-T-L. That's a testing laboratory. Dr. Tomkins sent your blood sample out for routine labs, and...

CAPH

And? And what? What!?

Cass takes his hand, rubs it gently.

CASS

There's something wrong, Caph. I knew you were sick. I knew it. Why didn't I do something about it?

CAPH
Mom, I caught a cold. That's it.

CASS
No... that's not it. That's not it.

She pulls Caph close to her, holds him tight.

INT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Herman listens at the door to Cass's office, raises his hand to knock on it, thinks better of it, walks away...

INT. HANK'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Hank sits on the edge of his desk. The students are quiet.

HANK
... a band of nymphs begged him to stop, to leave the sadness behind and dance with them instead. When he refused, the nymphs tore him to pieces and cast his body into a river.

BATES
(raises his hand)
Mr. Patterson?

HANK
Yes, Mr. Bates?

BATES
That's a cool story and all, kind'a gross, but cool. But what does it have to do with American Literature? I mean, you said it was Greek, right?

Hank's thinking about his answer. Leah raises her hand.

HANK
Ms. Patterson?

LEAH
I think it's that all modern literature is based in some way on the old classics, the myths... You find things out about yourself when you look behind, right, Mr. Patterson?

HANK
Right, Ms. Patterson.

BATES

Yeah, if some hot nymph doesn't tear you up first.

The class enjoys a good laugh, while Hank eyes Leah, proudly.

INT. CASS'S 4RUNNER - DAY

Caph sits shotgun. Cass climbs in behind the wheel.

Herman runs out from the lodge, a brown bag in his hand. He sticks the bag inside through Caph's window.

HERMAN

I fixed some lunch to go.

CAPH

I'm not hungry.

A beat, as Cass surveys the situation. She reaches over and grabs the bag, but Herman doesn't let it go. His fingers barely touching hers.

CASS

Well, maybe we will be... later.

HERMAN

Like to go with you. I could drive.

CASS

Thanks, Herman. We'll be okay.

(she takes the bag)

We've got new guests coming up today.

I need you here.

HERMAN

I understand.

Herman steps back. Cass cranks the 4Runner, drives it in a circle toward the exit.

EXT. MT. OLYMPUS LODGE - CONTINUOUS

Herman watches them drive off. Nate passes them on his way in, HONKS, but the greeting is not returned. The Suburban pulls up beside Herman. Nate leans out his window.

NATE

Where they off to?

HERMAN

Hospital.

NATE
Why? What's up?

HERMAN
Don't know. Something wrong with
Caph. Something showed up in his
blood. Pretty bad something, it
seems.

Nate turns to watch the 4Runner disappear down the grade.

NATE
I should go with 'em.

HERMAN
Didn't want me going.

They both look after the trail of dust.

INT. HANK'S KITCHEN - DAY

STEAM RISES, as Amy pours a bowl of noodles into a colander over the sink. Hank's pulling hunks of Romaine lettuce apart, watches as Jason walks quickly in, a Nintendo remote in his hand...

JASON
How long 'til we eat?

AMY
Five minutes.

JASON
Good. Time for one more major move.
(turns to go, but...)
Did grandma say anything about like
she beat me at Nintendo?

AMY
Beat you? C'mon, nice try. You got
game... boy.

JASON
She told you, huh?

AMY
About twenty times.

Jason hustles right back out.

HANK
Amy?

AMY
(folding butter into noodles)
Uh-huh?

HANK
Did you tell Leah about, you know?

AMY
I don't think I know what you think I know.

HANK
About Cass? You know, the old girlfriend thing?

AMY
No, why would I?

Hank shrugs, finishes up the lettuce shredding.

EXT. COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - DAY - ESTABLISHING
Sprawling city hospital complex.

INT. DR. VISARO'S OFFICE - DAY

Cass and Caph wait patiently. Caph finishes buttoning his shirt.

CASS
Is there anything you want to tell me, Caph? Anything that I can talk to the doctor about?

CAPH
I've got a cold, okay. Talk to him about that. Jeez.

Cass taps her finger on her armrest. A beat.

DR. VISARO, 55, gray, fitness freak, good-looking, busy eyes, struts in, a folder in one hand, sits across from Cass and Caph, folds his hands on top of the file.

CAPH (CONT'D)
Tell her I just have a cold, please.

DR. VISARO
(matter-of-factly)
Yes, you do have a cold. He has a cold.
(Cass kisses Caph's hand)
(MORE)

DR. VISARO (CONT'D)

But we've got other problems. Big problems. Both your granulocyte and platelet counts are off the charts.

CASS

What does that mean? What would cause that?

DR. VISARO

I'd like to get some pictures and run a series of cytogenetic tests.

CASS

Cyto... What are you looking for? It sounds like you know.

CAPH

So, what, I'm gonna die or something?

CASS

NO! No, of course not, right, Doctor?

Doctor Visaro holds a finger up, tabs his intercom phone, picks up the receiver.

DR. VISARO

(to Cass, Caph)

Let's get those tests going.

INT. HANK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hank's grading papers, reading glasses on. Amy walks in, holding a cell phone.

