

ROLLING THUNDER

Written by
Heath Miller

hwm23@telus.net
403-512-6095

FADE IN:

EXT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY - PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - DAY

Blacktop winds along jagged coastal bluffs. Moderate traffic.

LEVI SILVERTHORNE (Male, 21), chiseled features, rides a motorcycle. A passenger, LOLA (Female, 21), holds him tight.

EXT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY - PALO VERDES BLVD - DAY

Levi and Lola on the motorcycle, cruise up a wooded hillside.

EXT. BLUFF COVE - FLAT ROCK POINT - DAY

Rugged coastal cliffs. Rocky shores below. The Pacific Ocean brilliantly blends shades of blue and green.

Levi, the fresh face of a young man with a bright future, quietly confident, holds Lola, an allure of self-assurance. Peaceful, enchanted, they relish the breathtaking views.

LOLA

This is our new spot, okay?

He kisses her neck. She wears an elegant chain with a cross. A SLIGHT SOUND catches his attention.

LEVI

Hey, listen. What is that?

As they listen, they hear a soft, sweet, "COO, COO, COO." Curious, they peer behind a formation of rocks.

A wounded dove has taken shelter. Startled, it flaps its left wing but can't fly. Blood on its right side. Intrigued, they kneel to have a closer look. Both affected, sincere.

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES - DORMS - DAY

Levi and Lola roll up on the motorcycle and park, a box strapped to the back. Levi unzips his jacket, the dove nestled inside.

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - DAY

Levi and Lola finish setting up a bird cage. They add seed, water and a small blanket. Levi carefully removes the dove from a box and gently sets it into the cage.

Nearby, TEDDY (Male, 21), African American, Levi's roommate, casually sits and drinks a beer.

LEVI

The vet said it'll take four to six weeks to heal.

TEDDY

Can a broken wing actually heal though?

LEVI

Under the right circumstances, yeah. Otherwise it has to be euthanized.

TEDDY

Damn, son. Hey, dude, I've been meaning to ask, what's with the skull?

Pinned to a bulletin board: an artist's rendering of a skull. On a shelf, an aged autographed baseball also displays.

LEVI

Thinking about getting a tattoo. On the back of my neck.

Lola smirks, shakes her head.

Teddy mildly skeptical, then smiles, amused --

TEDDY

That is badass!

Levi flexes his toned muscular biceps and SNARLS.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

ROCK MUSIC. Crowded with PEOPLE (Men/Women, aged 20s). Levi, Lola and Teddy on bar stools, drink highballs, they LAUGH.

A BURLY MAN at a table with his GIRLFRIEND and some OTHERS. The Burly Man and his Girlfriend ARGUE. She gets up to leave. He grabs her by the wrist, won't let her go.

Bothered, Levi observes them.

LEVI

(to Lola and Teddy)

You see this? This has been going on for a while. What a mammoth douche.

TEDDY
White P. Diddy.

Levi downs his drink and takes an ice cube from his glass. Turns to the Burly Man, takes aim and throws the ice cube. SMACK! Nails him right in the forehead.

The Burly Man peers around and spots Levi staring at him. Levi grins. Glaring at Levi, the Burly Man rises to his feet.

EXT. BAR - BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Levi poised to fight the Burly Man. A FEW MEN crowded around, including Teddy. Unimpressed, arms crossed, Lola standing a ways back.

The Burly Man throws a punch. THUD! Hits Levi in the face. Levi smiles, then headbutts him. CRACK! Followed by a powerful uppercut to the chin. SMACK! The Burly Man DROPS. And lies in a heap, bleeding. Levi stands over him --

LEVI
Just lay there if you're a bitch.

The Burly Man doesn't move. Teddy LAUGHS as he puts his arm around Levi, they head toward Lola.

EXT. WESTWOOD BLVD - DAY

Palm trees and shops line both sides of a BUSY street.

Levi and Lola ride the motorcycle.

They park in front of "LA BRUSCHETTA." Levi graciously assists Lola off the motorcycle. An abrasion on his face.

INT. LA BRUSCHETTA RESTAURANT - DAY

Rustic elegance. PATRONS at tables, SERVERS about.

Levi and Lola at a table with CASS SILVERTHORNE (Female, 49), understated, soft-spoken but spirited, and GRACE SILVERTHORNE (Female, 25), spitting image of her mother.

Celebratory mood. Dirty dishes abound. Wide smile from Levi.

SERVER #1 approaches with a cupcake and SIZZLING sparkler. She smiles as she sets it in front of Levi and heads away.

GRACE
Happy birthday, little brother!

CASS
 Levi, you deserve a celebration!
 You've been studying so hard. You
 put too much pressure on yourself.

GRACE
 He has to work his butt off if he
 wants to get in, Mom.

Lola adoringly observes Levi.

CASS
 Do you have a plan B in case it
 doesn't work out?

LEVI
 MMA fighter.

Concerned, curious, Lola raises an eyebrow.

CASS
 Levi?! That's ridiculous! Please!
 You need to stop fighting!

LEVI
 I'll stop fighting when the world
 stops producing assholes.

Cass frowns and shakes her head, persistent, asks again --

CASS
 Do you have a plan B?!

LEVI
 Mom, I told you, there's no plan B.
 Why would I plan to fail? It's my
 Master's in Architecture or bust.

CASS
 You are so much like your father.

SILENCE. Cass pauses, then pulls out an envelope.

CASS (CONT'D)
 I have something special for you.
 Your dad asked me to give you this
 when you turned twenty-one.

She hands him the envelope: aged and addressed to "Levi."

Cass's eyes welling with tears. Grace's, too.

Lola sits back, feels the gravity of the moment.

LEVI
(to Grace)
Did you get one when you turned
twenty-one?

Grace shakes her head.

GRACE
Aren't you excited to open it?

Levi studies the envelope, emotional, tucks it in his pocket.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - STREET - NIGHT

Levi rides his motorcycle, Lola on the back. They pull up in front of an exquisite home and park. Levi graciously assists Lola off the bike.

LOLA
Dawg, I'd invite you in, but I know
you're going off to read that
letter.

Levi's eyes glued to Lola, smitten with his girlfriend.

LEVI
I love you, Lola. I always will.

LOLA
I love you, Levi. We'll see about
"always."

She flashes a pretty smile, they engage in a sensual kiss, eyes open, deeply in love.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BEACH - NIGHT

Levi sits on a bench, stares at the envelope. A DEEP BREATH, he opens it. A silver chain and cross fall out. He studies it, then puts it back in the envelope. He opens a letter and begins to read. His dad's (Sam's) voice compelling, nurturing, strong...

SAM (V.O.)
Dear Son, I asked your mom to give
you this letter when you turned
twenty-one. I'm sorry I made you
wait ten years, but you're a man
now and will understand what I have
to say.

Levi breathless, tears welling, then streaming...

SAM (V.O.)

I don't have all the answers, but what I do know, I'll share with you. The most cherished role in my life was being your father; a father for you and Grace. Nothing could have been more important. Although our time together was cut short, I hope I served you well, Son. I won't be there to share my life lessons with you, so I'll do my best to capture the salient ones in this letter. The circumstances around my death must have been confusing and distressing for you...

EXT. UPPER-CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD - SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - DAY

Hot sun pounds a stately Victorian home. Sprinklers nourish the manicured lawn, a welcome green carpet. Birds SING.

SUPER: "TEN YEARS AGO"

A dormant cherry tree features in the yard.

SAM SILVERTHORNE (Male, 42), thin, strong, salt of the earth, an alluring aura of confidence, emerges from the house. He WHISTLES along with the BIRDS.

He turns off the sprinklers and heads toward the cherry tree. Stops, closes his eyes and leans forward, hands on knees, grimaces in pain.

Cass (39) emerges from the house.

CASS

The yard looks great!

Sam regains his composure, focuses on her, effortlessly oozes charisma --

SAM

You look so beautiful, babe!

CASS

Oh, thank you!

Flashes a lovely smile.

CASS (CONT'D)

You are a spectacular propagator. What's with the cherry tree?

SAM

I'm about to go Paul Bunyan on that thing if it doesn't get its act together.

CASS

Don't you dare! I love that tree!

SAM

It's this heat wave. I heard it's the hottest spring LA's seen in 100 years. It's unforgiving.

CASS

Sam, before I forget, something's bothering Levi. He says he wants to quit baseball and take jiu-jitsu.

Sam's eyes shift in thought.

SAM

Yeah, he hasn't been himself. I'll talk with him.

Cass heads toward a late-model green Jaguar in the driveway. Sam follows.

CASS

It never ends, huh? Having kids is an awesome responsibility.

SAM

(grins)

And the privilege of a lifetime.

BANG! Cass flinches, stops dead in her tracks.

An early-model black Harley-Davidson motorcycle pulls away from the curb on the other side of the street. MALE DRIVER. It backfired.

Sam eyes the vexing motorcycle as it RUMBLES away.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. HORACHI'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam and Cass hold hands as they sit and wait. DR. HORACHI (Female, 40s), Japanese, enters --

DR. HORACHI

I have your results.

Sam and Cass straighten up. Dr. Horachi sits and reads from a chart, matter-of-fact --

DR. HORACHI (CONT'D)
One full year since your surgery.
Chemo and radiation treatments were
successful. All MRIs have been
clear. Until today.

Sam sits still, too still, he heard. Cass swallows hard.

Dr. Horachi flicks a switch. The lights dim. An X-ray of a
brain projects onto a screen.

Uses a pointer --

DR. HORACHI (CONT'D)
There are two new lesions. This is
where the original was. As you can
see, it remains clear. These are
the new ones.

Tears welling in Cass's eyes. Sam stunned --

SAM
I've done everything. Clean living.
Organic foods. Hyperbaric chamber.
Vitamin C shots. Exercise.
Meditation. Prayer.

DR. HORACHI
Mr. Silverthorne, it is the most
aggressive form of brain cancer.
When you were diagnosed, I informed
you, you had approximately 16
months to live. Those are the
statistics.

SAM
There are outliers. I'm an outlier.

CASS
(distraught)
So this means another surgery?

DR. HORACHI
Another surgery may be possible,
but at this stage, it is unlikely.

Cass's mouth opens.

DR. HORACHI (CONT'D)
Surgery would only extend your life
by a few months. A very unpleasant
few months.

Despondent, Sam closes his eyes.

INT. SAM'S CAR - DAY

Parked. Sam in the driver's seat, quickly wipes away a tear. Cass shotgun, WEEPS.

CASS
It's okay to cry, Sam.

SAM
I've done everything.

CASS
You've been fighting like a champ.
We're so proud of you!

SAM
My goal was to live another twenty
years. That was only a year ago.

CASS
It's still possible, Sam!

SAM
I'm worried about you and the kids.
Levi's so young. And a boy needs
his father.

CASS
What about you, Sam? What do you
want?

SAM
I just can't believe this is it. I
haven't done enough with my life. I
thought I'd have more time to give
back, you know, in a meaningful
way. To make up for--

He pauses, tearful.

CASS
Sam, why would you bring that up
now? You did not do anything to
deserve this!

SAM
It's been on my mind lately. A lot.
I feel so selfish. I had a
responsibility to my shareholders,
but I was too crass. Too cutthroat.
And I used the pandemic as an
opportunity? How many small
businesses did I decimate? How many
good people did I hurt?

CASS

Sam, you were just doing your job.
You used to tell me if you didn't
do it, one of your competitors
would. You did not do anything to
bring this on yourself!

Sam thoughtful, shakes his head, wipes away his tears,
determined --

SAM

I'm going to face my fears. And
leave a legacy. I'm going to do
something extraordinary. If I'm
going out, I'm going out with a
bang.

EXT. POOR NEIGHBORHOOD - FISHER HOUSE - DAY

Scorching sun batters a brick row house. Unkempt yard.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Worn linoleum. Pallid furnishings. Hispanic decor. Two
portable fans on FULL.

ALEX FISHER (Male, 30s), Caucasian, wiry, small in stature,
eats and wipes sweat from his brow. He wears a work shirt,
his name on a crest. Wretched tattoos cover his arms.

SYLVIE FISHER (Female, 8), Mestizo, adorable, beside him,
clenches a stuffed toy puppy and admires her father --

SYLVIE

Do you have to go, Papa?!

A time-healed scar runs through Alex's left eyebrow.

ALEX

Yes, yes, baby girl. You know Papa
has to go to work.

SYLVIE

But you just got home!

ALEX

I have to go to another job.

SYLVIE

(dramatically)
Whyyyyyyy?!

He lovingly strokes her hair --

ALEX

So you have food, clothes and a
safe roof over your head. And you
have the very best doctors.

MARIA FISHER (Female, 30s), Hispanic, peaceful presence,
enters, a pleasant smile. A red envelope on the counter.
Across it in bold: "FINAL NOTICE." Maria notices, concerned.

SYLVIE

Papa, tell me the riddle.

ALEX

Not now, baby girl. No time.

Alex puts his dirty dish and cutlery in the sink.

SYLVIE

Papa, can I have a puppy? I'll walk
it and feed it and pick up its
poop.

MARIA

Sylvie, why do you make it so hard?
You know the doctors said you can't
have a puppy.

SYLVIE

Doctors won't let me do anything!

Alex grabs the red envelope off the counter --

ALEX

Maria, we need to talk.

He heads away, Maria pensively follows.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - DEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Alex and Maria enter. He beholds her with affection.

ALEX

My darling, I'm sorry. This time we
have no choice.

Saddened, Maria pulls a diamond ring off her ring finger and
hands it to Alex. Affected, he takes it and swallows hard.

MARIA

It is okay, Alex. Everything will
work out. Somehow. I just know.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

A crowd of KIDS (Boys/Girls, aged 10-12) stand in a circle and JEER.

Inside the circle, DALE (Male, 12), huge, pushes YOUNG LEVI (11), adorable. Levi stumbles to the ground.

Dale smirks at YOUNG LOLA (11). Arms crossed, she seethes at him.

Levi scrambles to get back up.

DALE
Come on, sliver dick. Throw the
first punch.

Sticks out his chin and closes his eyes --

DALE (CONT'D)
Right here. Land one so I can make
a meal out of you.

LOLA
I think you've had enough to eat
today, Dale!

LEVI
Yeah, like dinner's in two hours.
Hang in there.

Kids LAUGH. Angered, Dale steps forward and cocks his fist. Levi cringes. Dale stops --

DALE
It's never going to happen, is it,
sliver dick?

Spins Levi, grips his underwear, pulls --

DALE (CONT'D)
Run along now, little virgin!

Lola shoots daggers at Dale.

Shamed, head down, Levi trudges through the crowd.

INT. SAM'S CAR - DAY

Sad, Sam drives. YOUNG GRACE (15) shotgun. In the back seat, Levi broods as he skillfully sketches a design.

GRACE

Dad, I love that you didn't know
nursery rhymes when we were little,
so you sang us Springsteen.

Sam grins. Grace sings, Sam joins in. They harmonize, singing
"The Promised Land" by Bruce Springsteen:

GRACE AND SAM

THERE'S A DARK CLOUD RISING FROM
THE DESERT FLOOR. I PACKED MY BAGS
AND I'M HEADING STRAIGHT INTO THE
STORM. GONNA BE A TWISTER TO BLOW
EVERYTHING DOWN THAT AIN'T GOT THE
FAITH TO STAND ITS GROUND.

Sam abruptly brakes, HONKS his horn at a vehicle in traffic --

SAM

Jerk!

