

ACT ONE

'LUKE'

TITLE OVER: TODAY

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - EVENING

A nasty storm pummels the landscape with ice and snow.

A black dot moves across the vast whiteout, like a lone ant crawling through an ocean of flour.

CLOSER: the dot is actually a beat up station wagon towing a U-haul trailer up a winding mountain road.

INT. STATION WAGON - EVENING

Meet the Brenner family.

Behind the wheel: LUKE, 40's, a rugged handsomeness, diminished by the exhausted, drained look in his eyes. He glances up at the rearview:

In the backseat, his two daughters: CLAIRE, 16, angsty-hipster in I-hate-my-dad mode, and ELLIE, 10, small for her age -- born deaf -- born a fighter.

We soak in the silence, until:

START  
|

...Well? CLAIRE

Well what? LUKE

Claire shakes her head -- pissed.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
What else do you want me to say?CLAIRE  
You're such an asshole Luke.

Whoa. Looks like we came in at a bad time.

LUKE  
Luke? What happened to dad?CLAIRE  
Good question...

Ouch. A tense moment, then:

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Isaacson and Soulier Casting - 'Stay'

LUKE  
We've been having this same  
conversation since we left and  
nothing's changed--

CLAIRE  
Well then change it.

Luke takes a deep breath.

LUKE  
Claire. You have to trust me on  
this. We had to leave.

CLAIRE  
Why?

LUKE  
Because... we just did.

We get the sense that Luke wants to tell her the reason, but  
right now he's holding back.

CLAIRE  
That makes a whole lot of fucking  
sense.

LUKE  
Hey -- language.

Claire looks out her window.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
I'm trying my best here.

CLAIRE  
Well, your best sucks.

Silence for a moment. But Claire's not done.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Why can't you just ask for your job  
back? Tell them you weren't  
thinking clearly or something.

LUKE  
It's not that simple.

CLAIRE  
Do something else then. Get a  
different job.

A beat. Luke is silent.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Megan's dad lost his job. But he didn't pack up his family in the middle of the night and move them across the country.

(in a smaller voice)

Mom would have never made us leave.

This stings both of them.

LUKE

That's not fair.

A charged beat. The silence is loud. Claire's trying to keep it together. Luke takes a deep breath. Then:

LUKE (CONT'D)

My entire life was back there -- I hate this just as much as you do.

But we had to leave.

(beat)

And this -- this could be a chance for us to start something new... start over.

CLAIRE

I don't want to start over. I want to go home.

END  
1

Claire stuffs earbuds in her ears. This conversation's over.

Luke watches her for a moment. Feels like such a fuck up. He shifts his gaze to his other daughter Ellie who sits wrapped in a blanket.

Luke signs to her: I love you.

Ellie signs back: I love you, too.

A quiet moment. Luke glances at the empty passenger seat next to him, almost like he's expecting to see someone... but the seat is empty.

And the absence of a mother in this car is suddenly heart-wrenching -- an open wound still bleeding this family.

This is the first time Luke's been on his own in eighteen years. Not enough time for him to pick up the pieces. Not enough time for him to figure out how to be a dad. But he's trying.

Luke focuses on the road -- at least what he can see of it. White snow blankets everything. They could be anywhere.

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ACT TWO

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Pitter-patter of rain on the roof. A sleepy day out.

The walls are covered in photos of the Brenner family -- vacations and holidays.

We focus on the bed. A happier Luke rolls over -- wraps his arms around a beautiful woman, 30's. This is SARAH -- his wife. He kisses her.

She rolls over -- kisses him back. And now they are looking at one another, faces inches apart. Nothing else matters right now, just this moment. After a long beat:

**START**  
**2**

SARAH  
What time is it?

LUKE  
I don't know -- alarm hasn't gone off yet.

SARAH  
Couldn't sleep?

LUKE  
I've been thinking... I need to tell you something. It's not going to be easy to hear...

SARAH  
What is it?

A beat. Luke takes his time, this is serious.

LUKE  
You snore really, really loud--

Sarah throws a pillow at him.

SARAH  
I hate you, I actually thought you were being serious for once.

LUKE  
I am. It's cute though...  
(changing gears)  
What do you have going on today?

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SARAH

I'm opening the shop -- Tiff is out sick so I'm on cake duty. What about you?

LUKE

The usual. Babysitting a new deputy, my favorite. I think it's my turn to make dinner tonight.

SARAH

If you make a list, I'll stop by the store on my way home.

**END 2**

And now: BEEP BEEP BEEP. Luke's alarm finally goes off.

Sarah climbs out of bed, makes her way to the bathroom, crosses through the doorway as we:

SMASH BACK TO --

INT. THE BRENNER'S ROOM - MORNING - **PRESENT**

Luke startles awake -- breathing hard -- sheets twisted. He sits up in bed. Takes him a moment to gather himself. Takes him a moment to realize the room is empty. No Sarah here.

No Claire or Ellie either...

LUKE

Claire...

No answer -- he climbs out of bed -- and now his heart's pumping fast.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Claire!

He checks the bathroom -- it's empty. He's back in the room, mind racing -- panic setting in -- *where the hell are they?*

Then, he notices a piece of paper on the dresser -- he picks it up -- a note in Claire's handwriting:

*Went to breakfast*

The panic abates. He exhales a breath of air. Relieved.

He makes his way to his suitcase -- searches for some fresh clothes -- digs to the bottom -- stops... he's staring down at something... and now we see it:

A FILE

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Both men approach the body. The snowstorm obscures any visibility, can't make out any features, just a gray mass.

They pick up the body and stumble-walk back to the hotel -- feels like it's a mile away -- finally they reach the main doorway and reenter:

THE LOBBY

Luke and Wagner set the body down on the ground. The crowd gathers. Everyone looks on. Luke catches his breath. Stares down at:

THE GIRL IN GRAY

The same girl from the opening teaser. He studies her ragged, torn clothes from some bygone era.

*Who is she? Where did she come from?*

START  
3

WAGNER

Is she breathing?

Luke checks.

LUKE

Yeah.

He notices blood on the girl's clothing. He peels away some of the fabric revealing the bullet wound she sustained in the opening.

Gasps from the crowd. Luke locks eyes with Mason.

LUKE (CONT'D)

We need to get her to the hospital.

Mason just stares at the girl -- not saying or doing anything.

LUKE (CONT'D)

We need to get her to a hospital or she's going to die. Do you understand me?

MASON

The phones aren't working.

Luke rushes Mason -- grabbing him by the jacket -- looking him right in the eyes.

LUKE

How far is it to town?

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Mason doesn't answer.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
How far?

MASON  
Mr. Brenner, let go of me.

Luke releases him. Mason fixes his jacket. He looks to the girl then back to Luke. Takes a beat, then:

MASON (CONT'D)  
Twenty miles into town. But you won't make it. Not in this.

LUKE  
We'll take our chances.

Luke addresses the crowd.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Does anyone have cell service?

People check their phones for service -- no one has anything.

Claire and Jake push through the crowd and get their first glimpse of the bleeding girl.

CLAIRE  
(covering her mouth)  
Oh my God.

Luke locks eyes with his daughter.

LUKE  
Claire.

She can't take her eyes off the body.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Claire!

She looks up at him.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Stay with your sister.  
Everything's going to be fine.

CLAIRE  
We need a car, she needs a hospital.

LUKE  
I know.

**END3**

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