

RESCUE 3

"Firestorm"

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"True heroism is remarkably sober...
It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost,
but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

~ Arthur Ashe

First Draft
7/31/12

The Tower 18 Production Company

R E S C U E 3

EPISODE ONE
"Firestorm"

TEASER

BLACK SCREEN

We hear a radio crackle --

RADIO CALL (V.O.)
Rescue 3 -- I repeat this is a
Rescue 3 operation.

BLEEDING INTO THE BLACK SCREEN:

A PATTERN OF RED, YELLOW, BLUE COLORED LIGHTS

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - NIGHT

RESCUE LIGHTS FLASHING ILLUMINATED against the expanse of
black ocean.

CHYRON: OFF THE COAST OF MALIBU

INTERCUT SERIES OF SHOTS ON THE WATER

TIGHT SHOT ON BOW OF BOAT

FULL SPEED crashing through the waves.

A RED SCARAB PULLS INTO FRAME REVEALING

The Starboard side with BRIGHT WHITE LETTERS "FIRE RESCUE -
LOS ANGELES."

Firefighter, ALFONSO RIVERA, thirties, stud-strong with a
kiddish grin, is strapping an emergency rescue kit onto
Firefighter LILLY MADDOX, outfitted in a BLACK HOODED NOMEX
JUMPSUIT that makes her strong physique all the more evident.
HAL DUNNIGAN, fifties, with wisdom behind his eyes, is at the
helm full throttle holding a hand-held radio --

DUNNIGAN
Coast Guard Helo 65, this is Fire
Rescue 3. What's the situation?
Over.

COAST GUARD RADIO RESPONSE (V.O.)
Coast Guard 65, we have a 40 foot
fishing vessel in flames.
(MORE)

COAST GUARD RADIO RESPONSE (V.O.)

First response Coast Guard - rescue swimmer deployed and on board. One victim on inflatable raft in water. We've lost contact with swimmer. Repeat -- we have lost contact. Over.

DUNNIGAN

Fire Rescue 3 10-4.

(a beat)

We're too far out -- best ETA ten minutes. Rendezvous due east. Our position is 114 by 24. Prepare for transfer.

Dunnigan holds the hand-held radio as he powers over the waves.

COAST GUARD RADIO RESPONSE(V.O.)

Fire Rescue 3 and Lifeguard Rescue 3, Coast Guard Helo stand by for rendezvous.

LIFEGUARD/ROBERTSON (V.O.)

Lifeguard Rescue 3 Copy.

A HIGH-SPEED BRIGHT YELLOW LIFEGUARD SCARAB EMBLAZONED IN RED LETTERS "LIFEGUARD RESCUE" comes into frame riding comfortably in Dunnigan's wake.

Red flashing lights reflect off the face of LIFEGUARD BOAT DRIVER CHASE ROBERTSON, mid-twenties, dark, hard, lean "Cowboy Sexy" -- think Brad Pitt in his prime. LIFEGUARD DECKHAND COTTERMAN readying rescue equipment.

DUNNIGAN

Slow and lock at 25 knots.

ROBERTSON

Roger that.

DUNNIGAN

Let's go, go, go...

ON LIFEGUARD BOAT

Robertson pulls out of the wake, up alongside the fire boat as if choreographed.

ON FIREFIGHTER (MADDOX)

Holding the rail hanging off the side of the boat.

ON BOATS

As they align perfectly.

MADDOX

Jumps from the fire boat to the lifeguard boat landing clean.

Just after the landing, a BRIGHT LIGHT FROM ABOVE shines on them. USCG (United States Coast Guard) Dolphin 65 banks dramatically overhead and into position.

COAST GUARD HELICOPTER

Rescue cable swings into view.

CLOSE ON PILOT

ALEXIS BRYANT, thirty, penetrating eyes -- a woman you believe could save your life. She's in full command holding the helo in perfect sync with the boat at 25 knots.

BRYANT

Coast Guard Rescue 3 to Lifeguard
Rescue 3, hold position. Hold
speed. Prepare for hook-up.

LIFEGUARD BOAT

Robertson in full control of the boat moves in perfect sync with Bryant.

MADDOX

Reaches up grabbing hold of the cable.

She clips on to the cable and with thumbs up is hoisted into the air.

THE HELO

Accelerates to 80 KPH with Maddox dangling in the air underneath, leaving the rescue boats in the dust.

ON RESCUE BOATS

As the fire boat pulls behind the lifeguard boat moving faster in the wake. Robertson on the handheld radio.