Grace's eyes curiously shift, she quietly repeats:

GRACE

THAT AIN'T GOT THE FAITH TO STAND
ITS GROUND.

EXT. ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD - STREET/PARKING LOT - DAY

Rundown shops, tattered houses, aged cars. Light traffic.

Alex drives a ragged, early-model black pickup truck. A large cross hangs from the rearview mirror. He parks in a dirt lot across the street from a pawn shop. He exits his truck and hustles to cross the street.

As he crosses, a pimped up car, LOUD GANGSTER RAP, rolls around the corner and cruises past him. The driver, LIPS (Male, 30s), Latino, oversized lips, and THREE GANGBANGER passengers stare at him. GANGBANGER #1 riding shotgun, calls at Alex --

GANGBANGER #1

Blood up, pocho!

Alex doesn't react, stays calm. On the sidewalk behind the pawn shop, a homeless man, LUPE (40s). A tarp set up like a tent, shopping cart, hat on the sidewalk to collect money.

Alex approaches --

ALEX

Lupe, my friend, how are you?!

LUPE

Ant, I see you. I am good.

ALEX

Are you hungry? Your hat is empty.

LUPE

Yes. But I don't worry. My help
cometh from the LORD, which made
heaven and earth.

ALEX

Let's pray together.

Alex kneels beside him. Lupe closes his eyes, prays with him.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Father, we pray that Lupe will have
food for today and every day. We
trust in your unwavering vigilance
in caring for him.

A twenty-dollar bill rolled up in Alex's hand --

ALEX (CONT'D)

Lupe, look. It's a miracle! God has
fed you for another day.

Lupe lights up, huge smile, every second tooth missing. Alex
smiles, hands it to him and heads toward the pawn shop.

LUPE

God bless you, Ant, my friend!

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Bright sun peeks through grimy windows. Cluttered shelves.

A pawnbroker, C-NOTE (Male, 40s), bald, imposing, tacky suit,
stands behind a glass display counter. Alex in front.

C-Note examines the diamond ring with a binocular microscope.
Alex waiting, tepid optimism.

C-NOTE

One G. That's the best I can do.
Same offer as last time.

ALEX

C-Note, c'mon, we go way back, man.
It belonged to my grandmother. It's
all she had. It's a family heir--

C-NOTE

Ant, I've heard every sob story
from here to Baltimore. And back.
Take it or leave it.

Glassy-eyed, Alex hesitates, then nods.

EXT. ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD - STREET/PARKING LOT - DAY

Alex crosses the street from the pawn shop toward his truck.
He enters the lot. The Gangbangers lean against their car,
arms crossed, waiting for him.

Alex sees them and slows, nowhere to go.

LIPS

Ant, it hurts that you come back to
the hood and don't look me up. You
think you chispudo? ¿Neta?

The other Gangbangers grab Alex and restrain him.

LIPS (CONT'D)

What you sell in there, pocho? You
score pisto?

Lips nods to the Gangbangers. They throw Alex to the ground,
go through his pockets. Gangbanger #2 pulls a roll of bills
out of Alex's pocket, tosses it to Lips.

ALEX

Lips, you know my little girl is
sick! I need the money to pay rent
and buy food!

Lips shuffles through the cash, counting it. A long SILENCE,
he stares at Alex.

LIPS

Dos que tres. Don't forget what I
do for you today. From the kindness
of my heart. No hay tos.

He throws half the bills in the dirt and pockets the rest.

Gangbanger #1 takes out a switch blade and stabs it into
Alex's truck tire. It deflates.

The Gangbangers get in their car and roll away, LOUD GANGSTER
RAP.

Broken, Alex left to pick up what's left of the money in the
dirt.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

MUSIC. Vinyl spins on an old record player. Clothing strewn on the floor beside an open storage container. DODGE, midsize dog, floppy mop, on the floor beside it.

Sam buttons up an aged suit coat. It fits perfectly. Cass hastily enters --

CASS
Sam, we need to talk.

He smiles, hands out, palms up.

CASS (CONT'D)
Hey, that's--

SAM
My wedding suit. Still fits.

She reluctantly smiles -- gets the irony. A new song PLAYS. She lights up --

CASS
Our song!

SAM
Right on cue, babe. As always.

They dance. He romantically SINGS the lyrics.

SAM (CONT'D)
We've been married for 16 years.

CASS
I want 60 years with you. If you have the surgery, there are possibilities. It's known as "hope."

He spins her. They stop.

SAM
We'll talk to Dr. Horachi about the pros and cons of surgery. But we may have to accept my fate.

CASS
Sam, you said it yourself. The kids can't grow up without their father. What would become of 'us' without you?

In the background, a boy's bicycle leans against the wall.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Sun relentlessly pounds an under-nourished lawn, shrubs.
Wilted flowers.

INT. HOSPITAL - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

DR. PRUDEN (Male, 50s), distinguished, listens to Sylvie's heart through a stethoscope. He winks at Sylvie, she smiles.

Nearby, Alex and Maria anxiously reading test results.

Dr. Pruden approaches and nods to Maria. She takes Sylvie by the hand, they exit.

ALEX

She's had multiple surgeries. Why are we still having problems?

DR. PRUDEN

Mr. Fisher, as you are aware, the scarring that forms after surgeries sometimes causes arrhythmias. There comes a point where surgery is no longer an option. I am afraid we are at that point. She requires an organ transplant.

ALEX

She needs the transplant?!

DR. PRUDEN

Yes. And the sooner the better.

Dr. Pruden displaying deep concern. Alex swallows hard.

ALEX

We've been preparing for this. Now it feels so sudden.

DR. PRUDEN

Remember, her rare blood type makes it extremely challenging to find an organ donor.

Alex awed --

ALEX

This is it?

DR. PRUDEN

This is it.

EXT. WESTWOOD BLVD - DAY

A sign: "Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center." Hospital looming in the distance.

Sam drives his Jaguar, Cass shotgun. They ZOOM past the sign.

INT. HOSPITAL - LOBBY - DAY

Alex, Maria and Sylvie slowly walk. Alex holds Sylvie's hand. She peers up at him --

SYLVIE
What does that mean, Papa?

ALEX
It means we must be very careful.

As they approach the exit, Alex nods to Maria --

ALEX (CONT'D)
I'll get the truck.

INT. SAM'S CAR - DAY

Sam drives, he and Cass holding hands. He lets go of her hand and rubs his temple, eyes partially closed. Concerned, she observes him.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Alex approaches a crosswalk and SLAMS the pedestrian button. The lights flash. Angered, he steps into the crosswalk.

INT. SAM'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam drives and rubs his temple. Cass's head sharply turns --

CASS
Sam!

Alex right in front of them.

EXT. SAM'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam's Jaguar SQUEALS. Alex braces himself against the car's hood as the Jaguar SCREECHES to a stop.

Alex peels himself off the car.

INT. SAM'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam holds his hand to his chest. Cass grips the dashboard.
Sam rolls down his window --

SAM
I'm sorry!

EXT. SAM'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Alex steps forward and belligerently kicks Sam's car. The
headlight cover CRACKS.

Sam's car door opens. He steps out --

SAM
I was trying to say--

ALEX
Are you fucking crazy?! You could
have killed me!

Sam checks the headlight, notes the crack.

SAM
That's a bit dramatic. I'm sorry.
But did you have to kick in my
headlight?

ALEX
I should kick in your head!

Sam purses his lips, then catches himself --

SAM
Look, take it easy. I'm real sorry.
I'm having a rough day.

ALEX
You're having a rough day?! You and
your precious Jaguar don't know
what a rough day is!

SAM
Well, actually, I might. But c'mon,
I apologized.

Alex points at Sam, shoots vitriol --

ALEX
Eat shit and die, prick!

Sam's eyes narrow, he steps forward --

SAM
I should have made a hood ornament
out of you! You gnome!

Cass scrambles out of the car --

CASS
Sam! Sam! Get back in the car! Sam!

On the sidewalk, a NUN watching in horror.

As Alex heads away, he menacingly nods at Sam.

SAM
Come on! Come on back! Coward!

Alex stops. He turns, rushes Sam and RAMS him into the car.
They wrestle. Sam picks up Alex and SLAMS him to the ground.
One hand around Alex's throat, Sam cocks his other fist.

Cass grabs Sam's arm. Alex wrestles free, scrambles away and
points at Sam --

ALEX
You're as good as dead!

Alex headed toward the parking lot. Cass guides Sam back to
the car. He gets in and SLAMS the car door shut. Cass gets
back in the passenger side.

INT./EXT. SAM'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam purses his lips and SLAMS his hand on the steering wheel.

On the sidewalk, the Nun peers skyward and makes the sign of
the cross.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. HORACHI'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam and Cass in conference with Dr. Horachi. A modicum of
hope, they hang on her every word.

DR. HORACHI
Loss of fine and gross motor
skills, memory loss, possible
deterioration of cognition. And
risk of death during surgery.

Sam and Cass dispirited.

DR. HORACHI (CONT'D)
The vast majority of Glioblastoma patients opt out of surgery at this stage. It is rather pointless.

SAM
And if I don't have surgery?

DR. HORACHI
You will experience steady decline. And seizures. Or one of the lesions will rupture causing catastrophic bleed.

Two full beats, Sam thoughtful. A DEEP BREATH.

SAM
How long do I have?

DR. HORACHI
Possibly twelve weeks.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Sam and Cass somberly head from the car toward the house.

CASS
You have to at least consider it. It's our only hope.

SAM
You want me to spend the last few months of my life in recovery? I've been through it once, Cass. And you heard what she said. At this stage, it's pointless.

CASS
There is a rehab phase, Sam, yes! But it is not pointless! I can't believe she said that!

SAM
It's the cold hard truth.

Resigned, he enters the house.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam enters, Cass closely follows. Dodge enthusiastically greets them, but uncharacteristically gets ignored.

CASS

And what about me, huh?! Do I get a vote?! And the kids?!

SAM

I don't want half a life, Cass! I'm going to try to enjoy things while I can.

He heads away. She steps forward, desperate --

CASS

You're...you're the...you're the coward!

Sam turns back, a piercing stare. SOBBING, she's ready for the fight. He heads away.

Shocked at her own actions, she covers her mouth and WEEPS.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

Distressed, Alex sits at the desk and pours over bills. An abrasion on his cheek. Maria enters and studies him.

MARIA

Alex, what is wrong?

He turns to her, dispirited.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You need more faith. I told you, everything is going to be fine. Somehow. I just know.

ALEX

Really, Maria? What's wrong? What's right? You came here in search of a better life. To find true love. And start a family. We're buried in debt. Our daughter--

MARIA

Alex, no!

He stops, two full beats, then regains his resolve --

ALEX

I will not fail you, Maria. I made you a promise. And I will not fail. I will do whatever it takes to save our baby girl!

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Darkened. Levi at his desk, works on a laptop under the light of a lamp. A textbook: *The History of Architecture...*

SAM (V.O.)

First, you can do anything you want
in life as long as it's in your
heart. If it's in your heart, you
will find a way to overcome any and
all obstacles to make it happen.
The key to unlocking your potential
is through continuous effort.

Teddy sound asleep in his bed, wearing an eye mask, SNORES.

The dove awake in its cage.

Levi rubs his eyes, sips coffee, then gets back to work...

SAM (V.O.)

Be true to who and what you are.
And never, never, never give up.

INT. MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO - DAY

In the octagon, Levi fights STRONG MAN #1 (20s). Competitive match. SENSEI (Male, 40s) officiates...

SAM (V.O.)

Cultivate the courage to confront
your fears and conquer them. What
you run from chases you.
Relentlessly.

Levi SLAMS Strong Man #1 to the mat and puts him in a hold.
Strong Man #1, in agony, taps out.

Levi stands and respectfully bows to him.

INT. MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Shirtless, sweaty, Levi sits on a bench and unties his shoes.
Sensei enters and sits beside him.

SENSEI

I promise this will be the last
time I ask. Why will you not enter
into competition? The man you just
defeated has a global ranking.

LEVI
That's not why I'm doing it.
(off Sensei's silence)
I have a more practical reason.

A pause, Sensei thoughtful, considerate.

SENSEI
You must be very careful. You are
capable of causing grievous bodily
harm.

LEVI
I appreciate your concern, Sensei.

Concerned, Sensei studies Levi.

EXT. FREEWAY - NIGHT

Heavy traffic. On his motorcycle, Levi rolls along...

SAM (V.O.)
But be sure to have some fun, too.
Play isn't just for kids.

Suddenly, Levi TORQUES his motorcycle and recklessly SPEEDS
and weaves through fast-moving vehicles.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Hole in the wall. Charming. PATRONS about.

Levi and Lola shoot pool. Levi BREAKS, pool balls scatter,
but none drop. Lola amorously grabs the ball cap off Levi's
head and puts it on her head backwards...

SAM (V.O.)
Work hard, play harder.

Lola DROPS A SHOT. She takes the beer out of Levi's hand,
takes a sip, gives it back to him. Levi takes a chug from it.
Lola MISSES A SHOT. Levi's turn, he DROPS A SHOT. MISSES ONE.

Nearby, YOUNG MEN enamoured by Lola. They grin at each other,
then go back to ogling her.

YOUNG MAN #1
This chick is a dime!

Lola raises an eyebrow at Levi, then DROPS ANOTHER SHOT.

The Young Men LAUGH, ogling Lola. Levi bothered --

LEVI
Hey, why don't you guys find
somewhere else to exist?

They stare at Levi.

LEVI (CONT'D)
No? Well, who wants it first?!

He starts toward them, they scatter.

Hand on hip, Lola perturbed --

LOLA
They weren't really doing anything,
Levi.

LEVI
They were disrespecting me.

LOLA
You know, one of these days it's
going to backfire and you're going
to need me to be your homeboy
ambulance.

Levi smirks, but stops when he realizes she's sincere.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Seriously, dawg, it's a bit old.
Time to clean it up.

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Levi studies at his desk. He leans back and stretches, then removes the artist's rendering of the skull from the bulletin board and admires it. He turns it around. Taped to the back, an aged newspaper clipping: a photo of Alex (ten years ago).

Levi's eyes narrow and fill with vengeance.

EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT - TEN YEARS AGO

Bright lights. MEN (aged 30s-40s) play touch football.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Two teams: one in red, one in blue.

Sam on the bench wearing red jersey #27, twirls a football, bored. The KICKER, short in stature, sits with him.

Scoreboard: 21-18. 4th quarter. 14 seconds remain.

The Red Team has the ball on the offensive 25 yard line. They break from the huddle and line up.

MAC (Male, 42), tall, stout, plays center. He snaps the ball to the QUARTERBACK (QB). Players sprint off the line.

The QB throws a wobbly pass over the middle. RED RECEIVER #1 makes the catch. BLUE PLAYER #1 tags him. The OFFICIAL spots the ball on the 15 yard line.

The QB indicates 'time-out'. The Official blows his WHISTLE. Scoreboard: 3 seconds remain. The Red Team huddles.

QB

Let's kick a field goal. Take the tie.

Mac grimaces, then, an idea --

MAC

Let Sammy hold? Last play.

QB

With his condition? I thought he was here for moral support.

MAC

One play. To hold. He can do it.

The QB and ANOTHER PLAYER jog off. Sam and the Kicker jog on. The Official blows his WHISTLE.

Mac confidently smiles at Sam as Sam joins the huddle --

MAC (CONT'D)

Make it rain, Rainmaker!