AMY

Your phone, Hank.

Hank doesn't look up, continues his work.

HANK

Anything important? Can you please just tell them I'll get back -- ?

AMY

(jams the phone in her armpit, whispers)

It's Cass. I'm sorry, it was in the kitchen, looked like a real number, so I...

HANK

Cass?

AMY

You can go upstairs, if you want.

HANK

No... no. I'll take it right here.

Hank sets his work aside. Amy wipes the phone off on her sleeve, hands it to Hank.

Amy heads to the kitchen counter, pretends to be busy at the table, constructing papier mache "Alphabet" letter blocks. She looks up at Hank, who's nodding, but not saying more than "uh-huh." Then, finally...

HANK (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Okay. Sure. Yes.

Hank ends the call, turns to Amy.

HANK (CONT'D)

She's in town, wants me to meet her at IHOP.

AMY

Huh...

HANK

You wanna come?

AMY

What, you're going now?

(he nods)

No, Hank, I don't want to come.

What's going on?

HANK

She wouldn't say... but there was something about her tone. She sounded...

AMY

What? She sounded what?

HANK

I don't know. Scared.

AMY

Scared? Scared about what?

HANK

Wouldn't say. Sure you won't come?

AMY
No thank you.

Hank grabs his jacket from the arm of a chair. He leans closer to kiss Amy, and she offers a cheek.

AMY (CONT'D)
You gonna freshen up or something?

HANK
No. I don't know. Should I?

AMY
Up to you.

EXT. IHOP - NIGHT

Hank's Volvo parks beside Cass's 4Runner. Hank climbs out, adjusts himself, checks his cell phone, walks up toward the entrance.

Cass meets him there, as he opens the door.

CASS
Could we go somewhere else?

HANK
Huh? Yeah. Sure. Where?

CASS
The park by the old school.

HANK
Sure. Okay. Should I drive, or should we both?

CASS
I'll ride with you.

They start walking toward the Volvo.

HANK
Think they mind you leaving your --

CASS
If they didn't mind me sitting there for four hours nursing a cup of coffee, I don't think they'll mind.

HANK
Four hours?

CASS
Had to work up the nerve to call you.

INT. HANK'S VOLVO/MOVING - NIGHT

Hank drives, while Cass stares out the window.

CASS
How's the leg?

HANK
Almost back to normal. I really have
to say thanks to you and Caph, you
know?

CASS
You did, Hank.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Hank and Cass walk past a pumpkin patch manned by Boy Scouts
toward a bandshell in the center of the park.

Hank sits on a bench. Cass stands, staring across at the old
High School, several windows alight.

HANK
It's an adult education center now.

CASS
And we thought it was that a long time
ago. Little did we know...

Cass sits down across from Hank.

CASS (CONT'D)
Hank, first I have to say that
whatever drew you to my place... stars
aligning, fate, coincidence, chance...
whatever you want to call it.

HANK
It was Amy. Her idea. The whole
thing.

CASS
I know. I know. But I mean it had to
be something more than that...
something bigger. Nothing against
Amy. She's terrific.

HANK

Thanks.

CASS

It was more, Hank. I'm sure of it.

Cass pops up and walks right over to Hank, sits down beside him. Hank feels in his jacket for his cell phone, which is CHIRPING. Hank tabs it off.

CASS (CONT'D)

Okay.

(takes a deep breath)

This is really, really hard for me.

Hank notices her uneasiness, pats her on the knee.

HANK

It's okay. It's just me.

CASS

You asked me about Caph's father.

Hank gradually lifts his hand away, starts to feel uneasy himself. Cass now pats him on the knee.

CASS (CONT'D)

Yup. Blood type match. Twenty years ago. My mother and I just disappeared... became... invisible.

HANK

Holy...

CASS

I never would have told you.

HANK

Wait! Wait! Why wouldn't you tell me?

CASS

I promised I wouldn't, and I keep my --

That catches Hank, snaps him out of his reverie.

HANK

Promised? Who'd you promise?

CASS

No, that's not important now.

HANK
(standing)
Yes, yes, it is important. You would
promise someone else not to tell me
you were having my son? I think
that's damn important, don't you?

Cass agrees with a nod, gestures for him to sit back down.
He shakes his head, waits a beat, sits, head in his hands.

HANK (CONT'D)
Oh, man. Jesus, Cass. Why didn't you
just tell me?

CASS
I was going to.

HANK
Why didn't you?!

CASS
I finally worked up the nerve to tell
you. I went to your house.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PATTERSON, SR. HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Money home in a money neighborhood.

We watch Cass at 18 walk up the steps to the front porch.
She RINGS the doorbell, takes a step back.

CASS (V.O.)
I thought you'd be home. I didn't
want to track you down at school to
talk... not about that.

Cass at 18, starts down the steps. The screen door opens
behind her. Marnie, 20 years younger, looks out.

MARNIE YOUNGER
Cass?
(Cass turns)
Henry just left with his father to go
to the builder's supply.

CASS AT 18
Oh... okay.

Marnie can't help but notice Cass's desperate expression.