ROBERTSON

Lifeguard Rescue 3 to Fire Rescue
3, over.

Dunnigan racing across the water.

DUNNIGAN
Fire Rescue 3, go.

ROBERTSON
The rescue swimmer -- it's
Middleton, sir.

Off Dunnigan's reaction --

WIDE SHOT

Billowing black smoke and flames surge from spaces in the engine compartment in the rear of a DEEP SEA FISHING BOAT. The fire is spreading forward. It's a challenge for the Helo to stay high enough to keep out of the smoke and flames.

THE HELO

Lights the chaos below using the high powered "Midnight Sun Spot".

IN THE WATER AN INFLATED RAFT

A MALE VICTIM, with one leg wrapped in a tourniquet, calls out for help.

MADDOX

Drops landing amidships scarcely missing the flames from the aft. Unclipping from the cable, she scrambles down the companionway amidships to below decks.

INT. BURNING BOAT - CONTINUOUS

The cabin is thick with smoke. It's impossible for Maddox to see. All that can be heard beneath the flames are RADIO CALLS coming over a handheld radio. Maddox reaches down finding Middleton's radio.

MADDOX
Middleton! Middleton!

MIDDLETON
Over here!

Maddox moves through the thick smoke toward Middleton's voice. A collapsed bulkhead has both US COAST GUARD RESCUE SWIMMER, ANDY MIDDLETON, late twenties, tough, tattooed and chiseled and a FISHERMAN pinned underneath. Middleton is desperately trying to lift the debris.

Maddox pulls a hand axe from her pack, taking a number of swings cutting through the shards. In the confined space, she only has room to pull one victim out at a time.

MIDDLETON (CONT'D)
Get him outta here!

EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Maddox hands Middleton the axe, then drags the FISHERMAN through the smoke.

The Helo illuminates the scene.

The lifeguard and fire boats arrive.

Robertson dives from the lifeguard boat into the water assisting the victim on the raft.

Dunnigan launches onboard as Maddox exits with the fisherman.

DUNNIGAN
Where's Middleton?

MADDOX
Trapped inside.

Dunnigan, mask ready, scrambles down the companionway barely missing the flames in search of Middleton.

INT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Thick smoke. Flames.

DUNNIGAN
Middleton!

MIDDLETON
Over here!

Dunnigan sees A BEAM FROM THE COLLAPSED BULKHEAD has him trapped. Dunnigan wedges himself under the beam power-lifting it up just enough for Middleton to shimmy out.

DUNNIGAN
Can you walk?

Middleton nods.

As they make their way through the smoke --

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. POINT DUME BEACH - MALIBU - MORNING

It's a spectacular morning on this expanse of pristine beach tucked amid towering bluffs. Crimson shafts of light shoot through the dissipating fog as pelicans dive for breakfast. Waves crash on the rocks as the sun rises.

ON WAVE

Slamming into a cliff exploding.

ANOTHER WAVE

Rushes up stopping just short of A MAN'S FEET laying heels up in the sand. White water everywhere.

ANOTHER WAVE

Washes over his KNEES. No movement.

ANOTHER WAVE

Washes up covering him to the waist. Still no movement. He could be dead.

NEW ANGLE - LONG LENS LOW

The MAN lays face-down with his head buried in his arms crossed over his head. The NEXT WAVE washes completely over him. He stirs.

ON MAN

His head slowly rises. Eyes struggling to open. Slowly he pushes himself to his feet leaving his body imprint next to an empty bottle of pills in the sand.

Meet LIFEGUARD JOHN MATHEWS, 30's, as he stumbles waist deep into the surf.

IN THE WATER

He goes under for what seems an eternity --

FINALLY --

He emerges in the morning light.

PUSH CLOSE

Into Mathews eyes reflecting the golden light.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COAST GUARD "A SCHOOL" - DAY - ESTABLISHING

INT. COAST GUARD "A SCHOOL" POOL - DAY

UNDERWATER

Middleton, ankles bound and hands tied behind his back, bounces off the deep end of the pool and up to the surface for air.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

ABOUT TWENTY "A SCHOOL" CANDIDATES, also tied, bound and jumping, are learning "DROWN-PROOFING." A powerful sight.

TWO INSTRUCTORS and a MEDIC carefully watch the candidates from the side of the pool.

Bryant gets out of the pool in a tight, one-piece bathing suit, even dripping wet she's a thing of beauty (this is the first time we see her out-from-under her Coast Guard pilot helmet). She joins Dunnigan on the pool deck.

DUNNIGAN

You get any rest?