Players in the huddle nod in agreement.

RED RECEIVER #1

Is it Rainmaker or The Smiling Shark?

Sam smirks at Red Receiver #1, but brushes it off. Suddenly, vibrant, alive --

SAM

Boys, this is one of those moments. Once it's gone, we can never have it back.

KICKER
We're not kicking a field goal?!

SAM
Fake field goal on 'ready', break!

They CLAP as they break. Mac sets up as the snapper. Sam as the holder. The Kicker sets up a few yards behind Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
Ready!

Mac snaps the ball to Sam. Sam catches it and springs up. The Red Team sprints off the line. The Blue Team scrambles.

Sam rolls right and fires a perfect spiral into the hands of RED RECEIVER #2 in the end zone.

The Official blows his WHISTLE, raises his arms: 'touchdown'. Sam pumps his fist. Glory.

The Blue Team ARGUES amongst themselves. The Red Team CELEBRATES.

Sam and Mac execute a cool handshake --

MAC
All or nothing, baby!

SAM
Always has been. Always will be.

INSERT - TOWERING OAK AND WILLOW TREES

Sway in the breeze.

EXT. PARK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam and Young Levi play catch with a baseball. Dodge chases back and forth.

Sam crouches into a catcher's stance --

SAM
Throw me some pitches.

Levi confidently winds and throws. SMACK! Into Sam's glove.

SAM (CONT'D)
Nice!

Throws it back.

SAM (CONT'D)
Should we talk about what's
bothering you, Son?

Levi pauses, then winds and throws. The ball sails over Sam.
CRACK! Hits the fence behind him.

SAM (CONT'D)
Dodge, fetch!

Dodge on it.

SAM (CONT'D)
That big kid on your team is
bullying you, isn't he?

Levi looks down, then, finally, at Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
You know, I had the same problem
when I was a kid. About your age,
too.

Sam heads toward Levi. Dodge bounds in with the ball. Sam
rewards him with affection.

SAM (CONT'D)
This kid named Chester wanted to
pound the hell out of me. He had a
posse with him all the time.

LEVI
What happened?

SAM
As much as I hate to admit it, I
ran until he got tired of chasing
me. I guess that gave him all the
satisfaction he needed.

LEVI
You didn't have to fight him?

SAM
No. But it still bothers me.

LEVI
What? Why? I'd take that right now.

Sam's eyes shift away, distant --

SAM
I felt like a coward. I should have
taken the beating.

Back to Levi, their eyes lock --

SAM (CONT'D)

There are times in this life when you face a moment of truth. If you don't step into it, it can take a long time to get over, if you ever do.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Several beautiful paintings display.

Sylvie at a desk, peacefully HUMS as she does school work. Distracted...

Maria paints a colorful picture on an easel: an Hispanic village, fish falling from the sky.

Sylvie continues to be drawn to Maria's painting --

SYLVIE

Mami, what are you painting?

MARIA

I thought you'd never ask, niña! It is a family tradition for la mamá to create this painting. In Honduras, this is what we call *Lluvia de Peces* or *Rain of Fishes*. It happens in late spring or early summer every year.

SYLVIE

Fish fall from the sky?!

MARIA

Well, sort of, but not exactly. Over one hundred years ago, there was a miraculous answer to the prayers of a man called Father Jose Subirana. The area was suffering greatly from poverty and the people were hungry, very hungry. Father Subirana prayed and prayed that the people would get ample food to end their hunger. God answered his prayers by making it rain fish!

SYLVIE

It rains fish every year?

MARIA

No exactamente. The fish live in caves. Each year, dark storm clouds roll in and the skies open up. It pours and pours rain. The fish wash up from the caves and flood the streets of the village. We say God answered Father Subarina's prayers by making it rain fish!

Sylvie thoughtful, hesitant.

SYLVIE

Mami, do you believe in miracles?

Maria sharply turns to Sylvie, vibrant, eyes alive --

MARIA

Of course! I do!

INT. FISHER HOUSE - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maria tends to chicken on the stove.

Sylvie at the island, cutting fruit -- making fruit salad.

SYLVIE

Mami, why are oranges called oranges? Strawberries aren't reds. Bananas aren't called yellows. Whoever named oranges was a real Einstein.

Flabbergasted, amused, Maria quickly turns to Sylvie.

Alex enters wearing work clothes, holding two Gladiolus.

SYLVIA

Papa!

Alex hands Sylvie one of the Gladiolus --

ALEX

A flower for my beautiful daughter.
And one for my lovely wife.

Maria and Sylvie both beam. Maria kisses Alex and takes the flowers --

MARIA

I'll put them in a vase.

Alex surveys the fruit salad --

ALEX
Needs more blueberries.

SYLVIE
You're a blueberry!

Alex and Maria both LAUGH. Alex tickles Sylvie. GIGGLING, she races into the living room, Alex in pursuit.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)
Tickle me, Papa!

He wraps his arms around her and sets her on the floor --

ALEX
You want to be tickled, do you?!

He tickles her. She GIGGLES. Smiling, Maria observes them.

Sylvie gradually begins to CHOKE, COUGH. Alex stops tickling. Maria concerned.

SYLVIE
More, Papa! More!

ALEX
No, that's enough, sweetheart.

SYLVIE
But I like it, Papa!

Alex begins to tickle her again. She quickly starts to CHOKE, COUGH. Alex stops. Sylvie continues to COUGH.

Troubled, Maria fidgets with the crucifix on her necklace.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - POOL HOUSE - DAY

Three framed posters: The Beatles, Ray Charles, Springsteen. Sam proficiently plays on upbeat song on the piano. Levi enters, expectant --

LEVI
Dad, we're going to church. You coming?

Sam continues to play and shakes his head. Levi pauses, then exits. Sam hits a wrong key but continues. Hits a wrong key, frustrated, POUNDS his fists on the keys. Strides to a stereo and presses 'play'.

He strides back to the piano, takes a DEEP BREATH and plays along with the song...

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

Waves softly CRASH against the base of a cliff.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - TOP OF CLIFF - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam and Mac share a joint as they head toward the edge. Sam wearing Bermuda shorts. A beach towel around Mac's waist.

MAC

No, that was Pechka. Irena's the one I brought to Levi's birthday.

SAM

Oh.

MAC

What do you mean, "oh?"

SAM

Dude, her pants were so tight I could see her uterus.

MAC

I thought you were a fan of the uterus.

SAM

It's a great place to visit, but--

MAC

I spent a week there one night.

Sam LAUGHS. They stop near the edge. A tattoo on Sam's shoulder: a storm cloud, raindrops falling.

Mac drops his towel, wears a Speedo. Beer gut. Sam CHUCKLES. Mac peers over the edge to see: a daunting view of the drop. He tosses the joint over the edge and steps back --

MAC (CONT'D)

Why we doing this again? Oh, right, you need to conquer your fears, so you drag me along.

SAM

It's just a moment--

MAC

In time, yeah, yeah.

Mac peers over the cliff, practically vibrates.

SAM
 The Lord hates a coward.
 (off Mac's silence)
 I gave you a choice. Why didn't you
 choose bungee jumping?

MAC
 I came into this world because of a
 broken rubber. I am not going out
 because of one.

SAM
 This is actually more dangerous.

MAC
 Knock on wood.

Knocks on his crotch and mimics the sound with his tongue on
 the roof of his mouth: "CLICK, CLICK, CLICK."

MAC (CONT'D)
 Dude, I'm going first. And by the
 way, you're not afraid of heights.
 You're afraid of falling.

Two full beats, as Sam absorbs that. Mac drops his Speedo --

MAC (CONT'D)
 Hang eleven!

Sam BURSTS with LAUGHTER. Mac peers at Sam --

MAC (CONT'D)
 Let's make it rain, Rainmaker!

Bare butt, he jumps.

Sam peers over the edge, then steps back and closes his eyes.
 Takes a DEEP BREATH, inches to the edge and peers over.

Mac swims to shore. Sam holds up his hand, it trembles.
 Steely-eyed --

SAM
 Not today!

Takes a few steps back. Eyes big, runs and launches himself
 off the cliff --

SAM (CONT'D)
 Not ever!!

A dive, he holds it all the way down and... SPLASH!

INSERT - CRUCIFIX

On a wall.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The crucifix on the wall.

Maria sits at the island, drinking a glass of red wine. The half empty bottle in front of her. Cork in the corkscrew beside the bottle.

On an easel, Maria's finished painting, *Lluvia de Peces*. Brilliant.

Deeply gratified, Maria observes her painting.

Sylvie enters, notices the wine, stops --

SYLVIE

Mami! You're drinking booze!

MARIA

My masterpiece. It is complete.

Sylvie goes to the painting and studies it, awed --

SYLVIE

Woaaaaaah!

The kind of energy that makes your scalp tingle.

MARIA

I am having a little celebration.
As a reward.

Sylvie approaches Maria, senses an opportunity.

SYLVIE

Mami, can I skip? Only for five minutes.

Maria thoughtful as she studies Sylvie.

MARIA

Three minutes. And it is our little secret.

She winks at Sylvie.

Eyes shimmer, a grin, Sylvie nods.

EXT. POOR NEIGHBORHOOD - FISHER HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Maria sits on the porch with her glass of red wine.

On the sidewalk, Sylvie joyfully SKIPS as she HUMS a rhyme. She begins to COUGH.

Concerned, Maria closely observes her.

Sylvie begins to GASP for breath, stops skipping, GASPING. Maria jolts up and drops the wine glass. It spills, SHATTERS. She runs to Sylvie. Sylvie collapses onto the lawn.

MARIA
Sylvie! Sylvie!

Eyes rolled back, Sylvie GASPS for breath. Maria HYSTERICAL.

EXT. LUBE SHOP - DAY

Alex's ragged black truck parked amongst other vehicles.

INT. LUBE SHOP/OIL CHANGE PIT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A car parked over the pit, hood open. The TECHNICIAN checks the car's fluids.

In the oil change pit, Alex in dirty coveralls, uses a wrench to tighten a bolt on the car's undercarriage. His cellphone RINGS. He stops, checks it, answers --

ALEX
(into phone)
Maria, my love.

He listens, eyes widen, face drops.

EXT. LUBE SHOP - DAY

Ashen, Alex hustles out of the shop toward his parked truck. The DISTANT ROAR of a small aircraft.

Alex approaches his truck and notices a flat tire, the one that was patched.

A low-flying small aircraft pulls a banner: "JESUS SUCKS!"

Alex notes the banner.

Beleaguered, deflated, head down, he rests against his truck.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Sylvie in bed, eyes closed, a nasal cannula, electrodes connected to her chest. DOCTOR #1 checks a monitor.

INT. HOSPITAL - OBSERVATION AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Pruden stands with Maria. In another room, Sylvie visible through a pane of glass.

Alex hurriedly enters and observes Sylvie through the window. Vexed, he takes a DEEP BREATH, EXHALES.

DR. PRUDEN

She's in stable but critical condition. She should show gradual improvement.

ALEX

She needs the transplant. Now!

DR. PRUDEN

Mr. Fisher, you are aware of the complications with finding a donor.

ALEX

Are you even trying?! Does anyone care?!

Stares straight ahead, teeth clenched, seethes --

ALEX (CONT'D)

Maria! How could you?!

Devastated, Maria WEEPS.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - POOL HOUSE - NIGHT

Sam plays an upbeat song on the piano, stops, makes a note.

Cass enters, a sheet of paper in hand.

CASS

Now you're composing music?

SAM

It's something I can still do.

She holds up the paper --

CASS

Have you seen this? Levi drafted a blueprint of a doghouse for Dodge.

SAM

The kid's talented. And determined. Both kids are.

He goes back to his notes. She reaches and stops him.

SAM (CONT'D)

I'm in the middle of something.

CASS

Yes, you are. And you're doing everything you can to avoid it.

SAM

I'm a little disillusioned, okay? I just confirmed I'm worth more dead than I am half-alive.

Cass's emotion grows --

CASS

Sam, this isn't about money! You know that! Besides, I don't give a damn about any of this fancy stuff!

She grabs a lamp and SMASHES it on the floor. His expression doesn't change. She grabs a vase, hurls it against the wall. SMASH! She stares at him. No change in expression from him.

She SLAPS him across the face --

CASS (CONT'D)

We'll go to the Mayo Clinic! Get a second opinion!

SAM

Damn it, Cass! We've been through that! I am getting world-class care!

CASS

Why won't you fight for us?!

SAM

I am exhausted! I've been fighting day and night for thirteen months! For the first time in my life, I am getting my ass kicked!

CASS

The surgery will give us hope! Buy us time! They could find a cure!

His head drops. She desperately WEEPS.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The crucifix on the wall.

Maria sits at the island, WEEPS. Alex stands over her --

ALEX

You have one responsibility! I work two jobs! I need to trust that you are taking care of her! That's all you have to do!

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam hurries to pack a lunch. Cass wipes down the counter. Natural light adorns her.

CASS

Levi asked me what a virgin was.
(off Sam's silence)
He totally caught me off guard. I couldn't, I couldn't, um--

SAM

Remember?

Cass LAUGHS, beautiful and in the moment.

CASS

I told him to ask you. Be prepared.

Sam remains preoccupied.

CASS (CONT'D)

Thanks for helping him get the materials for the doghouse.

Cass peers out the window into the backyard to see: Levi building the doghouse.

CASS (CONT'D)

He's really troubled by this bully. He's a sensitive kid.

SAM

He and I are dealing with it.

CASS

Hey, when you get back, do you--

SAM

Sorry, babe. Gotta run.

He kisses her on the forehead and hustles out with his lunch. She stands there, saddened, alone.

MONTAGE

- Sam on a beautiful golf course, drains a 12-foot putt and pumps his fist. Mac does a happy dance.
- Maria at the hospital, bedside with Sylvie. Sylvie awake but listless. Distraught, Maria clutches a Bible.
- Levi heads out of school, backpack on. Across the street, Dale glares at him, displays brass knuckles on his fist. Alarmed, Levi sharply turns, heads back into the school.
- Alex shingles the roof of a house. He wipes his brow and takes a drink of water under the intensity of the sun.
- Sam at a pub, plays the piano and sings. Mac and some football buddies gathered around, all singing along.
- Sam and Mac exit the pub and stand on the step. A STREET PREACHER (Male, 40s), glasses, ball cap, backpack, casually strikes up a conversation --

STREET PREACHER

You guys have a good time in there?

Intoxicated, Mac puts his arm around Sam --

MAC

This guy here is my best buddy! I love him! We call him Rainmaker! 'Cause he makes it rain! Success! Money!! And women!!! I follow him around and pick up the leftovers!

Mac LAUGHS maniacally. Sam politely grins.

MAC (CONT'D)

He has more money loose in his golf bag than I have in my 401k!

The Street Preacher hands Sam a pamphlet. As he backs away, he fervently begins his sermon --

STREET PREACHER

I used to be just like you! Fact:
this was my favorite watering hole!
A big waste of time and money!

Steps backwards off the sidewalk and onto the road --

STREET PREACHER (CONT'D)

The path to Jesus is a narrow one!
It's hard! It's not for everyone!
Maybe it's not for you!

Suddenly, a car SCREECHES, comes to a halt right in front of him and HAMMERS on its HORN! Rattled, he adjusts his cap and scampers away.

Sam and Mac LAUGH hysterically. Nearby, a garbage receptacle. Sam discreetly slips the pamphlet into his back pocket.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Through the window, the sun coming up.