MARNIE
Anything I can help you with?
(Cass hesitates)
Come inside. I'll fix you some tea.

CASS AT 18
No, I better not.

MARNIE
I insist.

She pushes the door open for Cass, and follows her in.

INT. MARNIE'S KITCHEN - DAY - FLASHBACK

Cass sits at the counter. Marnie swirls a tea bag in a cup, pushes the cup across the Cass.

MARNIE YOUNGER
Haven't seen you around in a bit.
Henry thinks you're avoiding him.

CASS AT 18
No. Well, yes. Guess I've been busy.

Marnie really sizes her up, lights a cigarette.

MARNIE YOUNGER
Just as well. He's been busy, too, at school, what with finishing up his first year. He's taking an internship at the Times over the summer. Did he tell you that?
(Cass shakes her head)
Hmm. I'm frankly surprised that you two... well, never mind.

CASS AT 18
You're surprised that what?

Marnie settles onto a stool across from Cass, extends her long arms across the countertop, feels Cass's right hand.

MARNIE YOUNGER
You're warm. You feeling well, dear?

Cass bites her lower lip, nods. Marnie leans closer, really surveys Cass's eyes.

MARNIE YOUNGER (CONT'D)
Okay, let's cut to the chase. How far along?

CASS AT 18

What?

MARNIE YOUNGER

How far along are you?

A beat.

CASS AT 18

Four months.

MARNIE YOUNGER

Uh-huh. And what are you planning?

CASS AT 18

I wanted to talk to Hank. I wanted him to --

MARNIE YOUNGER

And you're sure it's his?

Cass's eyes snap to attention on Marnie.

CASS AT 18

Of course I'm sure. I better go.

But Marnie's got her hand... gripping it tightly.

Marnie begins talking very seriously to Cass MOS.

CASS (V.O.)

So, your mother pretty much told me how it would be. She would give me money to have the baby and for me and my mother to move away. She set us up, sent us money for ten years. That was the deal. I promised her, Hank. I promised your mother.

RIVETING ON MARNIE'S STERN COUNTENANCE

MARNIE YOUNGER

Get your mother on the phone. Now.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT - RETURN TO SCENE

Hank's dumbfounded. Cass's holding his hand now.

HANK

I can't believe it. I can't believe she did that.

CASS
She was very convincing.

HANK
Oh, I'm sure she was.

CASS
Especially when she told me you didn't love me.

HANK
What!?

CASS
It's okay, Hank. I knew already. I didn't need her to tell me.

HANK
I did, Cass.

Cass simply shakes her head.

CASS
And the more I thought about it, I knew it was the right way to go.

She waits for Hank to process...

HANK
Damn! How does someone do something like that?!

CASS
That's all behind us now, Hank. But there's more now, and it's right in front of us.

HANK
What? What more?

Hank stands up, paces, runs his hand through his hair. The phone in his pocket CHIRPS again... Hank's so flustered, he can't even remember where it is.

Cass rises, reaches into his pocket, hands it to him.

HANK (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Yes? Hello?
(...)
Okay, sure, Jas, sure I can. You get to bed now, huh?
(...)
That's my boy.

Hank ends the call.

HANK (CONT'D)

Am I going near where they're selling pumpkins.

CASS

Hank, Caph's in trouble. That's why I came. That's the only reason I broke my promise.

HANK

What's wrong? Where is he?

INT. DR. VISARO'S OFFICE - DAY (BEFORE)

Cass sits stiffly alone, across from the Doctor.

DR. VISARO

Where's your son?

CASS

Caph. I told him he didn't need to be here today.

DR. VISARO

How's he feeling?

CASS

Cold seems to be behind him.

DR. VISARO

Uh-huh. Spleen's enlarged.
(pores over the results)
Blood pictures consistent, marrow aspirate test, Philadelphia chromosome... is present.

CASS

Philadelphia chromosome?

DR. VISARO

Yes, that's the bad news. The good news is we're probably pretty early on in this.

HANK (V.O.)

In what?

EXT. PARK - NIGHT - RETURN TO SCENE

CASS
Something they call CML.

She pulls a slip of paper from her jeans pocket, unfolds it.

CASS (CONT'D)
Chronic granulocytic leukemia.

HANK
Leukemia. That's cancer. My father
died of cancer.

CASS
Not a hereditary condition. I asked.

HANK
But the kid's only 19. How could --

CASS
I don't know. I don't know.
Something damaged a gene somewhere
along the way. This thing happened.
(looks up at Hank)
We wouldn't have found out in time if
he hadn't given you that blood,
Hank... if you hadn't been there.
That's what I meant about something
bigger. Don't you see?

Hank gets it now, in spades. The wind's knocked right out
him, and he sits again.

HANK
But he's gonna pull through it okay?

CASS
(begins to cry)
I don't know. They've got drugs, he
said...

INT. DR. VISARO'S OFFICE - DAY - RETURN TO PREVIOUS SCENE

DR. VISARO
And the side effects can be tough.
There is one proven, long-term
treatment. In some cases, a cure.

CASS
What, what is it?

EXT. IHOP - NIGHT

Hank stands, stock still, as Cass's 4Runner pulls past him and out of the parking lot.