BRYANT

Couple of hours. Just when I was getting to sleep Middleton's snoring woke me up.

DUNNIGAN

You can hear him across the hall?

BRYANT

Have you heard how loud he snores?

DUNNIGAN

Why do you think I don't bunk with him at headquarters. I know to keep my distance if I want any sleep.

ONE CANDIDATE is in the beginning of hypoxia. But Middleton has already seen it and has unbound himself underwater grabbing hold of the distressed candidate hauling him to the surface.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

(eyeing the pool)

Man down.

As the medic takes over, Middleton joins Dunnigan and Bryant.

BRYANT
That was impressive.

MIDDLETON
Yeah, if that bulkhead last night
was only that easy.

BRYANT
You know you can teach without
actually being in-there doing it.

MIDDLETON
Gotta show those youngsters who's
king.

Bryant rolls her eyes - "Right."

MIDDLETON (CONT'D)
(to Dunnigan)
Seriously Hal, thanks again for
last night. It was an adrenaline
rush but a little too close for
comfort.

DUNNIGAN
It's what Rescue 3 was designed
for. Why it's taken so long for
these agencies to get together
really pisses me off.

MIDDLETON
The Coast Guard does still stand
superior.

DUNNIGAN
I think that would be the fire
department.

BRYANT
Hal, you're outnumbered on this
one. Mind you, the Coast Guard also
holds dibbs on having the loudest
snorer.

DUNNIGAN
A snore King.

Middleton smirks.

MIDDLETON
Why do feel a new nickname coming
on?

BRYANT

Don't flatter yourself.

DUNNIGAN

I understand the Santa Ana's are picking up. We're gonna have to rethink today's helo training exercise.

BRYANT

Thank God we didn't have those winds last night -- we may've had a very different outcome.

EXT. BEACH/RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS, MALIBU - MORNING - ESTABLISHING

Sun's up. Wind's blowing. Surf's beckoning.

This isolated beach is paradise. Surfers out among the white caps. Others stripping down. Towels loosely draped.

Palm trees surround an old converted single-story beach house. Two flag poles are adorned. One with our stars and stripes, the other with the California Bear. The house is all windows. A stairway with a ramp descends into the sand. Communications antennas are prominent on the roof.

Outside showers line a saltwater rock pool. Fire and Lifeguard rescue boats are docked in the waterway nearby.

A Coast Guard Helo rests on its pad between the sand and parking lot.

Surfboards, canoes, surf ski's, jet skis, inflatable raft, blades, oars, paddles, a six-man outrigger canoe, and every other conceivable water craft hanging -- decorating the place. It's a waterman's paradise.

EXT. RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS BOAT DOCK - DAY

Maddox and Rivera, in their "Class C" uniforms, black one piece for her and black board shorts for him, are finishing washing the FIRE boat. As they put away the gear, they walk toward the headquarters.

MADDOX

Since I washed the boat -- you should make breakfast.

RIVERA

Are you kidding me? I've already done more than you're gonna do all day. Besides, it's your morning to cook.

MADDOX

But you're a better cook.

RIVERA

I am a better cook -- but everyone's a better cook than you.

INT. RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Bursts of static messages coming over the radio -- "Fire on Catalina contained...", responses, and other radio activity score the scene.

Robertson pours eggshells into a pot on the stove in this Eat-in Kitchen with a TV Room all in one. A real home-away-from-home. Dunnigan walks in.

ROBERTSON

Morning. Coffee?

DUNNIGAN

Not that crap.

Dunnigan pours himself a cup from a nearby coffee pot.

ROBERTSON

There's nothing like my Cowboy coffee.

DUNNIGAN

Then don't let me deprive you of a drop of it.

Rivera and Maddox walk in.

MADDOX

Coffee smells good.

Robertson is stirring a pot on the stove.

DUNNIGAN

(sipping)
It is good.

Rivera turns on to TV. There's a report on the Catalina fire.

REPORTER (TV SCREEN)
The Catalina fire appears to be
contained.

RIVERA
(to TV)
Don't forget to tell that to the
fire.

He channel surfs.

ROBERTSON
Cowboy coffee coming up.

RIVERA
Not that again.

MADDOX
You trying to kill our appetite?

ROBERTSON
Your cooking is what kills
appetites.

MADDOX
Touche.

DUNNIGAN
There's a fresh pot of regular just
brewed.

MADDOX
Thanks.

RIVERA
We gotta add the soccer channel to
our cable package.

MADDOX
All you do is watch soccer.