Cass asleep, alone, reaches to the empty side of the bed. Her eyes open, head turns, perplexed.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Birds SING. The front door opens. Cass reaches for a package. Hair frazzled. BANG! She flinches.

The black Harley-Davidson motorcycle, Male Driver, pulls away from the curb on the other side of the street. It backfired.

Cass eyes the vexing motorcycle as it RUMBLES away.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Cass enters, pours herself a cup of coffee and takes a sip. A dossier on the counter. Curious, she flips it open to have a look. Almost chokes on her coffee.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

At the sink, Levi BRUSHES his teeth. Confused, his head slowly turns to the bathtub.

Sam fully clothed, asleep in the bathtub -- no water in it. He has a washcloth on his shoulder as if providing warmth.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - STAIRWELL - DAY

Levi SCRAMBLES down the stairs. Cass at the bottom, holds the cup of coffee and the dossier. Hair frazzled.

CASS
Have you seen Dad?

LEVI
Bathtub. Smells like a beer bottle.

Cass blocks Levi, wants a hug. Levi grins and hugs his mom.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Cass enters, coffee and dossier in hand. Sam in the tub.

CASS
What are you doing?

Sam opens one eye, groggy --

SAM
I wasn't feeling so hot.

CASS
What time did you get home?

SAM
Um, one-ish. Closer to the ish.

Cass sits on the edge of the tub.

Dodge enters, puts two paws up on the tub, head tilts, curious.

CASS
Who were you with?

SAM
The usual suspects.

CASS
I slept in today. I took a gummy last night to help me sleep. That stuff really works.

SAM
Yeah but look what it does to your hair.

Cass LAUGHS. Sam LAUGHS. They both BELLY LAUGH; needed that. Sam puts the washcloth over his eyes.

CASS
What's this?

She removes the washcloth from his eyes and holds up the dossier.

He squints, then covers his eyes with the washcloth again.

SAM
Spain.

CASS
Pamplona, Spain. And what happens
in Pamplona?

He puts his index fingers above his forehead, like horns, and wiggles them.

She bites her lip, tries not to laugh.

SAM
Haven't booked flights or anything.

Cass closes her eyes, her grin quickly replaced by tears --

CASS
Sam, enough! You are in denial! We
have to address this! Where is your
faith?! When did you stop believing
in miracles?!

He removes the washcloth and observes her as she WEEPS.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Sylvie asleep, a nasal cannula, electrodes hooked up to her chest. Alex sits bedside, Bible in one hand, Sylvie's hand in the other, tears streaming.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Levi, Lola, Grace, GRACE'S PARTNER (Male, 27) and Cass sit around the dinner table. Food and drink in abundance...

SAM (V.O.)
Second, choose to live your life
with gratitude, no matter what
hardships you may encounter.

Cass makes a toast, they all smile and clink wine glasses. Levi makes his way over to Cass and gives her a kiss, a hug. He regards her adoringly.

SERIES OF SHOTS - LEVI (AND SAM'S ADVICE)

-- Levi arrives at Lola's house with a bouquet of flowers. Pensive, he KNOCKS on the door. Lola answers, sees the flowers, a big smile...

SAM (V.O.)
When you make a mistake, take
responsibility and learn from it.

Levi follows Lola into the house. She sets the flowers on a table and passionately makes out with him. He stops and glances around.

LOLA
My parents? Out for the evening!

Levi roused, engages Lola in an impassioned make out session.

LEVI
That's the best Andrew Jackson I've
ever spent!

She pins him to the wall, they continue to make out.

-- At an ocean-side campsite, campfire on the beach. Sun setting over the water. Lola blissfully rests in Levi's arms as he strokes her hair, massages her scalp...

SAM (V.O.)
You've been blessed in this life.
Snuff out any bitterness you may
feel by choosing to be grateful.

-- At a CROWDED club (Men/Women, aged 20s-30s). Live MUSIC. Levi, Lola, Teddy and OTHERS on the dance floor...

SAM (V.O.)
And be sure to celebrate. Life is
not to be endured but enjoyed.

EXT. LOS ANGELES RIVER - DAY

Sunshine. Crystal green water. Urban setting.

Levi and Teddy, shirtless, hip waders, stand in the middle of the river, fly fishing. Levi wearing an LA Dodgers cap, Teddy wearing a Boston Red Sox cap.

LEVI
2016 Cubs or 2018 Bo Sox?

TEDDY

Dude, my boys set a franchise record. 108 wins! Betts, Martinez, Kimbrell. Those guys were boss. Took down the Astros in five.

LEVI

But the Cubs hadn't won since 1908. That's 108 years!

TEDDY

That is a heavy weight to bear.

SILENCE as they fish. Elegant. Beautiful.

LEVI

How are things with your girl?

TEDDY

All good. Long distance is tough though. A couple more years, we can be together.

LEVI

Must feel good, huh? Having it all figured out.

TEDDY

When are you going to put a ring on Lola's finger?

LEVI

Tomorrow! If I could.
(yells down the river)
Damn! I love that girl!! So much!!!
(back to Teddy)
But, man, I don't know if things are going to work out for me.

TEDDY

Yeah, you do. You're going to get in. You deserve it. You work hard. Keep going. You got this.

Uncertain, concerned, Levi takes a DEEP BREATH.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - POOL HOUSE - DAY - TEN YEARS AGO

Sam plays an upbeat song on the piano. Cass cheerily enters, Sam stops.

CASS

We're going to church. You coming?

Sam hesitates, then shakes his head. Cass disappointed --

CASS (CONT'D)
The Reverend's been asking about
you. You haven't been in a while.

SAM
Not feeling it.

Cass frowns and exits. Thoughtful, Sam sits there.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Sam cautiously climbs a wobbly step ladder, grabs a box off a shelf and retreats. He opens the box. Inside: photos, metals, a degree.

He blows the dust off: "Holy Bible." He pulls out a silver chain and cross, observes it, then puts it back in the box.

He takes out an old baseball, studies it and grins.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Young Levi builds the doghouse -- making good progress.

Sam approaches, impressed --

SAM
Wow, you're doing great!
(off Levi's silence)
Hey, slugger, check this out. It's
signed by Mike Piazza.

Tosses the old baseball to Levi. Levi catches it, studies it.

SAM (CONT'D)
My dad brought me into the city,
took me to a game.

LEVI
Cool.

SAM
Piazza hits a homer. We're in the
outfield bleachers. As soon as he
hits it, I know it's coming to me.
Like destiny. We waited outside the
player's entrance after the game.
He signed it. I want you to have
it, Son.

LEVI
Woah! Serious?! Thanks, Dad!

Clutches the old baseball, head down.

LEVI (CONT'D)
Dad, I've been thinking a lot about what you said about Dale. I'm not sure what to do.

SAM
I've been thinking about it, too. Talking to his parents is probably the right thing to do. Or you can confront him.

Levi's eyes dart to Sam, hangs on his every word.

SAM (CONT'D)
Things are different nowadays. When I was a kid it was just fisticuffs. Now it seems like everyone has a knife or a gun. You need to be careful. Aware. If you confront him, do it in a safe place. And when he least expects it.

Pensive, Levi's eyes shift away.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Annoyed, Cass vigorously folds clothes. Sam nearby.

CASS
And if he gets hurt?! Have you seen the size of this kid?!

Sam extends his arm and flexes his hand, strains --

SAM
I won't always be here to fight his battles, Cass.

She stops, eyes shift.

SAM (CONT'D)
Do you know how empowering it would be for him to resolve this on his own?

CASS
(softens)
He's at a distinct disadvantage.

SAM

Many times in life, we are. If he
does this, he'll be plenty happy he
did, once it's over. Guaranteed.

Uncertain, Cass bites her lip.

CASS

Be careful not to create a monster.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Sam spreads fertilizer around the base of the dormant cherry
tree. Notes Cass approaching, holding a black notebook.

Cass sits cross-legged on the grass beside Sam's feet, holds
up the notebook --

CASS

I bought this for you. If that's
your decision, to not have surgery,
I accept it.

Wrought with emotion, sets the notebook on the grass.

CASS (CONT'D)

But there are two things I ask of
you. Write this journal for our
children. Tell them your fondest
memories of them and anything you'd
like them to know.

Sam's eyes welling with tears. Cass SOBS --

CASS (CONT'D)

And give thought to your legacy.
You need to be intentional about
how you spend your time now.

She heads away. Affected, saddened, he watches her.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alex in dirty work clothes, on the couch, dead to the world.
His eyes abruptly open. Maria stands over him, SOBS --

MARIA

Alex, I failed. I failed our baby!

He studies her, then, finally, extends his hand. She takes it
and sits with him.

ALEX

Maria, my love. You know, before you, I was destined to die on the streets. I thought my life was over. When I met you I realized my life had just begun. God brought us together to make a beautiful angel. Somehow we will get through this. Some way.

Heads together, they silently weep.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam drives his Jaguar, wearing red football jersey #27.

A church on the right side of the street. Billboard in front, facing traffic.

Sam's Jaguar SPEEDS past, then brakes to an ABRUPT STOP and REVERSES back to the church. Sam gets out and heads to the billboard.

The near side reads: "Each life is but a breath." Sam walks around to the far side, the side he saw from his car.

The billboard reads: "sa m 27 Trust the LORD! Be brave and strong and trust the LORD!" Two letters lay on the ground. He picks them up and puts them back into place.

The billboard now reads: "Psalm 27 Trust the LORD! Be brave and strong and trust the LORD!"

Sam stares at it.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD/STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam and Mac warm-up with teammates, toss a football around. ANOTHER TEAM warms-up on the other side. A WHISTLE blows.

MAC

Bring it in, boys! Bring it in!

They all gather around. Sam stays separate and watches.

MAC (CONT'D)

I say, "Ooh!" You say, "Uh!"

(beat)

Ooh!

TEAMMATES

Uh!

MAC

Ooh!

TEAMMATES

Uh!

This CONTINUES, cadence quickening until they all YELL at the same time. The huddle breaks. Two of them playfully fall over and roll in the grass.

Sam watches, a grin. Something catches his attention from the corner of his eye. His head turns, eyes narrow, grin fades...

A funeral procession rolls up the street. Bright sun pounds off the lead car, a jet black hearse.

Entranced, Sam watches it. Suddenly, he heads toward the parking lot.

Mac closely watching Sam. A football hits Mac in the head, but barely distracts him --

MAC

Hey, where you going?!

SAM

Got something to do!

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Hot sun. A SPRINKLER generously replenishes the plants.

Cass prunes a shrub with great care, love.

Sam enters and stops in front of her. They hold deep eye contact. Her eyes searching his.

SAM

I choose hope.

Her eyes widen, she melts into his arms.

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Concerned, unsettled, Levi attends to the dove in its cage.

Nearby, Lola studies something on her cellphone.

LOLA

Hey! Greta Van Fleet is coming in mid-June! You want to go?!

LEVI
Is Cupid's Chili Cheese Dog my
favorite meal?! Hell, yeah, baby!

LOLA
I'll get the tickets! Let's put it
on your calendar.

Lola grabs Levi's calendar and flips ahead from May to June.
June 21 circled in red marker. Lola points it out --

LOLA (CONT'D)
What's this?

Two full beats, as Levi pauses, reluctant --

LEVI
Uh. That's the ten-year anniversary
of my dad's death.

LOLA
Why is it marked on your calendar?

SILENT, Levi shrugs, diverts his eyes.

Lola has a realization --

LOLA (CONT'D)
I think I know what this is for.
Does it have something to do with
that guy getting out of prison?
Levi! What are you planning?!

LEVI
My dad deserved to die with
dignity. Not gunned down like a
thug.

Suddenly, undeniably, tears burst from him. He slowly sits
beside her.

LEVI (CONT'D)
Why did this happen to my family?
What did we do to deserve this?
What did my dad do to deserve it?

Lola speechless, studies Levi as he WEEPS.

LOLA
Levi, we'll get through this.
Together, okay?

Concerned, she peers at the calendar, then observes Levi.

INT. FITNESS CENTER - DAY

Spacious. Modern. PEOPLE working out.

Teddy does bench press, Levi spotting for him. The bar has two 45 pound plates on each side. Teddy finishes his set. Levi heads away.

TWO BIG MEN (aged 30s), muscular, approach the bench press and put another 45 pound plate on each side. Chalk on their hands. Big Man #1 has a scuff of chalk on his chin.

TEDDY

Hey, we have one set left.

BIG MAN #1

You been too long. You're done.

TEDDY

No, we haven't. Man, three minutes, it's yours.

BIG MAN #1

It's ours now. What are you going to do about it?

Levi observing, approaches --

LEVI

(to Big Man #1)

Hey, what's that on your chin? This guy's jizz?

Motioning to Big Man #2. Big Man #1 glares at Levi.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Now, what are you going to do about it?!

Speechless, Big Man #1 stands there like a fool.

BIG MAN #1

C'mon, Herman! These guys aren't worth it!

The Two Big Men head away.

Levi and Teddy remove the extra plates from the bar.

TEDDY

You are a savage!

Unfazed, Levi does the bench press, pumps out several reps.

INT. MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO - DAY

In the octagon, Levi fights STRONG MAN #2 (30s). Sensei officiates.

Strong Man #2 attacks, Levi aggressively and adeptly SLAMS him to the mat, puts him in a hold. Strong Man #2 taps out.

Levi applies more pressure, causing Strong Man #2 excessive pain.

Sensei rushes in and pulls Levi away. Strong Man #2 in agony. Sensei scowls at Levi, ADMONISHES him.

Levi fervent, resolute.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - UPPER DECK - DAY - TEN YEARS AGO

Sunrise. A brilliant red ball ascends over the horizon.

Sam cherishes it. He's lost weight, deteriorating. A Bible beside him. He picks it up and begins to read.

INT. UNITED CHURCH - DAY

Quaint. Aged wooden pews. Stained glass windows.

A MUSICIAN plays an acoustic guitar, performing "Let it Rain" by Amanda Marshall:

MUSICIAN
RAIN, LET IT RAIN ON ME. LET IT
RAIN. OH LET IT RAIN. LET IT RAIN
ON ME. COME TAKE MY HAND. WE CAN
WALK TO THE LIGHT. AND WITHOUT
FEAR, WE CAN'T SEE THROUGH THE
DARKEST NIGHT...

On a white board: "O Lord, help me to be pure, but not yet. Saint Augustine."

Sam, Cass, Young Grace and Young Levi sit amongst the CONGREGATION (Men/Women/Children). The song ends.

Curious, Levi observes a mural: a rainbow, a dove flying above it. It reads: "Peace over anger."

On stage, on a screen: a blossomed cherry tree. Magnificent.

The REVEREND (Female, 40s) at the pulpit, engaging --

REVEREND

It's that time of year when we
behold the beauty of the blossoming
cherry tree.

Cass glances at Sam. Sam intently listening.

REVEREND (CONT'D)

The significance of the cherry
blossom tree in Japanese culture
goes back hundreds of years. In
their culture, the cherry blossom
represents the fragility and beauty
of life. It is a reminder that life
is almost overwhelmingly beautiful,
but also tragically short.

Levi observes the mural.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Massive pillars. Ornate Medieval flair.

HUNDREDS of PEOPLE (Men/Women/Children), predominantly
Hispanic, sit in pews. Alex and Maria in the front row.

On stage: Maria's paintings, including *Lluvia de Peces*.