INT. HANK'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hank now sits across from Amy, holds both her hands in his.

HANK

Bone marrow transplant.

AMY

This is too much, Hank. Too much.
I can't process all this. It's too fast.

HANK

I know.

AMY

You're sure he's your son?

HANK

(nods, sadly)

And I'd probably be his best shot.
He's young, he's got that going for him. I mean, I'd still have to be what they call tissue-matched. Something, huh? Twenty years later... All this comes back...

AMY

(thinks a beat)

So, it wasn't just a schoolgirl crush, was it? And that night on the dock...

HANK

I needed to find out what happened.
Solve an old mystery. I'm sorry...
(grips her hands tighter)
Tell me what you think, Amy, please.

Leah, in her robe, strolls in, heads for the refrigerator, eyes her parents like they're nuts.

LEAH

What's this, a seance?

She grabs a bottled water from the fridge, heads back out.

LEAH (CONT'D)

We're down to three bottles.

Hank grabs her along the way, pulls her close, hugs her.

Leah looks over at Amy, like "What's this about?" Amy nods for Leah to let it happen.

Hank lets her go, finally, wipes a tear away.

HANK

Sorry.

LEAH

Oh, sure, any time.

(mumbles)

Weird-o.

Leah starts out of the room again.

HANK

Leah, I'd like you to bring your boyfriend over for dinner soon. I, we'd like to meet him.

LEAH

Can't. We split up. Creep was looking for love in all the wrong places, but mostly in my pants. Uh-uh... Ciao, dude. Not into it.

Leah breezes on out. Hank lets out a laugh, returns to holding both of Amy's hands.

AMY

Do it, Hank.

EXT. LAB SYSTEMS - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A strip center of mostly medical offices, near the hospital complex. The Volvo and Trooper parked outside.

INT. LAB SYSTEMS - DAY

Amy, Hank, and Cass sit in the lobby. Herman lingers by a window. Nate paces. Cass leans close to Hank and Amy.

CASS

Caph knows you're here for the tissue testing, but I didn't tell him anything else. He thinks that since your blood types are the same... well, you know.

AMY

So, he doesn't know Hank is his father?

Cass looks over at Herman and Nate, then back to them.

CASS

No, and I'm not sure I want him to know... not yet, anyway. He's gonna be going through so much...

Amy pats Hank's hand.

HANK

Not ever, seems to make sense to me. Not ever.

AMY

Maybe we could book a weekend every now and then, just so you could --

HANK

No. No weekends. Clean break. The way it was supposed to be if whatever it was that spun all this together hadn't. You know, if Caph wants to figure it out someday, I don't know, let it be his choice. I mean, if I can help him in any way down the road (thinks a beat) get with me, but go through Amy.

He pulls a long sigh, aims a determined glance toward Cass, who agrees with a nod. Amy fights back a smile.

A LAB TECH, 33, black, pokes his head out a door.

LAB TECH

Mr. Peterson?

HANK

Patterson.

The Lab Tech checks his clipboard.

LAB TECH

Exactly. You can come back.

Hank rises, starts toward the Lab Tech, looks back at Amy, Cass.

HANK

May I bring my wife back?

LAB TECH
Not a problem.

Amy hurries after Hank, takes his arm, and they follow the Lab Tech through the doorway. Herman moseys over and sits beside Cass.

HERMAN
Gonna be okay. Prayed on it for you.

CASS
(sniffles)
So, who do you pray to, Herman?

HERMAN
Me? Tsk. Whoever's listening. Maybe some of your star people.

Cass leans over toward him, holds him close. Herman delicately wraps his huge arm around her. Nate walks over. Cass nods. Nate completes the group hug.

INT. LAB SYSTEMS EXAM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy sits in a corner, while the Lab Tech prepares to draw blood. Hank sits up on the examining table.

LAB TECH
So, what we try to do is see if we can get the antigens in your cells to match the cells of the patient who'll be receiving them. You know, so both the pitcher and the catcher are using the same set of signs.

HANK
Well, I think the signs'll match. He pitched me a pint of blood a few weeks ago and I survived.

LAB TECH
(stops dead)
Wait, wait. The person we're trying to match you with gave you blood?

HANK
Yeah, believe it or not, I tore open an artery when I stepped --

The Lab Tech peels off his gloves, grabs the patient folder, walks out of the exam room, mumbling. Hank and Amy shrug.

INT. LAB SYSTEMS/LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Cass, still being held by Herman and Nate, notices the Lab Tech talking agitatedly to another Tech behind the glass.

CASS
Excuse me, guys.

She rises, goes to the window, taps on the glass.

LAB TECH
Yes, ma'am?

CASS
Is everything okay?

LAB TECH
Uh-huh. I just need to get some more tests authorized.
(thumbs through a folder)
Your son's doctor is who again?

CASS
Dr. Visaro at County Hospital.

LAB TECH
(finds it)
Right. Okay. You can take a seat again. We'll take care of this.

Both Lab Techs stare at Cass until she retreats.

Nate paces. Herman rises, struts right over to the glass, casts his shadow over the two techs.