RIVERA
If I wanted someone to tell me what
to do I'd be married.

MADDOX
Rivera -- just make breakfast.

RIVERA
It's your day for breakfast.

ROBERTSON

That thought is enough to kill my
appetite. I'm already in the
kitchen, I'll make breakfast.

MADDOX

I'll make eggs -- even I can't mess
that up.

ROBERTSON

Yes you can!

RIVERA

Yes you can!

DUNNIGAN

I'll be in the office.

Exiting, he stops and turns --

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

Debrief last night's rescue
thirteen hundred -- all hands
please.

INT. RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS OFFICE - MORNING

A high tech communications room overlooks surfers in
paradise. Dunnigan sits sipping coffee writing in an official
looking log book. Mathews walks in. Dunnigan doesn't look up.

MATHEWS

Don't you ever get tired of writing
in that darn log?

DUNNIGAN

How are we gonna learn and get
better if we don't document our
mistakes? Had a rescue last night
and we made some big ones -- need
to document it while it's fresh.
Already have thoughts on how to do
it better.

(looking up)

You look like hell.

MATHEWS

Haven't had my coffee yet.

DUNNIGAN

You don't drink coffee!

Mathews gives him a smile.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

Let's go!

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN - DORY - MORNING

Blades hit the water pounding.

TIGHT ON GLOVED HANDS

On oars.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

Dunnigan in the stern. Mathews in the bow. Perfectly synchronized, they row like they've been doing it together for years. They have.

MATHEWS

What happened last night?

DUNNIGAN

We have to develop a better communication system. Hand-held radios just don't do it any more. These agencies are doing a great job of working together -- we just gotta find a better way to communicate.

MATHEWS

If there's a way -- you'll find it.

DUNNIGAN

I'm counting on you to help me with that.

MATHEWS

What're you talking about? That's not my thing.

Dunnigan stops rowing. Shipping his oars behind him, he pivots turning to face Mathews.

DUNNIGAN

It's time for me to retire.

MATHEWS

You can't quit. Rescue 3 has been your dream for years -- now it's real.

DUNNIGAN

I'm not quitting. I'm retiring. Big difference. Should have done it five years ago -- but I stayed to make sure this program happened. It's up -- and it's working. Now I need someone to step in who cares like I do.

MATHEWS

Does anyone know about this?

DUNNIGAN

Lois knows -- that's all that matters.

They sit in silence. Dunnigan turns back grabbing his oars, he starts to paddle.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

It's been a year and a half since your back surgery John -- and almost a year since Elizabeth died.
(a beat)

Make this your motivation to get off those painkillers.

With a strong stroke of the oar --

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

I've been enabling you.

MATHEWS

You gotta be kidding me.

DUNNIGAN

You need to be responsible for something.

MATHEWS

How can you be sure that more responsibility wouldn't make me more dependant on the pills?

DUNNIGAN

Cause I know you. Pills have become your crutch. I've supported you because I saw they were necessary. But now I only see a friend who may be in trouble. Let's fix this together.

(a beat)

I can't let you compromise the program.

(MORE)

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

If anyone found out you'd be put on light duty. That would kill you.

MATHEWS

Which is what I believe retirement would do to you.

DUNNIGAN

I gave her my word. It's what I'll do.

There is a moment of silence except for their oars hitting the water.

MATHEWS

You're serious?

DUNNIGAN

I'm serious.

(a beat, lightening the tone)

Of course if you're not interested, I know Gallagher would love to take over.

Dunnigan doesn't even have to see Mathews face to know that would strike a chord, a bad one.

Off Mathews reaction --

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. HEADQUARTERS - SHOWER - DAY

Dunnigan and Mathews in outdoor shower after row. Dunnigan appreciates the view of a few bikini-clad California girls walking by. A LIFEGUARD in uniform is close behind them. Mathews nods.

MATHEWS

I don't know why Gallagher's always hanging around here.

DUNNIGAN

He wants to be part of the team. Should I tell him he can come lead this thing?

Mathews rolls his eyes --

A FINE TUNED MILITARY-STYLE HORN SOUNDS OVER AN INTERCOM SYSTEM (This is their non-specific alert designed by Dunnigan.) A COMMANDING, SINCERE FEMALE VOICE FOLLOWS (This will be consistent for all calls to Rescue 3.)

FEMALE V.O.

Alert - Rescue 3! This is a Rescue 3 Alert. All units report to the flight pad.