The PRIEST (Male, 60s) at the pulpit, captivating --

PRIEST

Brothers and sisters, we have a
family in our presence in need of
prayer. Alex and Maria Fisher,
parents of Sylvie. Members of our
church community. These beautiful
pieces of art have been painted by
Maria herself. They are available
for purchase to support Sylvie's
care. They will remain for sale
online after today's service. I
draw your particular attention to
the painting titled *Lluvia de Peces*
or *Rain of Fishes*. This is a story
we are familiar with in our
culture. We are aware of the
miracle of God's work when we
gather in His name to pray. Please
join hands, let us bow our heads
and pray.

The congregation join hands and bow their heads.

Maria peaceful, Alex strains.

PRIEST (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Dear Lord...

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

Sam tries to link the silver chain and cross around his neck, hand unsteady. Cass nearby.

SAM
Can you link this, please?

Delighted, Cass links it for him --

CASS
Where did you get this?

SAM
My grandma gave it to me when I was a kid. Haven't worn it in forever.

CASS
You saved it though. My mom did the same for me. It's special.

SAM
Need every bit of it now.

She smiles. Beautiful. He kisses her, they warmly embrace. Dodge joins them on his hind legs.

Sam winces, unsteady, stumbles backwards. Cass rushes to him. Sam kneels, takes a DEEP BREATH, tries to regain composure.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Hot sun. Sprinklers replenish the brownish lawn, shrubs.

Sam and Cass emerge from the house. Sam turns off the water.

CASS
This heat wave is sure making it tough this year.

SAM
I hear they're going to seed the clouds. Make it rain.

CASS

I don't like it when they do that.
We shouldn't try to control Mother
Nature. It's unnatural. It causes
storms.

SAM

God created airplanes and science.
And He gave us free will.

Sam spots a caterpillar, headed toward the dormant cherry
tree. He puts it on his finger: brilliant colors.

SAM (CONT'D)

Where you going, little fella?
There's no leaves on that tree.

CASS

Maybe he knows something we don't.

Sam gently sets the caterpillar back onto the grass.

EXT./INT. INTERSTATE 405/ALEX'S TRUCK - DAY

Blazing sun. Moderate traffic.

Alex drives his truck. It jerks and SPUTTERS. He nervously
peers at the gas gauge: on empty. He MUTTERS under his
breath.

He pulls onto the road's shoulder. Vehicles ROARING past.

EXT. INTERSTATE 405 - DAY

The truck's emergency lights flashing. Alex stands beside his
truck, sweating, thumb out to hitch a ride. Vehicles ZOOMING
by. A car HONKS as it passes, scolding Alex.

INT./EXT. SAM'S CAR/INTERSTATE 405 - DAY

Sam drives, Cass shotgun. Headed toward Alex.

Sam sees Alex, quickly pulls over and rolls down his window.

Alex swiftly approaches and peers into the car --

ALEX

Thank y--

Recognizes Sam --

ALEX (CONT'D)

You?! Fuck! I'd rather walk!

Alex trudges back toward his truck.

Sam gets out of his car and approaches.

SAM

Look, I don't know your story, but I sense that neither of us need bad karma. I feel terrible about what happened. Foolish. It was my fault.

ALEX

It was your fault. How big of you to admit.

Alex sweating in the heat. Vehicles ZOOMING by.

SAM

Please allow me to make it up to you, if I can.

ALEX

Your words ring hollow. You nearly killed me, you called me a garden gnome and a coward. I'm no coward.

SAM

I'm sorry. I didn't mean any of it. I have terminal brain cancer. It got the best of me that day.

(off Alex's silence)

You're spending time at the hospital, too?

ALEX

My daughter has end-stage pediatric heart disease. She needs an organ transplant. She has a very rare blood type, so it's unlikely we'll find her a donor. You'll have to forgive me if I don't shed tears for you.

SAM

I'm really sorry to hear that. The least I can do is give you a ride.

ALEX

Like I said, I'd rather walk. Now vamoose!

Discouraged, Sam shakes his head and heads away.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. HORACHI'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Horachi behind her desk. Sam and Cass on the other side.

DR. HORACHI
I respect your decision.

Heartened, Cass grins. Dr. Horachi flips open a chart: "SOS, Samuel Owen Silverthorne."

DR. HORACHI (CONT'D)
I am concerned however, the lesions
have progressed. We will run tests,
then possibly set a date for
surgery.

Sam and Cass pensive.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Crowded with PEOPLE (Men/Women/Children).

Sam scrolls through photos on his cellphone. Cass beside him,
head resting on his shoulder.

Sylvie enters in a wheelchair pushed by Maria. They stop in
front of Sam. Maria goes to Reception. Sam glances at Sylvie.

SYLVIE
(wearily)
Hey, mister.

SAM
Hi there.

SYLVIE
Are you sick, too, mister?

SAM
Yes.

Maria returns and sits on the other side of Sam.

SYLVIE
What have you got, bud?

A slight grin from Sam, then serious --

SAM
Cancer.

SYLVIE
Are you scared?

Cass observes Sam. His eyes shift. Sylvie makes deep eye contact --

SYLVIE (CONT'D)
Mami says it's okay to be scared.
But you don't have to be. God wants
to take care of us. Right, Mami?

Maria nods and fidgets with the crucifix on her necklace.

SYLVIE (CONT'D)
(softly to Sam)
Are you afraid to die?

Maria furrows her brow and shakes her head at Sylvie. Sam shifts uncomfortably. Sylvie puts her little hand on his --

SYLVIE (CONT'D)
Mami says Heaven is beautiful. If
you went there, you wouldn't even
want to come back.

Alex enters, sees Sylvie with Sam and attends to her. Sam's eyes widen -- realizes Sylvie is Alex's daughter. Alex glares at Sam. Cass notes Alex's demeanor and frowns.

SAM
I might be a little afraid, yeah.
And when people are afraid,
sometimes we do silly things.

Sam looks down at Sylvie's little hand on his, then back at her. Fire in her eyes --

SYLVIE
Mister, I ain't afraid of nothin'!
And I'm going to live!

Alex smirks at Sam.

NURSE #1 (O.C.)
(calls)
Sylvie Fisher.

NURSE #1 stands holding a chart.

Alex pushes Sylvie toward her. Maria follows.

EXT. FISHER HOUSE - NIGHT

Darkness. QUIET.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darkened. Alex and Maria in bed, asleep. A cellphone on the nightstand beside Alex. It RINGS. Alex CLICKS on a lamp, stares at it. It RINGS again. Maria sits up.

Alex swallows hard and answers --

ALEX
(into phone)
Hello.

Listens, then jolts upright --

ALEX (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Yes, right away!
(to Maria)
Our prayers have been answered!

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Sylvie in bed, awake, hooked up to an intravenous. Dr. Pruden and NURSE #2 monitoring her. Alex and Maria hastily enter. Maria takes Sylvie's hand.

SYLVIE
Mami, what's happening?

MARIA
You are being prepared for surgery,
mi niña.

SYLVIE
Papa, I'm scared!

ALEX
Everything will be okay, Sylvie.
You will sleep right through it.

SYLVIE
Mami, promise me I'll be okay!

MARIA
You will not feel anything. Papa
and I will be with you. And you
know who is watching over you.

SYLVIE
Papa, promise me!

ALEX
Papa promises! I promise you!

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Sylvie in bed. Maria beholds her. Alex paces and checks his watch. Nurse #2 enters --

NURSE #2

Dr. Pruden has asked to see you.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. PRUDEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alex and Maria in conference with Dr. Pruden.

DR. PRUDEN

I am very sorry. The donor organ proved to be too great a risk for transplantation.

Alex's eyes widen. Maria stares.

DR. PRUDEN (CONT'D)

The donor was a match, but the organ suffered thoracic trauma. It did not pass manual inspection by the cardiothoracic surgeon.

ALEX

What are you saying?!

DR. PRUDEN

There will not be a surgery today. We will have to await another donor.

ALEX

You call us here! Get our hopes up! Who decided this?!

DR. PRUDEN

The organ must pass visual and manual inspection by the surgeon. It did not.

Alex jolts up --

ALEX

My daughter's life is on the line! Who's the surgeon?! I'll blow up his fucking car!

Maria restrains Alex.

Dr. Pruden stands --

DR. PRUDEN

Mr. Fisher, that is quite enough!
You are precisely the type to sue
for malpractice should something
falter!

Eyes flooded with tears, Maria guides Alex away.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Levi builds the doghouse, softly WHISTLING to himself. A fine structure, a porch on the front. Sam approaches --

SAM

So, slugger, what are we doing
about this bully?

Suddenly, Levi stops, two full beats, then, eyes Sam --

LEVI

I want to take care of business.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Sam pulls the cover off: a heavy bag hangs from the rafters. Sticks taped to its sides as arms. A squeaky toy for a nose.

SAM

Levi, meet Dale. The difference is,
the punching bag's smarter.

LEVI

And better hygiene. A brighter
future.

SAM

That's the spirit! The thing about
a bully is, they don't want to
fight you. When you confront them,
most every time, they cower. At
most, he'll try to push you.

Sam pushes Levi to demonstrate --

SAM (CONT'D)

When he does, he's vulnerable.
That's when you strike. There's no
middle ground here, Son. You're
either all in or all out.

LEVI

All in.

Sam swings the heavy bag. Their eyes lock --

SAM
Remember, Son, pain is short-term.
An act of courage is forever.

Both have the eye of the tiger.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - POOL HOUSE - NIGHT

Grace's delicate hands dance brilliantly across piano keys.
Sam enters and sits beside her. She stops.

SAM
Sorry to intrude, darlin'. Far be
it from me to disrupt the
effervescence of a creative genius.

GRACE
Dad.

She smiles and feigns shyness, revealing undeniable self-assurance. He plays the piano, then stops.

SAM
I've been trying to write a song.
It's a lot harder than I thought.
I'm going to need your help. Will
you write it with me?

She smiles and nods. Sam plays the piano and motions for her to join in. She stops him --

GRACE
Dad, my recital is coming up. I'm
really nervous.

SAM
Congratulations, you're normal. Do
you love to play?

Grace nods, a smile.

SAM (CONT'D)
Then you'll do great. Guaranteed.
The antidote to fear is desire.

Plays and sings "All You Need Is Love" by The Beatles:

SAM (CONT'D)
"ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE. ALL YOU NEED
IS LOVE..."

Grace rests her head on Sam's shoulder and joins in, basking in the safety and comfort of her father...

SAM AND GRACE
...ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE, LOVE. LOVE
IS ALL YOU NEED."

INT. HOSPITAL - LAB WAITING AREA - DAY

Alex and Maria sit with Sylvie. Maria strokes Sylvie's hair. Despairing, Alex stares at the floor.

Nurse #3 (Female, 20s) sits behind a desk.

Sam and Cass enter. Cass takes a seat. Sam registers with Nurse #3.

SYLVIE
(quietly to Maria)
Mami, there's my friend.

Sylvie smiles and waves to Sam. He grins and waves back as he joins Cass.

Alex scowls at Sam. Cass notes Alex's demeanor and smirks. Sylvie's eyes shift to Alex --

SYLVIE (CONT'D)
Papa, tell me the riddle.

ALEX
Not now, baby girl.

SYLVIE
Papa, please. I want to hear it.

Alex purses his lips, then regards Sylvie adoringly --

ALEX
What's greater than God, more evil
than the devil, poor people have it
but rich people don't, and if you
eat it, you'll die?

Sam listening, eyes shifting in thought.

Nurse #3 approaches Sylvie and kneels to put an ID bracelet on her wrist --

NURSE #3
You have a very rare blood type.
That means you are very special.

SYLVIE
(dourly)
I know. Rhnull. Yay me.

Sam's eyes dart to Sylvie. Nurse #3 heads back to her desk.

CASS
(to Sam)
Hey, you're Rhnull. Right?

Sam nods to her, pensive, thoughtful.

Alex heard Cass, wide-eyed, he stares at Sam.

Sam's eyes lock with Alex's, then shift to Sylvie.

Sylvie playfully swings her legs and innocently HUMS.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. HORACHI'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam and Cass hold hands, waiting on pins and needles. Dr. Horachi enters and sits. Sam and Cass straighten up, gripped.

DR. HORACHI
I am sorry to keep you waiting. I was reviewing your latest results for confirmation. Mr. Silverthorne, I am very sorry. The lesions have progressed. Surgery is not an option.

Cass devastated. Sam stoic --

SAM
How long now?

DR. HORACHI
Perhaps, six weeks.

Sam and Cass ashen.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

QUIET. Solemn. Sam, Cass, Grace and Levi sit together.

CASS
We did everything possible. We were optimistic there would be no more lesions.

SAM
Sometimes life has other plans.

Grace SOBS --

GRACE

Dad, I just want you to be okay!
Why is this happening?!

LEVI

You're going to live, right, Dad?

SAM

No, I'm not. Unless God performs a
miracle.

GRACE

I believe in miracles!

Through tears, Cass peers at Grace and nods. Levi devastated,
shook to the core.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Dr. Pruden listens to Sylvie's heart through a stethoscope.
Sylvie weary. Nearby, Maria and Alex observing.

DR. PRUDEN

(to Sylvie)

We'll get you fixed up and you'll
be back jumping rope in no time!

He winks at her, then turns to exit and warmly nods to Maria.
Alex dubiously observes him.

As Dr. Pruden turns toward the door, his expression changes
to deep concern. Alex notices, brow furrows.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alex eats at the island, distant eyes. Maria beside him,
opens a letter, a check attached. She scans it, eyes widen --

MARIA

Alex! My paintings sold! Every one
of them! Gracias a dios!

She makes the sign of the cross and kisses the crucifix on
her necklace. Alex peers over her shoulder at the check --

ALEX

Holy, that's a lot of money.

His eyes grow distant, he slouches back onto his stool.

MARIA

Alex, what is wrong?

ALEX

The expression on the doctor's face when he was leaving Sylvie's room. There's something that prick's not telling us. He just takes all our money.

MARIA

Alex, we have to trust.

ALEX

I'm losing hope, Maria. I can't sit here and watch our baby die. But what can I do?!

POUNDS his fists on the counter. The Gladiolus in the vase dead.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You brought me to God and it saved my life. I know I have to believe. But it's hard, Maria. It's so hard.

MARIA

We need to trust, Alex. The money is a sign from God. That's all we have. Faith.

ALEX

That nasty man at the hospital. He has the same blood type as Sylvie. He told me he's dying.

MARIA

Alex, we cannot pray for a man to die. We need faith. No matter how hard. Trust God's plan.

Alex's eyes shift, intensely in thought.

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Levi at his desk, engaged on his laptop. An open textbook.

CLUNK! A small bird flew into the upper part of the partially open window. Stunned, it lies on the window ledge, might be dead. Levi watches it --

LEVI

Damn!

He re-engages in his work. Soon the bird regains composure and flies away. Levi notices, then glances at the dove --

LEVI (CONT'D)
When you're ready, little buddy.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Rain POUNDS off the windows. MUSIC. Crowded with PEOPLE (Men/Women, aged 20s-40s).

Levi and Lola sit up at the bar, drinking red wine, holding hands. Enamored with each other, they TALK and LAUGH.

MAN #1 accidentally bumps into Lola, but doesn't apologize. Levi scowls at him. Lola eyes Levi. Man #1 bumps Lola again. Lola eyes Levi and shakes her head to discourage him.

LEVI
C'mon, let's get out of here.