HERMAN
Okay, what's the problem, boys?

LAB TECH
No problem, sir. We just have to check on something.

HERMAN
You're sure?

LAB TECH
Yessir.

Herman taps on the window, like "Okay", heads back to his seat beside Cass.

HERMAN
They just gotta check on something.

Cass mouths "Thank you" to Herman. Nate quits pacing, walks over to them.

NATE

Everything's gonna work out. I know it will.

CASS

Thank you, Nate. I'm sure it means the world to him, knowing you're here.

NATE

It means the world to me, too. I love your son.

After a beat, Cass extends her hand for Nate's.

NATE (CONT'D)

Sorry about the pacing thing.

Cass stifles a laugh.

INT. LAB SYSTEMS EXAM ROOM - LATER

Amy scoots her chair closer, as the Lab Tech rolls a stool over to Hank.

LAB TECH

Look, we're gonna have to do some additional tests.

AMY

Why?

LAB TECH

You took blood from a patient in a chronic phase of CML.

(a beat)

He could have passed the Ph chromosome on to you.

HANK

Huh?

LAB TECH

Well, there's a chance that... you might be looking for your own marrow donor. How old are you?

HANK

Forty, why?

AMY
Wait, is that possible?

LAB TECH
You should talk to Doctor Visaro.
He's a specialist.

AMY
Is it possible?

LAB TECH
I did a quick check. I mean there's
not much on it, but literature shows a
CML patient donating blood shortly
before diagnosis. The recipient
showed the Philadelphia chromosome,
the deformed chromosome.

AMY
And what happened to him?

LAB TECH
He died, eight months later.

Amy gasps. Hank stares blankly at the Lab Tech.

INT. HANK'S CAR - DAY

Hank and Amy sit, staring out at the Lab Building.

AMY
This is all my fault. What a stupid
birthday present. Stupid!

A beat. Hank finally looks over at her.

HANK
It was a great birthday present...
Don't you dare blame yourself.

AMY
So, what do we do?

HANK
We wait. We just wait.

They stare at the facility another beat. Hank CRANKS the
Volvo and backs it out of the parking spot.

INT. CASS'S 4RUNNER/MOVING - DAY

Herman drives. Cass stares out the window... She seems a bit manic. Herman notices.

HERMAN

We just have to wait now. That's all.

CASS

Stop the car, Herman.

HERMAN

Huh, right here?

CASS

STOP THE CAR!

EXT. A CROWDED HIGHWAY - DAY

We see the 4Runner pull over two lanes, in the midst of traffic. Cass climbs out, SLAMS the door behind her, begins rubbing her arms, pacing quick laps along the shoulder.

Herman has to wait for traffic on his side to clear. He finally hops out, jogs over to Cass.

Nate's car pulls up. He watches.

CASS

I can't lose him, Herman. I just can't.

HERMAN

You're not gonna lose him. It will work out. Back in the car, please.

Cass stops, stares at Herman. HORNS BLARE as cars whiz by. Herman opens the passenger side door. Cass walks up to the car, head down. She's about to climb in...

CASS

Sorry. Sorry.

HERMAN

It'll be okay.

Herman closes the door behind her, dashes around to the driver's side, waves okay to Nate, who waves back. A HORN BLASTS as he rounds the front.

HERMAN (CONT'D)

Aw, shut the hell up, will ya?

INT. HANK'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Hank, in boxers and a T, sits on the top step of the stairs in the dark.

AMY (O.S.)

Hank?

Amy walks up behind him, wrapping her bathrobe closed.

AMY (CONT'D)

What are you doing? It's 2 o'clock.

HANK

Huh? Oh, I, um, thought I might catch Jason, you know...

AMY

(hovers over him)

Mind if I pull up a step?

HANK

(slides ove)

How do I deal with this thing... and with my mother now? Everything's changed. Everything's different.

AMY

You do the right thing, Hank, like you always do.

HANK

I'm not so sure anymore.

Amy sits down beside him, wraps her arm around his waist.

AMY

You know what I've been thinking about?

(He shakes his head again)

What a great father and husband you are. Your father would be really proud to see how you turned out.

HANK

My father... my poor father. Wonder what she put him through... What else don't I know?

Amy nods, yawns, nestles her head against his shoulder.

AMY

We all do what we have to to get through life.

(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

Your mother, your father, Cass, us.
All of us. We do the best with who we
are, the, I don't know, stuff we're
made of that lets us see another day,
another year. We are who we are,
Hank. That's it. That's it.

HANK

(pulls her closer)

You're my stuff. Is that okay?

Amy nods, and they sit there on the stairs in the dark.

EXT. PATTERSON, SR. HOUSE - DAY

Hank's Volvo pulls up into the driveway. A yellow cab's
parked at the curb.

Hank climbs out of his car, walks over to the cab, leans in,
pulls out his wallet. The cab pulls away.

Hank turns, looks up at the house. Marnie, decked in a
salmon St. John's knit, steps out onto the porch, locks the
door behind her. When she turns around, Hank's there.

Marnie looks down to the curb.

MARNIE

My cab.