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS - DAY

MUSIC MONTAGE

Bryant, Middleton, a MECHANIC and CO-PILOT COAST GUARD team pull on FLIGHT SUITS and JUMPSUITS and HELMETS; Middleton gathers a hooded wet-suit, fins and mask. Pilot and Co-Pilot don survival life vests.

Dunnigan, Maddox, and Rivera getting partly dressed into their NOMEX fire-fighting suits and gathering their helmets, lightweight BREATHING EQUIPMENT and HIP PACKS with fire-fighting TOOLS.

Mathews pulls on a special BILLABONG V-1 flotation WET-SUIT.

We see EACH OF OUR CREW MEMBERS STRONG AND LEAN in their uniforms that are a mixture of yellows, reds, and blues all bearing the RESCUE-3 LOGO along with each respective rescue agency logo.

TIGHT SHOTS

Emergency gear and tools are placed into packs.

HANDHELD RADIO/GPS are removed from racks and slipped into pockets or clipped on to flight suits.

IN SLOW-MO OUR RESCUE HEROES walk side-by-side directly at camera towards the waiting CG HELO on the flight pad. Helmets, tool bags and gear frame their silhouettes.

Robertson in the control room motions to them as the rotors start to spin.

All crew getting into and buckling up in rescue lift harnesses.

Bryant pilots the helo airborne with a CO-PILOT next to her.

ON HELO

Heading across the waves over the open ocean toward the Initial Point (I.P.) drop site in the Catalina forest.

END MONTAGE

INT. COAST GUARD HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

OUR CREW

Watching below from the spotter's windows. Catalina in the distance.

MADDOX

Where's your pullover?

RIVERA

I've already got a mother, Maddox.

Dunnigan has a white board going over the plan.

DUNNIGAN

Here's what we know. A wind shift caused spot fires to break out in several spots on the island. All members of the Catalina fire department are deployed containing the fire. A girl scout troop was evacuated from a camp site on the Trans-Catalina Trail. Part of the group was on a hike and didn't make it out.

(pointing to camp site)

(MORE)

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

We've pinpointed an Initial Point for our drop from the GPS of the cell phone of the distress call. There are seven missing. Rivera, Maddox and Mathews will drop with me. Coast Guard will stand-by. We'll be the only rescue unit on site.

BRYANT

We're thirty seconds out from the I.P. Prepare to deploy.

They all give a thumbs up.

ON CHOPPER

The MECHANIC at the doorway ready to assist as our foursome stand ready to deploy.

RESCUERS POV

Concentrated smoke from the forest below surrounding an open rocky clearing.

COAST GUARD HELO

Swoops down to a slow hover five feet off the ground in the rocky clearing. One by one our team dismount.

EXT. CATALINA/HELO/RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS - INTERCUT

ON THE GROUND

Girl Scout leader, JO ADAMS, runs frantically to our foursome.

JO

Thank God you're here. I need help! Colby -- I can't find her.

DUNNIGAN

Calm down. Tell me your name?

JO

Jo.

DUNNIGAN

Okay Jo, how many others are with you?

JO

(emotional)

There are seven of us.

(MORE)

JO (CONT'D)

We were hiking and -- my daughter --
I can't find my daughter. She's
only nine.

DUNNIGAN

Please try to stay calm -- we're
gonna help you find her but we need
the facts. Where are the others?

JO

They went toward the ridge trying
to get to safety. But my baby...

A CALL FROM RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS COMES IN OVER THE HANDHELD
RADIO--

ROBERTSON (OVER RADIO)

Rescue 3 this Robertson, do you
read?

MADDOX

(into radio)

Rescue 3 this is Maddox, copy.

ROBERTSON (RADIO)

I'm picking up an emergency
distress call half mile due east
from your drop zone. Over.

MADDOX

(into radio)

Copy that. Half mile due east,
we're on our way.

DUNNIGAN

Must be the others.

MADDOX

Rivera and I are on it.

Dunnigan marks their current position on his GPS. The others
do the same.

DUNNIGAN

Rendezvous back here at the I.P.
for pick up. Be careful.

Maddox and Rivera make their way through the smoke filled
forest.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

Where did you last see Colby,
ma'am?

JO

I was leading a hike. She was with the group -- she must have fallen behind. What kind of mother am I? My daughter is lost and alone.

DUNNIGAN

It's not your fault. Let's find her. Can you lead us to where you were hiking?

She points. They move in that direction.

JO

Colby! Colby -- it's mom!

DUNNIGAN

(into radio)

Rescue 3 Helo, this is Dunnigan. Do you copy?

BRYANT (ON RADIO)

Copy Rescue 3.