LOLA
It's fine, let's wait for the rain to pass.

Levi gets the BARTENDER'S attention --

LEVI
Excuse me! Two Solo Cups! Please!

The Bartender grabs two Solo Cups from under the counter and hands them to Levi. Levi pours the wine into the red cups.

LEVI (CONT'D)
Let's go have some fun!

Captivated, Lola smiles, takes Levi's hand and follows him through the crowd toward the door.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Pouring rain. No traffic. Under street lights, in the middle of the street, Levi and Lola dance to MUSIC emanating from the bar. They LAUGH, dance and SING, joyful, infatuated.

EXT./INT. RESIDENTIAL STREET/CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Playground on the left. Middle-class bungalows on the right. Quiet. No traffic. No kids.

A road sign: "Playground Zone 20 MPH."

Levi rides his motorcycle, slows as he enters the playground zone. A car quickly approaches behind him.

MAN #2 (30s), large, driving the car, speeds up behind Levi.

On his motorcycle, Levi checks his mirror and sees the car following too close. Levi continues to slowly ride. The car moves even closer. Levi brake checks him.

Man #2 HITS his brakes. Inside the car, Man #2 perturbed --

MAN #2
Try that again! Punk!

The car speeds up. Levi brake checks him again. Man #2 HITS his brakes. Inside the car, Man #2 angry --

MAN #2 (CONT'D)
You prick!

The car speeds up behind Levi's motorcycle. Levi brake checks him again. Man #2 HITS his brakes, but nudges Levi's bike. Levi's bike wobbles, but maintains control, slows to a stop. The car slowing to a stop behind it.

Enraged, Man #2 gets out of his car, SLAMS his car door shut, HUFFS toward Levi. Levi calmly gets off his motorcycle.

MAN #2 (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?!

LEVI
(composed)
It's a playground zone, I was doing
the speed limit.

They check both vehicles for damage. There is none.

LEVI (CONT'D)
There's no damage. Let's move on.

Man #2 aggressively points at Levi --

MAN #2
You're a fucking pussy!

Levi's brow furrows. Man #2 stalks back toward his car, pleased with his masculinity. He opens his driver's door. Suddenly, it's kicked SHUT. Surprised, he turns.

Levi grins, throws a jab to the throat. THUD! Drops Man #2 to his knees. Grabs him by the hair, slams his head repeatedly into the car's side view mirror, SMASH! SMASH! SMASH! Breaking the mirror off the car.

Man #2 lies on the ground, bleeding.

Levi reaches into the car's open window, removes the keys from the ignition and steps on Man #2's head as he stalks back toward his motorcycle.

Man #2 remaining on the ground, motionless, bleeding.

Levi FIRES up his motorcycle and slowly rides through the rest of the playground zone. Then SPEEDS UP toward a bridge over a creek. As he crosses the bridge, he casually throws Man #2's keys into the creek and smoothly rides away.

INT. SCHOOL - MUSIC ROOM - DAY - TEN YEARS AGO

Written creatively on the blackboard: "Music is my religion."

A smiling TEACHER joyfully conducts KIDS playing instruments. Young Levi in the front row, plays a trumpet.

Dale, a couple rows back, spits a spitball through a straw, hits Levi in the head. Levi peers at Dale.

Dale makes a slashing motion across his neck at Levi. Levi stares straight ahead, beet red.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Sam swings the heavy bag. Levi knocks its arms away and headbutts the SQUEAKY toy. He kicks the heavy bag: SMACK! SMACK! SMACK!

SAM

Good! Again!

Levi does it again... SMACK! SMACK! SMACK!

SAM (CONT'D)

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth!

Levi does it again... SMACK! SMACK! SMACK!

SAM (CONT'D)

No mercy!

Levi nods to Sam, confident, prepared.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE BALLPARK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Pounding sun. The Sliders practice. Dale plays first base.

Sam in the bleachers among OTHER PARENTS, including a LARGE MAN (40s), bearing a striking resemblance to Dale.

Levi in the batter's box. The COACH (Male, 40s) throws a pitch. Levi swings. CRACK! The ball sails to the outfield. Sam smiles and CLAPS.

LARGE MAN
(yells)
It's about time that kid gets it
together!

Sam glares at the Large Man --

SAM
Hey, fat head!

Brow furrowed, the Large Man peers at Sam. Sam intense but controlled, means business --

SAM (CONT'D)
Shut up or I will curb stomp you!
Right in front of your son!

The Large Man pensively turns away and cowers into his seat.

Levi discreetly observes them through the backstop, sly grin.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE BALLPARK - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sam and Levi walk, father's arm around his son.

SAM
Looking good out there, slugger.
One more win in this mean season
and you're in the big game.

Levi pulls himself close to his dad.

INT. HOSPITAL - NEURO-ONCOLOGY UNIT - DAY

A sign: "Neuro-Oncology." A CLERK (Female, 50s) sits behind a desk. Alex enters, peers around and approaches, overly pleasant --

ALEX
Hello there! Good morning! I'm
looking for one of your patients.
I met him here at the hospital, but
didn't get his name. I want to
thank him for something he did.
He's a very kind man. 40s.

She eyes him --

CLERK

You don't know his name?

ALEX

No. He told me he has brain cancer.
I thought maybe you could help me.
I'd like to repay his kindness.

CLERK

I'm sorry, sir. Even if I knew who
you were asking about, I couldn't
provide that information.

ALEX

I just want to say "thank you."
That's it. You know, buy him a
coffee or something. Why is that
such a big deal?

CLERK

Confidentiality is a simple
concept, sir. And it is a big deal.

Offended, Alex glares at her --

ALEX

Do you have to be rude?
(under breath)
Bitch.

CLERK

Pardon?!

ALEX

It's fine, I'll leave.

He peers around -- hoping to catch a clue or glimpse of Sam.
As he stalks out, MAN #3 enters, Alex bumps into him --

ALEX (CONT'D)

Watch where the fuck you're going!

Man #3 taken aback. Alex barges out.

MONTAGE - SAM PURSUES HIS LEGACY

-- Sam on a baseball mound, Levi at the plate. Sam throws a
pitch, Levi swings, CRACK! Sam watches the ball sail.

-- Sam and Grace in the pool house. Grace plays the piano,
Sam makes a note -- writing music. Grace enthralled.

- Alex sits in the hospital lobby, wearing a ball cap, reading a newspaper. He inconspicuously watches PEOPLE come and go. Alex beleaguered.
- Sam, Cass and the kids in a helicopter with a PILOT, fly low across land. Suddenly: the Grand Canyon. Spectacular.
- Alex at church, in confession with the Priest, distraught.

ALEX

Father, I've been having thoughts.
Of killing a man. To save Sylvie.
Maria and Sylvie have showed me
life is so much better with faith
and love than with fear and anger.
Is God testing me? It's too much.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

A newspaper LANDS on the coffee table. Front page headline:
"Miracle Murderer Being Released."

Attentive, Cass and Grace sit on the couch. Incensed, Levi stands on the other side of the coffee table --

LEVI

Miracle Murderer?! I can't stand it
when they call him that!

Grace grabs the newspaper and begins to read the article.

LEVI (CONT'D)

They make him sound like a hero!

CASS

It's a flashy headline. Ignore it.

GRACE

He gets out on the ten-year
anniversary of dad's death.

Levi sits, stewing --

LEVI

I'm going to write him a letter.
Give him something to think about.

CASS

No, Levi! It is wrong! That is not
how I raised you! In this moment,
you need to turn to God!

Levi ignores Cass, eyes burning with vengeance.

EXT. BLUFF COVE - FLAT ROCK POINT - DAY

Sunshine. Breathtaking views. Brilliant green foliage.

Levi and Lola on a blanket -- having a picnic. ANOTHER COUPLE nearby.

Lola feeds Levi chocolate cake, then tastes the food in his mouth. They kiss and GIGGLE. Levi rubs Lola's back. He notes a mole on her shoulder --

LEVI

This mole is your only blemish.
Everything about you is flawless.

LOLA

(flattered, sarcastic)
Stop trying to hit my G-spot!

Levi LAUGHS.

LEVI

C'mon, what else about you is even
remotely flawed? I mean, other than
your lopsided breasts.

Lola LAUGHS.

LOLA

I have a strange attraction to
incels.

Levi's LAUGHTER fades to SILENCE, eyes grow distant.

LEVI

You would be better off without me.

LOLA

Levi, don't you think you need
therapy? I mean, you were eleven
years old when your dad died. He
was your hero.

LEVI

He wasn't my hero. Heroes sometimes
fail. He was a god to me.

LOLA

(sarcastically)
So what are you going to do? End
the guy like he did to your dad?
(serious, concerned)
That's why it's marked on your
calendar, isn't it?

LEVI

Yeah, that's why it's marked on my calendar. I've had ten long fucking years to think about it.

LOLA

(loudly)

Levi! That is messed up!

The Other Couple stare. Levi and Lola notice, keep it down.

LEVI

I'd prefer to maim him with my bare hands. Deny him the use of a limb for the rest of his life. If he fights back, worst-case, I snap his neck.

LOLA

You're serious, aren't you?

LEVI

What do you care? If I fail and don't become rich and successful, you won't be with me.

Lola jolts up, unconcerned about being too loud now --

LOLA

How can you say that?! I've loved you since fifth grade! Besides, I can take care of myself! You know, my parents don't think you can get past your issues! I'm starting to think they're right! And it's too bad because I was really rooting for you! You scare me, Levi!

She storms off. Vexed, he glares into nowhere.

MONTAGE - LEVI AND LOLA FIGHT

-- In the parking lot, Lola stands by Levi's motorcycle, sullen. Levi approaches.

LOLA

Take me straight home.

-- On the freeway, Levi and Lola ride his motorcycle. Rather than holding him, she holds the back bar on the bike. Levi SPEEDS recklessly through heavy traffic. Lola wide-eyed, frightened.

-- Levi and Lola SPEED up to the front of Lola's house, STOP.
She jumps off, takes off her helmet, throws it at him --

LOLA (CONT'D)
That was ridiculous! You reckless
jerk! What is wrong with you?!

LEVI
I slowed down when you told me to!

LOLA
Barely! Go Ahead! Ruin your life!
But you are not ruining mine!

As she stalks toward the house, he PEELS away.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. HORACHI'S OFFICE - DAY - TEN YEARS AGO
Downtrodden, Sam and Cass sit across from Dr. Horachi.

DR. HORACHI
You will have to closely monitor
him now.

Cass nods. Sam glances at Cass, then studies Dr. Horachi.

SAM
Can I donate my organs?

DR. HORACHI
Well, a minority of patients dying
from Glioblastoma are accepted as
organ donors. It depends on the
availability of organs and the
health of the donor. It is by case.

SAM
Is age a factor?

DR. HORACHI
Donors are most often accepted up
to 65 years of age or even greater.
You are still young.

SAM
What about gender?

DR. HORACHI
Mr. Silverthorne, you cannot select
the recipients of your organs.

SAM
I know. But...does gender matter?

DR. HORACHI

It can. This is observed more in male recipients from female donors. It can impact the rate of graft rejection.

SAM

How about size matching?

DR. HORACHI

It is only a consideration when placing an undersized organ into a recipient.

Sam thoughtful, hesitant.

SAM

If I choose Medical Aide-in-Dying, can I still donate my organs?

DR. HORACHI

Yes, you can donate your lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and corneas.

SAM

Not the heart?

DR. HORACHI

No. Not the heart because of the primary damage to the organ during the procedure.

Sam's eyes shift down. Glassy-eyed, Cass stares away.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Sam in bed, on a laptop, reads an article: "Heart Donation." He gets up and slowly heads to the bathroom. He stops, winces and braces himself against the counter.

Disoriented, he loses his balance and drops to the floor. THUMP! He crawls to the toilet and HURLS into it.

Cass hastily enters --

CASS

What's going on?!

SAM

I fell. And got sick.

She kneels to attend to him.

He gets up and tries to walk away, but takes a header into the vanity. CRASH! Hits the floor. THUMP!

Cass rushes to him --

CASS

Sam!

She comforts him as he slips in and out of consciousness, blood oozing from his forehead.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Sam in bed, a bandage on his forehead, awakens. Cass bedside, reads a book, notes he's awake --

CASS

Oh, hey, how do you feel?

A long SILENCE, Sam thoughtful, melancholy.

SAM

I'm struggling to accept this. I still feel like I've been selfish. My friends call me Rainmaker, which is flattering, but in the corporate world--

CASS

I know. They called you The Smiling Shark. I didn't like it either.

SAM

(glassy-eyed)

What was the ripple effect of my actions? All in the name of profit margin. How many kids went without because of my callous decisions?

CASS

Sam, you are too hard on yourself. You've always treated others with kindness and respect. And you give so much love! If life is a test, I'd say you're passing with flying colors.

Sam thoughtful, contemplative.

SAM

That little girl at the hospital. We have the same rare blood type. She needs a heart transplant.

CASS

What?! You didn't tell me that! Her dad heard me say your blood type! Did you see his reaction?!

SAM

Imagine what they're going through. And the financial stress.

CASS

I can't. What we're going through is all I can handle. And then some.

SAM

I'm going to fill out my organ donor card and inform the hospital. And we could help them financially.

CASS

If that's what you want, Sam. But that's it. Nothing else. Nothing!

Cass remains awed. Sam deep in thought.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Sylvie in bed. Alex sits nearby, beleaguered. A KNOCK on the door. Alex gets up and opens it. NURSE #4 there --

NURSE #4

There's a man asking to see you.

Curious, Alex studies her.

INT. HOSPITAL - SMALL LOUNGE - DAY

Sam stands and waits, a bandage on his forehead. Alex enters, startled upon seeing him.

SAM

How's your daughter?

Alex pauses, gathers himself.

ALEX

We've been praying but no good comes.

SAM

My wife and I are terribly sorry about what your family is going through. We'd like to help.

He hands Alex an envelope. Alex hesitates, then takes it. He glances at Sam, opens it and peeks inside.

Inside the envelope: check made out for one million dollars. Sam's address and cellphone number on it.

Alex's eyes widen, he closes the envelope.

ALEX

That's...that's...uh...what?

SAM

Now the elephant in the room. Your daughter and I have the same rare blood type.

ALEX

I know. It's shocking because it's one in six million.

SAM

I filled out my organ donor card. The hospital is aware.

ALEX

Thank you. But why, uh, why, why so much money? Is this a cruel joke?

SAM

Look, I have no chance of survival. With my type of brain cancer, the lesions grow into the brain. It's incurable. A death sentence.

ALEX

I'm sorry. That's tragic.

SAM

At this point, the real tragedy would be if I outlived your daughter. If I'm alive and she's in crisis, you need to take care of business.

Points at abdomen --

SAM (CONT'D)

One shot. Right here. End this nightmare. And save your little girl.

Alex's mouth opens. Sam maintains eye contact and nods once with assurance. Alex swallows hard.

ALEX

My wife says we just need to trust.
God has a plan.

SAM

I have a death sentence and Rhnull
blood. I am standing right in front
of you. What were you hoping for?

(off Alex's silence)

It has to happen here, at the
hospital. In front of Emergency.
They need to get me on a ventilator
so my heart keeps beating after my
brain dies.

(off more stunned silence)

If you plead guilty, you'll get ten
years in prison. Then you'll get
released on probation.

(ramps up intensity)

Under no circumstances will you
come to my house or do it in front
of my family. Is that clear?