HANK

I paid him off, sent him away. You're
okay with that, right?

Marnie eyes Hank, bucks up.

MARNIE

Okay, then, you'll just have to drive
me to the country club. I've got a
noon luncheon, and I don't intend to
be late.

HANK

No.

MARNIE

What? What did you say?

HANK

No. No luncheon today. You and I are
going inside, and we're going to talk.

MARNIE

Talk? Talk about what?

Hank eyes her sternly.

MARNIE (CONT'D)

I tried to tell you not to go up there.

HANK

Yeah, you did. And I'm glad I didn't listen to you.

Hank turns her around, snatches the keys out of her hand, unlocks the door, steers her inside, pushes the door closed behind them.

EXT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - DAY

Caph's chopping up some firewood by the side of the cabin. Herman strides up, scratching his head.

HERMAN

You shouldn't be doing that.

Caph takes an emphatic swing downward. Wood flies off the stump.

CAPH

I'm not dead yet.

Nate steps out from a wood pile, toting cut firewood.

NATE

I'm keeping an eye on him, Herman.

HERMAN

Tsk. Good man. Let's do some real teamwork here.

Herman grabs the axe from Caph's grasp.

HERMAN (CONT'D)

You hand, I'll chop, Nate carries. Besides I gotta ask you something... pretty serious.

Herman steps in over a hunk of wood Caph sets down on the stump, raises the axe.

ON PORCH

Cass has been watching, steps back inside.

INT. HANK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jason's on his knees on a chair at the sink, while Hank gouges out a huge pumpkin. Hank reaches inside the pumpkin and yanks out a huge handful of pulp, shows it to Jason.

Jason pulls a nasty face.

HANK
Can you believe they make pumpkin pie
out of this stuff?

JASON
No way.

HANK
Way.

Amy's CELL RINGS. She dashes for it.

AMY
Yes, hello?

She listens, slaps down the phone.

AMY (CONT'D)
(to Hank)
They can help us unload our non-
existent time-share.

Amy walks up behind Hank, hugs him around the waist.

HANK
(behind to Amy)
They said Monday.

AMY
I just hate not knowing.

Leah walks in, drops to a chair at the table.

JASON
Not knowing what?

LEAH
Yeah, not knowing what? I thought
you guys knew everything.

Amy looks up at Hank, who nods. Amy lifts Jason down, sits him on a chair, pulls another one close for herself, pats yet another for Hank.

AMY
Okay, family meeting.

Everyone's seated. Amy's eyes offer Hank the lead.

HANK
You all know I love you, right?

Jason nods matter-of-factly.

LEAH
Wait, what's going on here? You're scaring me.

HANK
Scaring you? I just said I loved you.

LEAH
Yeah, I know. You never say that.

HANK
Sure I do.

AMY/LEAH/JASON
No you don't.

Hank's speechless...

INT. CAPH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Caph's sitting, staring out his window. Cass knocks on the inside of the door.

CASS
You okay, hon?

Caph nods slowly, without turning.

CASS (CONT'D)
Big old full moon. Wanna go out and look?

CAPH
No, thanks. I can see from here.

CASS
Okay, I'll leave you alone.

Caph turns to her, solemn-faced.

CAPH
He's my father, isn't he?

CASS
What? Who?

CAPH
Mr. Patterson. I'm not stupid.

Cass nods, walks right over to him, hugs him from behind.

CASS
My Caph. My bright giant star.
Thirty times brighter than the sun.

CAPH
Not bright enough, I guess.

CASS
Not as bright as you're gonna be
someday.

She rests her head on his shoulder.

CASS (CONT'D)
But since Hank doesn't know, I'll
leave it up to you if you want to do
anything about it. If and when you do.

CAPH
He doesn't know? For real?

CASS
He thinks he's returning a favor and
being a blood match might make him a
marrow match.

CAPH
So, we can keep it the way it is
around here? I mean, just us, if I do
get better?

CASS
Sure. When you do get better.

They gaze out toward the myriad of stars.

INT. LAB TECH ROOM - DAY

INSERT SHOT: Patterns of chromosomes side by side...

A bald LAB TECHNICIAN #2, sights down a high-powered
telescope.

LAB TECHNICIAN #2
So, how are the fish swimming today?

INT. AMY'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS - DAY

Amy arranges her papier mache blocks in a pyramid, while the kids sit in a circle around the blocks. Amy stares at the cell phone on her desk.

INT. LEAH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

While everyone else deliberates over a test, Leah stares down at her cell phone on her desk.

INT. LAB TECH ROOM - DAY

The Lab Tech hangs up the phone, goes back to his microscope, whistles, "Octopus Garden."

EXT. JASON'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL - DAY

Kids laugh and scream at recess.

INT. JASON'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Jason sits across from the Reception Desk. The phone RINGS. The School Receptionist snatches it up, answers, looks over to Jason, who's standing now, and shakes her head. Jason sits back down.

INT. HANK'S SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Hank clips along quickly, nodding to students, teachers as he goes, toting a box of papers tucked up under his chin.