DUNNIGAN

We have a missing nine year old girl in the I.P. Vicinity. Request you do a widening circle search pattern from the I.P. at 500 feet altitude.

BRYANT (ON RADIO)

Copy that. Commencing outbound search of the area.

COAST GUARD HELO

Makes a dramatic swoop. Bryant and the Co-Pilot in the cockpit, Middleton hanging out the open door, scour the ground below for the missing girl. Nothing.

BRYANT (CONT'D)

(to Co-Pilot)

Nothing, too much smoke. Switch to FLIR.

The Co-Pilot activates the FLIR CAMERA mounted near the nose, an INFRARED IMAGE of the terrain appearing on the dashboard MONITOR. HEAT VISION of SMALL ANIMALS fleeing for safety are seen, but no humans.

BRYANT (CONT'D)

(to Co-Pilot)

I'm going up, increase our range.

As he nods, she pulls back on the collective, the helo rising...

CLIFF'S EDGE

Maddox and Rivera, using the GPS on their radios, end up on the edge of a cliff overlooking a 30 foot drop to the water.

MADDOX
(into radio)
Rescue 3 to headquarters, do you read? Over.

ROBERTSON (RADIO)
Rescue 3 headquarters, copy.

MADDOX
(into radio)
We are at the edge of a cliff. No sign of the victims. Over.

Rivera spots a cell phone propped up against a rock and picks it up.

RIVERA
A cell phone -- has an application that's set on a distress mode. Someone programed it to signal for help.

Rivera looks over the edge of the cliff.

RIVERA (CONT'D)
They either jumped, fell or turned back.

RIVERA AND MADDOX POV

Of the water below. No one in sight.

MADDOX
(into radio)
Rescue 3 alert. We could have victims in the water. Over.

ROBERTSON (RADIO)
Copy that. Will get eyes on. Have rescue swimmer ready to deploy.

RIVERA
If they didn't jump why'd they leave their phone?

They hear a faint call and turn back.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
 Help! Please someone help us!

Through smoke, they run toward the voice.

VICTIM'S POV

Through the smoke comes the image of two firefighters bigger than life in full gear. Heroic.

The woman, GLORIA, has a severe burn on her leg. She's with ten year old HANNAH who's curled into a fetal position, afraid and unable to breath.

GLORIA
 Thank God. We heard the chopper and
 prayed you were coming for us.

Maddox kneels beside her looking at her injury.

MADDOX
 You've got a pretty bad burn.

GLORIA
 I'm not worried about me. I can't
 get Hannah to move.

Rivera tends to Hannah.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
 We got cut off from the fire trying
 to get back to the others. There
 was this huge wall of smoke -- we
 didn't think we were gonna make it.
 Hannah's having a hard time
 breathing.

Rivera turns on the O2 flow from a pony bottle of oxygen attached to his rescue pack. He places the nasal cannula on Hannah helping her breath.

Maddox opens her trauma kit treating Gloria's burn with gel, then wraps it with a bandage.

MADDOX
 (to Gloria)
 What happened to the others?

GLORIA
 Two of the kids jumped into the
 water so one of the volunteers
 jumped after them.

RIVERA
 We've gotta get you two back to
 I.P. for pick up.

As they move --

MADDOX
 (on radio)
 Rescue 3, this is Maddox, do you
 read? Over.

ROBERTSON (RADIO)
 Copy Rescue 3, go. Over.

MADDOX
 (on radio)
 Confirming three victims in the
 water by the distress call. Repeat,
 three victims dropped to the water.
 We have two victims and are heading
 back to I.P. Over.

ROBERTSON (RADIO)
 Copy that.

EXT. CAVE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The Coast Guard Helo has widened its air search covering the
 land and coast. The rescuers are scanning the ground and
 water below for signs of life. The CAVE'S ENTRANCE is right
 at the water line and HIDDEN FROM VIEW.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Logs and water are rushing toward the entrance of the cave.
 Deep inside, CHARLIZE (CHARLEY) FRAZER, eighteen, an All-
 American California leggy blonde, struggles to hold up ten
 year old, KATE, who is unconscious. Eleven year old, ANNIE,
 swims into the cave pushed by the current and debris.

CHARLEY
 What are you doing in here? I told
 you to stay outside on the rocks
 where you were safe.

ANNIE
 I was scared out there by myself.
 Is Kate dead?

CHARLEY
 No she's not dead.

ANNIE
 We're all gonna die aren't we?