Alex shifts uncomfortably, reluctant --

ALEX

Why don't you do it yourself?

SAM

I've thought about it, but I don't
think I can. So it's on you. You've
been praying but no good comes?

Points at envelope --

SAM (CONT'D)

Faith for hire.

Sam exits. Stunned, Alex slowly sits onto a chair.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - POOL HOUSE - DAY

Sam plays the piano. Grace enters. Sam stops --

SAM

You're home a little early, aren't
you, darlin'?

Grace stops at a CD collection and twirls her hair as she
scrolls through it. Sam approaches. Grace's eyes fix on him --

GRACE

I'm really nervous, Dad.

SAM

Everybody gets nervous, sweetheart,
everybody. It's part of being
alive.

GRACE

I love the song.

She nuzzles into him. He kisses her on the forehead, then
motions to the CD she's holding --

SAM

That's vintage. Play it.

Grace puts the CD in and presses 'play'. Sam smiles at Grace
as MUSIC plays...

INT. SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Colored lockers. Crowded with KIDS (Boys/Girls, aged 10-12).

Levi strides amongst the throng. A RUCKUS ahead.

Dale teases Lola, holds her homework above her head. Lola
jumps to try to retrieve it. Levi approaches, fumes --

LEVI

That's it, Dale! Let's do this!
Right here! Right now!

Dale turns and carelessly throws Lola's papers in the air. It
rains homework. Lola closely watching.

DALE

Am I gettin' punked or something?

LEVI

And don't call me sliver dick!

Dale steps forward, pushes Levi --

DALE

Or what?

Levi's eyes widen. Dale pushes him again --

DALE (CONT'D)

Or what, sliver dick?!

Dale attempts to push Levi again. BAM! Levi headbutts him.
Dale DROPS. And lies in a heap.

Levi stands over him. Dale GROANS --

DALE (CONT'D)
Damn! That freakin' hurt!

Dale sweep kicks Levi and knocks him to the floor. Dale gets up and punches Levi in the face. SMACK!

DALE (CONT'D)
(strains)
Let's call it even. Silverthorne.

Dale hobbles away. Levi gets up and helps Lola gather her papers. A sly grin, he heads off. Lola adoringly watches.

EXT. CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

A palatial, timeworn, two-story brick building.

INT. CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

Red plush seats. A large AUDIENCE (Men/Women/Children).

A LOVELY GIRL (14) on stage, plays the piano and sings. She finishes her piece. The Audience APPLAUDS as she exits.

Sam, Cass and Levi sit a few rows from the front. Levi has a shiner.

The MASTER OF CEREMONIES (Female, 40s), formal, at the mic --

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Next is a young lady performing an
original piece. Please welcome
Grace Silverthorne.

The Audience APPLAUDS as Grace pensively enters the stage. Cass anxiously bites her lip. Sam watches, calm, assured. Grace at the piano, speaks into the mic --

GRACE
My dad and I wrote this song.
Daddy, this is for you.

She performs...

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Sylvie in bed, eyes closed.

Nearby, Alex reads the Bible. He takes cash from his pocket, studies Sylvie, then heads to the door. He props the door open and glances back at Sylvie as he exits.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

LADY #1 holds a puppy. She sets it down to put its leash on. It bounds away and stops at a room. Door open.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The puppy playfully enters. Sylvie's eyes blink open, she sees the puppy and sits up, wide-eyed.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Lady #1 pats her leg and calls for the puppy. The puppy playfully emerges from Sylvie's room.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Sylvie swings her legs over the bedside, removes her nasal cannula and takes a few stilted steps.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSING STATION/CORRIDOR - NIGHT

NURSE #5 sits behind a desk. A light flashes on a panel. Her head sharply turns. She jolts up and heads for Sylvie's room.

Alex approaches with a coffee. He stops, face drops.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Nurse #5 darts in and peers to the floor. Alex barges in behind her.

Sylvie on the floor, facedown, motionless.

INT. CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

Grace finishes her piece. The Audience erupts with APPLAUSE.

Sam, Cass and Levi beam, APPLAUD.

Sam proudly gazing at Grace...

SAM (V.O.)

Third, I encourage you to set your
intention to live a life that is
pleasing to God.

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Levi strikes off June 19 on a calendar. All preceding days in June have an "X" through them. June 21 circled in red marker.

SAM (V.O.)

I'm no saint. I'm a regular man.
But when you're facing mortality,
you think about what's next.

Levi opens the window, removes the dove from its cage and sets it on the window ledge. The dove flutters its wings, surveys the situation, then hops back into its cage.

A KNOCK on the door. Levi strides to the door and opens it. Lola enters, Levi closes the door behind her.

LEVI

Hey. Long time no see. Or hear
from. Was that just a fight or--

LOLA

Levi, I'm worried you're going to
do something you'll really regret.

LEVI

Great, you came here to lecture me.

LOLA

I came to talk some sense into you.
And give you one last chance.

He scowls, then smirks. Her emotion grows --

LOLA (CONT'D)

But I can see you're not ready for
that. And maybe you never will be.
Right now, you have an important
choice to make. If you follow the
wrong path, it will ruin your life!
I cannot be a party to it!! I
can't!!!

She waits for his reaction. He's stoic. A long SILENCE.

LOLA (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Levi.

SOBBING, she stalks out. Levi's face drops, his heart sinks.

SAM (V.O.)

No matter what you go through, your
faith will ground you and guide you
on the right path.

EXT. WESTWOOD BLVD - DAY

Levi intently strides on a BUSTLING sidewalk...

SAM (V.O.)
Remember, God doesn't expect us to
be perfect, so don't expect it of
yourself. We all make mistakes.

A sign on a store front: "Oxford Circle Tattoo."

SAM (V.O.)
But be sure to choose your actions
wisely, for they define you. And
they have a tremendous impact on
the lives of others. Perhaps more
than you realize.

Focused, Levi enters the tattoo parlor.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - PORCH/FRONT YARD - TEN YEARS AGO

Full moon. Perfect silver, blue-gray ball. Starlit backdrop.

Sam sits with Mac. Sam has lost more weight, frail.

MAC
He says, "You're late, it's five
after nine." I say, "I prefer to
think of it as eight sixty-five."

Sam CHUCKLES. Mac's eyes fix on something in the yard --

MAC (CONT'D)
Are those saplings?

In the yard, two saplings. Sam now speaks with a rasp.

SAM
Yeah, I planted them today. One's
an oak. One's a willow.

MAC
They look a bit odd.

SAM
Now maybe but if they withstand the
wind, they'll be spectacular.

Mac observes a Bible on a nearby table. Sam notices --

SAM (CONT'D)
I'm cramming for the final.

Mac LAUGHS.

MAC
I hate to ruin the ending for you,
but the guy dies.
(awkward silence)
Well, I'm parched, I better roll.

Mac stands, heartfelt --

MAC (CONT'D)
Sammy, just, thanks. Thank you for
everything. Love ya, buddy.

Mac's eyes welling with tears. Sam stands, glassy-eyed --

SAM
Love ya, too, big buddy.

A strong embrace. Sam watches as Mac tearfully saunters away.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cass sits at the island, reads a book.

Young Levi, Young Grace and Sam sit around the table. Dodge there, too. Levi polishes his cleats. Sam holds a textbook --

SAM
(to Grace)
Okay, then, smarty-pants, what's
the capital of New Hampshire?

GRACE
Oh, Daddy, that's so easy. It's
Concord. Slugger probably knew
that.

Levi, lost in his own world, polishes his cleats.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Well, maybe not slugger.

Levi continues to polish his cleats, straight-faced --

LEVI
Don't make me come over there.

Grace puts up her dukes and scrunches her pretty face. Levi smiles. Sam regards them adoringly.

GRACE
See if you can stump me!

SAM
Alright.

SNAPS the textbook closed --

SAM (CONT'D)
What's greater than God, more evil
than the devil, poor people have it
but rich people don't, and if you
eat it, you'll die?

Grace's eyes shift in thought. Sam turns to Levi --

SAM (CONT'D)
Big day tomorrow, slugger! Missed a
spot.

Levi checks the cleat. Sam takes polish from the cleat and
wipes it on Levi's nose, then turns to Grace --

SAM (CONT'D)
What's greater than--

GRACE
I know, I know.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Darkened. House asleep. Sam lumbers up the stairs.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - LEVI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Several sketches of buildings and houses posted on the walls.

Levi wearing pajamas, kneels bedside in prayer. Sam enters.
Levi hastily gets up and crawls into bed.

SAM
Oh, sorry. Were you praying to have
a good game tomorrow?

Levi shakes his head.

SAM (CONT'D)
Do you mind me asking what you were
praying about?

LEVI
I was praying for you. To be okay.

Affected, Sam strokes Levi's hair. Eased, Levi's eyes close.
Sam emits enormous warmth as he nurtures his son.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - YOUNG GRACE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam enters and approaches the bed. Grace in bed, on her back, eyes open, dark, whole.

GRACE

Nothing. The answer is nothing.
Nothing is greater than God.

SAM

You are such an astounding child.
Do you have any idea how much I
love you?

The corners of Grace's mouth curl with approval.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sam exits Grace's room and leans back against the wall. Tears stream silently, desperately.

INT. HOSPITAL - OBSERVATION AREA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Maria sits with the Priest, intensely in prayer. Alex stands staring through a pane of glass.

In another room, Sylvie in bed. Dr. Pruden observing her.
NURSE #6 draws his attention to a monitor. Dr. Pruden hastens to it and expresses deep concern.

Alex peers at Maria. The Priest motions for him to join them. Agitated, despairing, Alex abruptly exits.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Window open. Wind gently blows back the curtains.

Sam crawls into bed beside Cass, seduces her.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darkened. Alex sits at the table and stares at something in front of him: a handgun.

Headlights streak across the wall, illuminate the crucifix. Alex gets up and SMASHES the crucifix to the floor.

He grabs the handgun and checks the chamber: it's loaded. He pulls Sam's check out of his pocket. On the check: Sam's address and cellphone number.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam and Cass in bed. Sam stares at the ceiling.

SAM

I don't blame God for my illness.
He's been good to me. So good to
me.

CASS

I'm grateful we shared this life.
I've been blessed by your love.

She holds him, BREATHES him in. He soaks it up, too.

SAM

I love you so much, Cass. I wish we
could stop time.

He kisses her, then gets up and pulls on clothes.

CASS

Life is a wild ride, huh?

SAM

It's hard, but I love it.
(heartfelt, passionate)
I love it so much.

He exits.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

Sam sits at the desk and writes in the journal. Has written
pages and pages. He writes: "Time is my hunter. No one and
nothing else."

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT - LATER

Sam finishes writing a letter. Envelope addressed to: "Levi."
He puts the letter in the envelope. He takes off his silver
chain and cross, puts it in the envelope and seals it.

He gets up and opens a safe. Inside: a handgun. He places the
letter under the handgun, drops to his knees and prays.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cass in bed, asleep. For no apparent reason, her eyes open.

A long SILENCE. BANG! She flinches.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Cass SCRAMBLES down the stairs and rushes toward the den.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cass enters, cautiously steps to the desk, peers behind it. BANG! She flinches. She strides to the window, peers outside. The vexing motorcycle RUMBLES away. Cass slides the window SHUT.

SAM (O.C.)
Someone should call Bylaw.

Cass turns to see: Sam casually leaning against the doorjamb, eating ice cream.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Barren sun rises over brownish trees, scorned shrubs.

INT. HOSPITAL - OBSERVATION AREA - DAY

Maria sits with the Priest, both exhausted. Ashen, Dr. Pruden enters, slowly approaches and stops in front of them.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE BALLPARK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Two teams of KIDS play baseball. The Sliders in the field. Levi in right field, a black eye.

Scoreboard: top of ninth inning, 4-4.

CHATTER from the infield. BATTER #1 at the plate. RUNNER #1 on second base, a tentative lead.

PITCHER #1 checks the runner, winds and throws to the plate. SMACK! Into the catcher's glove. The UMPIRE (Male, 30s) --

UMPIRE
Strike!

Hot sun beats down on crowded bleachers: MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN wearing caps and sunglasses. LADY #2 fans herself.

Cass, Grace and Sam sit in the corner of the top row. Grace cuddles with Sam.

CASS
Here we go, Sliders!

Pitcher #1 winds and throws to the plate. Batter #1 swings. CRACK! The ball sails to right field.

Levi goes back, back, back... makes the catch. CHEERING.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Anguished, Alex paces. His cellphone RINGS. Jarred, he stops. His cellphone on the island. He hastens to it, hesitates, then answers --

ALEX
(into phone)
Maria.

MARIA (O.S.)
Where are you? We're going into
Sylvie's room. To give her last
rites.

ALEX
(into phone)
Maria, do you still trust God?

MARIA (O.S.)
If this is His will, we must accept
it. Now, come be with us.

Desperate, tears pour from Alex.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE BALLPARK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Coach in front of the Sliders dugout.

COACH
Silverthorne! Williams! Potter in
the hole! One run's all we need,
boys! Get us going now, slugger!

Dale has a swollen nose and twin shiners. Levi dashes out of the dugout and grabs a bat.

DALE
Let's go, slugger! Let's go, pal!

In the bleachers, Sam affectionately rubs Grace's back.

SAM
I can't sit for this.

He makes his way, slow and unsteady, down from the bleachers. Cass and Grace cautiously observing him.

UMPIRE (O.C.)

Batter!

Sam stands behind the backstop, winces and flexes his hand.

LEVI'S TEAMMATES (O.C.)

(chanting)

Ooh uh, Sliders on the war path!

Ooh uh, Sliders on the war path!

Levi settles in at the plate. Pitcher #2 winds and throws. The ball narrowly misses Levi, he falls to the dirt.

Sam closely watches, sweat beads on his forehead.

Levi in the batter's box, digs his feet in and eyes Pitcher #2. Pitcher #2 winds and throws. Levi swings. CRACK! Pitcher #2's head jerks up. The ball sails high above.

Levi shuffles toward first base. The crowd rises. The LEFT FIELDER backpedals. The ball clears the fence! CHEERING.

Sam beams, proudly CLAPS.

Levi leaps and gallops around the bases. The opposing team lumbers off the field. Levi's teammates greet him at home plate. He jumps onto the plate and into their arms. Dale puts Levi on his shoulders. Levi exuberant.

Sam turns to Cass, they exchange a joyful smile. Cass returns her gaze to Levi.

Sam's cellphone RINGS. He checks it, concerned, he answers --

SAM

(into phone)

Hello.

ALEX (O.S.)

It's Sylvie. They read her last rites.

Stunned, Sam swallows hard.

SAM

(into phone)

Meet me there.

ALEX (O.S.)

Hurry!

Sam peers at Cass. Cass stands CHEERING with Grace.

Overjoyed, Levi CELEBRATES with his teammates.

EXT./INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT YARD/SAM'S CAR - DAY

Sam's Jaguar pulls into the driveway. Cass gets out of the driver's seat. Sam gets out of the passenger seat. The kids hop out of the back seat.

SAM
(to Cass)
I'm going to run to the store.

She hesitates.

CASS
Are you okay to drive?

SAM
I'm good.

She pauses, unsure, hands him the keys as he passes by her. Cass and the kids head toward the house.

Sam gets in the driver's seat. Tearful, he watches his family for the last time.

Cass pauses, looks back at Sam and smiles, then enters the house.

EXT./INT. WESTWOOD BLVD/SAM'S CAR - DAY

Sweltering heat. Sparse traffic.