His cell phone RINGS. He stops cold in his tracks, moves quickly to a bay of lockers, beside a STUDENT wearing headphones, fumbles for the cell phone in his hip pocket.

The CLASS BUZZER GOES OFF.

HANK
(into phone)
Hello?
(...)
I'm sorry I can't hear you.

Hank's struggling with the box and the phone, finds a corner and wedges himself in it.

HANK (CONT'D)
Hello. Yes, this is Hank Peterson.
Patterson.

INT. AMY'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS - DAY

Amy's showing the kids how to place the alphabet blocks just so. TAMMY, 5, is trying her best.

AMY
That's right, Tammy, make it nice and even.

Her cell phone buzzes loudly, dancing across her desk. She catches it before it goes off the edge.

AMY (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Mizz Patterson.
(...)
Yes, uh-huh. Well, okay, huh? Me too, me too.

Amy hangs up the phone, walks right back over to her students, sits down with them, looks over at the near perfect pyramid of alphabet letters. She reaches over and snatches two blocks right out. The pyramid tumbles.

AMY (CONT'D)
Okay, what are these letters, kids?
(shows them one)

KIDS
P...

Now, the other.

KIDS (CONT'D)
H...
(holds them together)
P-H. You know what we do with these?

KIDS (CONT'D)
No, Mizz Patterson.

AMY
Well, we crunch them up just like this, don't we?

She proceeds like a madwoman to squeeze both of them into smithereens and throw the pieces away.

AMY (CONT'D)
And we throw them away. WHY? WE DON'T
NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THEM ANYMORE!

Panting, she looks out at the kids, who all start bawling
their eyes out!

INT. OLYMPUS MAIN CABIN - DAY

Cass hangs up the desk phone, looks up... She's beaming!

CASS
Caph! Herman!

She virtually vaults over the sign-in counter past an OLDER
COUPLE who appear in the doorway, bags in hand. She comes
running back up to the couple, shakes their hands.

CASS (CONT'D)
Don't move. I'll be right back. K?
(dashes off, calls back)
Welcome to Mt. Olympus!

The Couple stand there... trying not to move.

EXT. MT. OLYMPUS LODGE - DAY

Nate's car drives up. Nate, in his uni, hops out, hustles
around to the back, pulls out a collapsible wheelchair,
wheels it around to the back door, where Cass helps a very
weak Caph out.

Caph climbs into the wheelchair. Nate hugs Caph around the
shoulders and kisses him on the top of his head.

NATE
You're doing great. Amazing.

Caph takes Nate's hand and kisses it.

Cass wheels Caph toward the lodge, with Nate still holding
his hand. Herman meets them. Herman and Nate lift the
wheelchair up the steps.

Cass wheels Caph toward the lodge.

HERMAN
Man, he looks pretty bad.

NATE
That chemo and radiation knocked the
crap out of him.

HERMAN

What about the transplant? When does that happen? Tsk. Soon, I hope.

NATE

Soon as they kill all his old marrow.

HERMAN

Better don't kill him in the process.

NATE

You got that right. Gotta get to work but if you hear anything, you hit me right up.

HERMAN

Right up.

Nate heads toward his Suburban.

INT. MT. OLYMPUS LODGE - CONTINUOUS

Cass walks toward the front desk.

HERMAN

He doing okay?

CASS

Yeah, Herman, thanks. It won't be long now... I hope. They wanted to keep him there, but I promised him he could come home. When we go back tomorrow, he'll stay.

HERMAN

I know you're busy, but could I have a minute? Tsk.

Cass, now at the reception desk, looks up at Herman.

CASS

So?

Herman's as antsy as all get out. Cass can't help but look down at her ledger.

HERMAN

Um, well. Could you close up that book? Tsk.

Cass furrows her brow.

CASS
Okay, what's up?

HERMAN
What's up? Well, see, I got you
this...

He digs into his shirt pocket, pulls out a ring box.

CASS
Herman...

HERMAN
(gives her the box)
That's what I needed that raise for.
My plan.

CASS
I can't open this.

HERMAN
Why not?

CASS
Um, because I'm afraid of what it is.

CAPH (O.S.)
Don't be afraid, Mom. Open it, will
ya, before I pass out here.

Cass looks around Herman to Caph, who's covered in a blanket,
the door jamb holding him up.

CASS
Caph!

HERMAN
I'll get him.

Herman jogs over and carefully but easily lifts Caph into his
arms, totes him away.

Cass watches a beat, before her eyes drift down to the box in
her hand. She sneaks a peek.

CASS
(a small smile)
Herman...

EXT. HANK'S HOUSE - DAY (DAWN)

Hank and Amy stand by the car.

Jason and Leah, still half asleep in their PJ's, wave from the front door. Marnie walks out to the car. Amy climbs in.

MARNIE

I still think this is a crazy idea.

HANK

Yeah, well, I'm a crazy person. I hear it's genetic.

He pecks her on the cheek, ducks into the car, leaving Marnie somewhat befuddled. Hank leans out the window.

HANK (CONT'D)

Oh, by the way, all this crazy stuff is being billed to you. So, get ready to break out the old checkbook. Again.