CHARLEY

We're not gonna die, Annie. I just wish you had listened to me and stayed out there where it was safer.

Charley struggles to hold Kate afloat.

ANNIE

I thought we were gonna die in the fire but now it looks like we're gonna all drown in here.

CHARLEY

We're not gonna drown -- I'm almost a lifeguard.

ANNIE

Almost? If you're not even a lifeguard we're really doomed in here.

Charley doesn't respond sizing up the situation.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

How're we gonna get out of here?

CHARLEY

One thing at a time. Right now my concern is stabilizing Kate's neck. Grab that branch floating behind you.

Annie grabs the branch handing it to Charley. Charley takes off her T-shirt (a bikini top underneath.) She pulls a swiss army knife from a pack around her waist cutting her T-shirt into long strips. The water is pulling Annie under.

CHARLEY (CONT'D)

See if you can make your way over to the rocks and secure yourself.

The tide easily pushes her back deeper into the cave where she grabs hold, securing herself on a jagged rock. Charley has placed the branch behind Kate's head stabilizing it. Using the T-shirt strips she ties it securely in place.

ANNIE

What are you doing?

CHARLEY

I'm making a "C" collar to stabilize her neck.

ANNIE

How do you know how to do that?

CHARLEY

I learned it in cadet training.

ON COAST GUARD HELO

Bryant at the controls.

ROBERTSON (RADIO)

Rescue 3 helo, we have confirmation
of three victims in the water.
Repeat, three victims in the water.

BRYANT

Copy that Rescue 3.

The helo circles widening its search heading for the water --

RESCUE 3 HQ

Robertson is manning the radio. A number of visual screens
flash information in front of him including the FLIR from the
Coast Guard Helo as well as a television.

ON TV

REPORTER ON TV

Firefighters on Catalina Island are
working to contain the fire that
has now grown out of control. There
is chaos at the local dock with
people trying to flee the island.

NEAR THE I.P. ZONE

Dunnigan and Mathews searching for lost girl. Mathews sees
something on the ground picking it up

MATHEWS

A water bottle.

Jo starts to cry. Her breathing is becoming obstructed.

JO

It's Colby's. I bought it for her
for this trip.

DUNNIGAN

Calm down. She must be close.

Dunningan picks up his handheld radio.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)
 (into radio)
 Headquarters, this is Dunnigan.
 Please coordinate water drop
 200 yards due north of the I.P.

The radio crackles.

ROBERTSON (ON RADIO)
 Copy Rescue 3. Will forward your
 request.

Jo is becoming more overwhelmed with anxiety.

JO
 (trying to yell)
 Colby!

DUNNIGAN
 (becoming her voice)
 Colby!

IN THE CAVE

Kate regains consciousness as Charley is tying the last
 bandage around her. She tries to move panicking.

CHARLEY
 Calm down Kate. You fell and hurt
 your head.

KATE
 (starting to cry)
 I can't move.

CHARLEY
 That's okay -- just do your best to
 stay still for me, okay?

KATE
 I want to go home. I want my mom.

CHARLEY
 Me too, Kate...me too...

The waves are surging into the cave, slamming into them.
 Charley is doing all she's got just to hold on.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CATALINA - DAY

INSIDE CAVE

Annie hangs on to the jagged rocks. Charley fights to hold Kate afloat.

ANNIE

We're gonna die aren't we? No one will ever find us in here.

CHARLEY

Fire and rescue workers are all over the island with the fire -- it's only a matter of time before someone finds us.

ANNIE

But no one knows we're in here.

CHARLEY

Which is why I wanted you to stay outside.

Kate starts to cry.

KATE

I don't want to die.

CHARLEY

We're not going to die.

(to Annie)

I'm sorry Annie. I shouldn't have said that. It's just --

KATE

Please get us out of here.

CHARLEY

We're gonna get out.

(working to distract the girls)

I have to be home tonight. I have my senior prom.

Kate continues to cry.

CHARLEY (CONT'D)

(trying to distract Kate)

Do you like dresses that sparkle?

Kate nods.

ANNIE

I do too.

CHARLEY

For prom, I have the sparkliest dress you've ever seen.

KATE

What color?

CHARLEY

It's pale lavender with iridescent sequins all over it. It's like a princess dress.

KATE

Sounds pretty.

COAST GUARD HELO

Hovers outside the cave entrance. Bryant scans the water below. The cave entrance is now hidden completely by the rising tide.

BRYANT

Where are they?

INSIDE CAVE

Charley hears the Coast Guard Helo outside the cave.

ANNIE

What's that noise?