Sam drives his Jaguar, anxious, glassy-eyed, hands trembling. Taking SHALLOW BREATHS.

Alex anxiously paces on the sidewalk in front of Emergency.

Sam's Jaguar pulls into the parking lot across the street.

EXT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY - DAY

Sam approaches Alex, tense, glassy-eyed. No one else around.

Petrified, Alex stares at him.

SAM
As soon as you do it, run in there
and tell them what's going on. They
need to get me on a ventilator
before my brain dies.

Alex pulls the gun out of the back of his pants and points it at Sam's abdomen. Sam's eyes widen, then close, teeth clench.

Alex shakes, trembles -- the moment of truth. He pulls the gun away, then quickly points it back at Sam's belly. Shaking.

ALEX
I can't do it!
(BREAKS DOWN, BAWLS)
I have to let her go!

He falls to his knees, WAILS. DROPS the gun to the ground.

SAM
Send me to paradise and save her!
Save her life!!

Sam picks up the gun, forces it into Alex's hand, points it at his own belly, screams into Alex's face --

SAM (CONT'D)
Do it! Do it!! Do it!!!

Alex holds the gun's handle, trigger finger disengaged. Sam holds the gun's barrel, reaches his finger to the trigger...

BANG! The gun goes off. DROPS to the ground.

Jarred, Sam falls to his knees. Blood gushes from his belly. He CHOKES on blood as he keels over and onto his back.

Shocked, Alex stands over him. Then frantically runs into Emergency.

PEOPLE peer through windows and glass doors.

INT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Content, Levi sits at the table, eats a snack. Cass enters.

LEVI
Mom, did you see how happy Dad was?

CASS
I sure did. He is so proud of you!
Is he back from the store?

Levi shrugs. Cass's cellphone RINGS. Cass answers --

CASS (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hello.

She listens, eyes widen.

EXT. WESTWOOD BLVD/HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY - DAY

Three parked police cars, emergency lights flashing. Alex in the back seat of one of them. SIX POLICE OFFICERS investigate the scene.

Cass drives a late-model white SUV, kids in the back seat. They gape as they slowly drive by.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Crowded with PEOPLE (Men/Women/Children).

Cass, Grace and Levi quickly enter. Cass approaches DOCTOR #2.

CASS
I'm Sam Silverthorne's wife.

Doctor #2 stops and stares at her, empathy.

MONTAGE

- Sam in a hospital room, on a bed, eyes closed, hooked up to a ventilator. Electrodes on his scalp. Cass enters with Doctor #2 and cautiously approaches the bed, lip quivers. A brain wave monitor displays Sam's brain activity.
- Sylvie in bed, full oxygen mask. DOCTOR #3 observing her. Sylvie LABORS for each breath. Nearby, Maria and the Priest intensely in prayer.
- Sylvie in distress. Maria trembles as she kneels to the floor and repeatedly, desperately kisses the crucifix on her necklace.

INT. HOSPITAL - SAM'S ROOM - DAY

Cass holds Sam's hand, her head resting near his. Nearby, Doctor #2 and NURSES #7 and #8 closely observing.

The brain wave monitor FLATLINES. Cass's head sharply turns. Devastated, she BURSTS into tears, clutches onto Sam.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. PRUDEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Cass stares at a document. Doctor #2 and Dr. Pruden hover. Cass signs, a tear drops onto the paper beside her signature.

Dr. Pruden takes the document and exits on the double.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRIVATE WAITING AREA - DAY

Tense, anxious, Grace and Levi sit and wait.

A wreck, Cass slowly enters and sits beside them. Hopeful, the kids huddle with her. A long SILENCE.

CASS

Your dad died today.

Stricken, Grace collapses into her mother's arms, they BAWL. Pallid, Levi stares straight ahead.

INT. HOSPITAL - SURGERY SUITE - DAY

Sylvie on a table under a surgical light, chest cavity open. DOCTORS #4 and #5 prepare her for heart transplant surgery. NURSES #9, #10 and #11 assisting.

A heart preservation canister on a stainless steel cart. Inside: a red meaty heart submerged in solution, a connector attached to the aorta.

With gloved hands, Dr. Pruden reaches into the canister, detaches the aorta from the connector and removes the heart.

MONTAGE

-- Front yard of the Silverthorne House, dark clouds, HEAVY RAIN. The cherry tree remains dormant. Saplings drenched.

-- In the Silverthorne den, rain POUNDS off the window. Cass slowly enters and ambles to the desk. On the desk, Sam's journal. Cass sits and begins to read, tears streaming.

-- In the Silverthorne pool house, RAIN POUNDS off the windows. Grace plays the piano, tears streaming.

-- Backyard of the Silverthorne house, POURING RAIN. Drenched, Levi sits on the porch of the doghouse, stares straight ahead and repeatedly POUNDS a baseball into his glove. THUNDER ROLLS, RUMBLES and CRACKS! White lightning flashes across the sky. A black eye, Levi seethes.

-- In the private hospital room, rain POUNDS off the window. Sylvie in bed, eyes closed. Dr. Pruden monitoring her.

Nearby, Maria anxiously waits. Sylvie RUSTLES. Maria steps forward.

Sylvie's eyes flutter open. Maria's eyes aglow.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

A prison guard booth. A 17 foot metal fence with razor wire. Prison ominously in the background.

INT. PRISON - VISITING AREA - DAY

Maria enters and sits in a semiprivate stall in front of a glass partition. A telephone receiver beside her.

Alex wearing an orange jumpsuit, approaches and sits on the other side of the glass partition.

Maria picks up her receiver. Alex picks up his. SILENCE as they stare at one another.

ALEX
Is she alive?

Tearful, Maria nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Did she have the surgery?

Maria nods, tears streaming. Alex WEEPS. Maria in disbelief --

MARIA
Alex, you killed a man.

ALEX
Maria, it's not what you think.

MARIA
You saved her life. But at what cost? A man is dead. Explain this. Now you're in prison. How could you do such a thing?

ALEX
Maria, the answer is in the Bible.

MARIA
Nowhere in the Bible does it say it is okay to kill a man.

ALEX
No, Maria, you don't understand. The answer is in the Bible. The hardcover Bible, at home, in the den.

Confused, Maria furrows her brow.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I love you, Maria. You were right.
Everything will be okay.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Maria enters through the front door and slowly heads down the hallway. She stops and looks into the den.

INT. FISHER HOUSE - DEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

On the desk, a hardcover Bible.

Maria enters, stops in front of the Bible and stares at it. She opens it.

Between the pages, a piece of paper. She flips to it and removes it.

It's Sam's check.

She holds the check and reads it. Puts her hand to her mouth, drops onto the chair and WEEPS.

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Levi's side of the room remarkably tidy.

The calendar: June 21 circled in red marker. All proceeding days in June have an "X" through them.

Levi opens the desk drawer and removes Sam's letter.

He observes the dove in its cage.

Cage door open. Window open.

Teddy casually enters and upon seeing Levi, stops --

TEDDY
Sup, buttercup?

Reads Levi's body language, then glances at the calendar and realizes --

TEDDY (CONT'D)
Today's the day that bastard gets
out of prison.

Intense, Levi strides past Teddy toward the door. Brow furrowed, Teddy stares as Levi exits.

EXT. ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK - GRAVE SITE - DAY

Rolling slopes. Scenic canyon views. Rows and rows of graves.

Levi on the grass by a headstone: "Samuel Owen Silverthorne. March 24, 1973 - June 21, 2015." Tearful, he reads Sam's letter...

SAM (V.O.)

Fourth, have the courage to grieve.
Fully accept the circumstances of
your life. Then rise above them.

Tears flooding Levi's eyes...

SAM (V.O.)

Fifth, choose peace over anger. If
you hang onto your anger, it will
ruin your life. Forgiveness is for
the other person, but also for you.
Choose to be healthy. Choose to
forgive. And set yourself free.

LEVI

I just want to make you proud.

An early-model white SUV rolls up behind Levi and stops. Cass and Grace get out and slowly approach.

CASS

Teddy called. He's worried about
you.

(off Levi's silence)

It's a really, really hard day,
Levi. We should be together.

Levi remains still. Cass hesitates, then pulls out a business envelope.

CASS (CONT'D)

This came to the house for you.
It's from the Faculty of
Architecture.

Levi remains silent.

CASS (CONT'D)

I wasn't sure if I should bring it.
Do you want to open it now or wait
for another time?

LEVI

Open it. Might as well.

Frozen, Cass stares at the envelope. Grace reaches for it, Cass hands it to her. Grace opens it and begins to read --

GRACE

It says...um, you've...you've...
(tears flow)
Mr. Levi Silverthorne, the Master's
Program, Faculty of Architecture is
pleased to inform you, you have
been accepted!

Through tears, Levi grins at Sam's headstone.

CASS

Oh, dear Lord.

Sits beside Levi, rests her head on his shoulder.

CASS (CONT'D)

I'm happy you got the news today.
While you're here. With your dad.

Levi's grin fades, eyes narrow.

LEVI

Mom, did Dad know he was going to
be murdered?

Cass's face drops. Grace peers at her.

CASS

Well, um, I don't know for sure.
I've thought about it many times.

LEVI

In the journal, he wrote, "Time is
my hunter. No one and nothing
else." In his letter, he tells me
to let go of my anger and focus on
forgiveness. It's like he knew it
was going to happen, Mom.
(off Cass's tears)
Why did he go to the hospital that
day?

CASS

(emotional)

Your dad was always trying to help
that man! And there's something
I've never told you kids. Your dad
gave that family a lot of money.

Levi's head turns to Cass, he studies her.

LEVI

He saved that little girl's life.
But Alex Fisher. It's been ten
years. And no apology. Nothing!

Levi checks his watch, then strides toward his motorcycle.
Cass and Grace hastily follow.

CASS

Levi, you idolize your father. He
was an incredible man. But he was
less than perfect.

Levi sits on his motorcycle, listens.

CASS (CONT'D)

They played God. And I don't agree
with that. But it's over and it's
time to let it go!

Levi contemplative.

CASS (CONT'D)

He has such a firm hold on you!
Even from the grave!

LEVI

I love you, Mom. Love you, Grace.

CASS

I love you, Levi!

GRACE

Love you, Levi.

LEVI

Now there's something I need to do.
In honor of Dad. And our family.

He FIRES UP his motorcycle and SPEEDS away.

Deeply concerned, Cass and Grace watch on.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Towering trees. Green space. A bench nearby.

Alex (now 40s), Maria (now 40s) and ADULT SYLVIE (now 18),
LAUGH and play with PALOMA, midsize dog, white and gray.

Smiling, Alex throws a ball, Paloma tracks it down and
gleefully returns it to his feet. Alex hugs Maria, both
joyful, happy, in love.

ALEX

I can't believe I'm actually here.
I just want to watch for a while.
God is great!

He heads to the bench and sits. Sylvie and Maria continue to throw the ball for Paloma, CALLING his name, ENCOURAGING him.

Alex basks in the moment, watching his family.

Levi approaches and sits on the bench beside Alex. SILENCE.
No acknowledgement. Finally, Levi calm, assured --

LEVI

The judicial system is weak.

Alex's eyes shift, then intensely settle on Levi.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Ten years for murdering an innocent man. Just because you plead guilty. It doesn't seem like enough.

ALEX

You must be Levi. I got your note.
I took it as a threat.

A handgun discreetly tucked in the back of Alex's pants.

LEVI

When I was sixteen, late one night, I couldn't sleep, so I went to the kitchen for a snack. My mom was sitting at the table, in the dark, alone, crying. I asked her what was wrong. She wouldn't tell me.

ALEX

Look, it's--

LEVI

Shut up and listen!

Immediately, Alex does as told.

LEVI (CONT'D)

I pleaded with her to tell me. Finally, she broke down and said she was angry. Very angry. With you. She told me about the conflict you had with my dad. And some of the events leading to his death. She said you thought you were a real tough guy.

Smirks at Alex.

LEVI (CONT'D)

A few days later, she brought it up, said she regretted telling me. She wanted me to forget about it. But how could I? And you know what? She wasn't the only one that was angry. Very angry. So tell me, do you still think you're a tough guy?

ALEX

What you think happened, isn't what happened.

LEVI

I know. He was in on it. I figured it out. But you pulled the trigger. And we haven't heard a word from you in ten. Long. Fucking. Years!

Alex wants to say something but doesn't. Swallows hard. Tightly closes his eyes. They open, tears streaming --

ALEX

There was a time, maybe I thought I was tough. But your dad humbled me. There isn't a day goes by that I don't think about him. His courage, his sacrifice and generosity for my family. He is our hero. I am in awe of him. And I am very sorry for what your family has gone through.

Levi observes Sylvie, allows that to sink in. Alex fraught, poised to act. Levi stands, watches Sylvie, emotional --

LEVI

I don't know if what my dad did was right or wrong. My mom thinks it was wrong. Seeing your daughter... I guess God makes things possible and gives us choices.
(a beat, tears streaming)
I miss him so much.

Sylvie playing with Paloma, LAUGHING, vibrant, alive.

LEVI (CONT'D)

She has the biggest heart. The most beautiful heart.

ALEX

She does.

Levi heads away. On the back of his neck, a tattoo: "COL 3:13 Forgive."

Through eyes clouded with tears, Alex notes Levi's tattoo. Relieved, unburdened, his head drops, he silently weeps.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD - LOLA'S HOUSE - DAY

Levi rides his motorcycle up to Lola's house and parks...

SAM (V.O.)
Last, and most important, choose
love over everything.

The front door of the house opens. Lola emerges. Levi meets her on the front steps. Lola serious, somber --

LOLA
Is he still in one piece?

LEVI
Yes. And will remain so.

They sit, distant. Lola contemplative, thoughtful.

LOLA
That was a long few days. I haven't
stopped crying.

LEVI
I'm sorry, Lola. I never meant to
hurt you.

LOLA
I thought a lot about us. I came to
a conclusion.

She pauses, SOBBING. Levi studies her, braces himself.

LOLA (CONT'D)
Levi, my heart belongs to you! I
love you! And I always will!
(a beat, grabs him)
And it doesn't matter to me if you
get into your master's and become
an architect. I mean, I want you
to, if that's what you want. But I
just want you to be happy.

Levi grins --

LEVI
I got in.

LOLA
What?! You did?! Are you happy?!

LEVI
I'm so happy. And excited. Lola,
you're my forever girl.

Tearful, foreheads together, eyes open, madly in love.

EXT. SILVERTHORNE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Levi and Lola on Levi's motorcycle, ride up and park in front of the house. They get off the bike. Hand in hand, they head across the lawn toward the house. The saplings now mature...

SAM (V.O.)
It is my hope that someday, sooner
rather than later, you will outgrow
any advice I could give you and
blaze a path of your own.

Cass and Grace exit the house and meet them in the yard.

The cherry tree in full bloom. Magnificent.

SAM (V.O.)
My son, my beautiful son, I love
you.

Levi embraces Cass. He pulls out the silver chain and cross.
Holds it up and hands it to her --

LEVI
Can you link this, please?

Overjoyed, tears streaming, Cass links it around Levi's neck.

INT. UCLA DORMS - DORM ROOM - DAY

The dove hops out of its cage and onto the window ledge. It surveys the situation, then flies away.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN/SKY - DAY

A vast abundance of water. The dove flies. Mighty. Free.

FADE OUT.

THE END