Marnie stares blankly as the Volvo backs down the driveway and pulls off.

INT. HANK'S CAR/MOVING - DAY

Hank lets out a little grin, looks over at Amy, who's also grinning. She climbs up onto the console between them, snuggles her head into his shoulder, closes her eyes...

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Hank lies on the table. The Anesthesiologist slowly puts him to sleep. Two Physicians check with the Anesthesiologist, before going to work over Hank's upper pelvic area.

INT. WAITING ROOM - LATER

Amy waits patiently. Cass walks in with Herman. Amy rises, greets Cass, shakes her hand.

CASS

Thank you so much. So much.

AMY

How's Caph?

CASS

Well, he's ready. Poor thing. He could barely move yesterday. Have you heard anything?

AMY

Three hours in. Should be close.

HERMAN

(as he heads out)
I don't want to seem rude, but I'd
like to go sit with Caph awhile.

CASS

Okay, Herman. I'll be right up.

AMY

What a great guy.

CASS

(shows Amy her ring)
Hope so.

AMY

Oh, my gosh. Let me look at that.

ON RING: A simple one diamond setting in silver.

AMY (CONT'D)

So elegant. Isn't life something?

CASS

Know what, Amy, it really, really is.

The BMT PHYSICIAN, 36, an Asian woman, leans into the room.

BMT PHYSICIAN

Mrs. Peterson?

AMY

Patterson.

CASS

Patterson.

BMT PHYSICIAN

I stand corrected... twice. Well,
he's already up in recovery. Should
be in his room soon. You can go be
with him.

AMY

Thank you, doctor.

BMT PHYSICIAN

You're welcome.

(to Cass)

Good luck. He should do fine. It's a
perfect match right down the line.

CASS

Thank you.

The BMT Physician ducks back out, leaving Cass and Amy alone.

AMY
Well, I'm off to...

CASS
And I better get up to...

Cass can't help but pull Amy close for a huge hug. Amy's happy to reciprocate. They're both in tears... Cass pulls herself away slowly, holds Amy by the arms for a beat.

AMY
What was he like when you knew him?

CASS
Same, Amy. Same.

They walk out together and go separate ways.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Hank's being wheeled to his room from Recovery, Amy at his side. He spots Herman, reaches up, grabs the ORDERLY's arm.

HANK
Wait.

The Orderly stops the cart. Herman leans down close to Hank.

HERMAN
How you doin'?

HANK
Good. Sore. Where is he?

HERMAN
(gestures behind him)
They're hooking you up to him now.

HANK
Could I?

The Orderly nods, wheels Hank into Caph's room.

INT. CAPH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caph's lying in his bed, as a Nurse connects the transfusion bag to Caph's broviac line. Cass and Dr. Varosi step over into a corner. Amy waves to Caph, who lifts his head slightly. Amy walks out into the hall. The Nurse eyes Hank.

CAPH
(weakly to Hank)
Sorry about this.

HANK
It's cool.

CAPH
Maybe you could warm it up some.

HANK
Already did. You get better now.

Hank reaches for the bed and squeezes Caph's foot under the sheet. The Orderly wheels him back out. Hank's eyes find Cass now, who turns and offers a solemn wave.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Orderly pushes Hank past Herman, who taps on the gurney as it goes by. Amy catches up, grabs Hank's hand, and the gurney turns a corner and disappears...

Herman walks into Caph's room. Nate's already at bedside. As Herman pushes the door closed, we see him reach for a watchman stuck behind him in his belt.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

INSERT: "BACK TO THE PRESENT"

Hank stares up at Herman's watchman. Amy peeks in.

AMY
(whispers)
He's asleep. You can come out now.
How's the novel coming?

HANK
(pulls her close)
Well, I started it.

AMY
Wow. Great. After all these years.

HANK
Finally found my inspiration.

AMY
You did, huh? Well, what was it? The old girlfriend, the accident, the surprise, the transplant, the --

HANK

You. It was you. All along. I love you, Amy.

He pulls Amy close to him. She's moved. They stare up at all the kid stuff on Jason's wall. Leah peeks in.

LEAH

What's going on?

HANK

C'mere, Princess Leah.

LEAH

I hate when you call me that.

HANK

I know. That's why we picked it. So we could torture you your whole life. That's what parents do. Come to think of it Clarice would've been fun, too.

Hank makes a Lecter-like slurping sucking sound, grins, then offers his hand to Leah.

HANK (CONT'D)

C'mon, humor your parental units.

Leah frowns, takes his hand, reluctantly. He pulls her down, so she's sitting with them. They all just sit there. Jason SNORES in the b.g.

LEAH

Well, this is fun.

HANK

Isn't it?

Hank relaxes even more, burying his head against Amy's shoulder... and we pull away from them... INTO THE HALLWAY UP TO HANK'S DEN, DOOR STILL OPEN, AND INTO...

INT. HANK'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

WE MOVE OVER Hank's desk chair and ONTO THE COMPUTER SCREEN, WHERE WE READ the words Hank had left there at the open:

"There was no other woman for him... only her... She was everything to him. The stars, the moon... and the morning wind."

FADE OUT.