CHARLEY

A sweet sound to my ears. It's the Coast Guard. I've gotta let them know we're in here.

Charley, holding Kate steady, maneuvers her over to the rocks where Annie is holding on.

CHARLEY (CONT'D)

I need your help. I need you to hold Kate steady. Can you do that?

Annie nods.

CHARLEY (CONT'D)

Hold her here, under her shoulders and neck.

Annie takes hold while keeping herself wedged in the rocks for support.

CHARLEY (CONT'D)

This is really important. You can't let go of her. Can you do that?

ANNIE

Yes.

Charley tries to swim toward the cave entrance only to be shoved back by the surging waves. She grabs hold of the rocky wall, pulling herself with all her strength to the opening. The current is pushing against her with incredible force. Debris rushing toward her. She pulls out her swiss army knife.

CHARLEY'S POV

The Coast Guard Helo hovers overhead. A circle of rotowash kicking underneath.

She pulls out the largest blade, using it to reflect the sun sending the chopper a signal.

ON HELO

Middleton sits in the open door.

MIDDLETON'S POV

Spotting the reflection.

MIDDLETON

Hold hover! Got a flash from the mouth of what might be a cave. Could be our missing kids. Can you slide slip in closer? I'll deploy and assess. Stand by with the stokes.

Middleton pulls off his headset replacing it with his dive mask.

Bryant lowers the helo giving him a thumbs up. He drops into the water below swimming for the cave.

Charley swims back in to the girls.

CHARLEY

Help is coming.

Middleton swims into the cave. A large log comes barreling at him. He ducks.

ANNIE

Help! Over here! Help!

Middleton swims to them.

MIDDLETON

I'm a Coast Guard rescue swimmer.
I'm going to get you out of here.
Is everyone okay?

CHARLEY

We have a possible neck injury.

Middleton sees the makeshift neck brace.

MIDDLETON

You did this?

CHARLEY

Yes sir.

MIDDLETON

Good job.

ANNIE

She's almost a lifeguard.

MIDDLETON

I'm gonna have to get a stokes
basket.

(to Charley)

You gonna be okay to stay here and
hold her in place?

CHARLEY

I'm fine.

MIDDLETON

(to Annie)

I'm gonna take you with me. Can you
swim?

ANNIE

Yes sir.

He clips an inflated life-vest on her. He pulls out a radio
strapped to his chest.

MIDDLETON

(into radio)

Rescue 3 Helo this is Middleton, I
need a stokes, coming to you with
Victim 1 of 3. Over.

BRYANT (RADIO)

Rescue 3 copy.

Holding Annie, Middleton hugs the wall of the cave fighting the current while fending off debris. As he makes his way to the mouth of the cave --

EXT. CATALINA - DAY

Maddox is in the lead plunging into smoke so thick they can't see in front of them. Rivera is carrying Hannah who's almost unconscious. Gloria is coughing hard.

GLORIA
I can't breath.

Maddox takes out a water bottle handing it to her.

MADDOX
Drink some of this.

GLORIA
How can you see where we're going?

MADDOX
GPS on my radio. Hold on -- we're almost there.

In the near distance --

ECHOES (O.S.)
Colby! Colby!

MADDOX
(into radio)
Coast Guard Rescue 3 this is Maddox, do you copy?

IN HELO

BRYANT (ON RADIO)
Maddox, this is Rescue 3, over.

MADDOX
We're approaching the I.P. site with two victims. One with a burn, the other smoke inhalation. Requesting ETA of chopper. Over.

BRYANT
ETA unknown. Waiting for victims being extracted from cave. Over.

RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS

Robertson in high alert manning the communication board as the tv broadcasts --

REPORTER ON TV

We have been told there are seven people missing from a Santa Monica based Girl Scout Troop, Troop 77. Four of the missing are children...

FOREST

A grey plume of smoke fills the sky. Dunnigan and Mathews can see the fire about a half mile away moving steady. Jo is getting weaker.

JO

(mumbling)

Colby! Colby my baby where are you?

DUNNIGAN

(to Mathews)

Did we just get a wind shift?

MATHEWS

I think we did.

DUNNIGAN

(into radio)

Code 3 headquarters, this is Dunnigan. We have a shift in the wind. The fire is less than a quarter mile away. Where the hell is that water drop?

The radio crackles.

ROBERTSON (ON RADIO)

Copy Rescue 3. No water drop available, sir.

THROUGH THICK SMOKE

Rivera and Maddox with their victims move rapidly to the I.P. The area is covered with thick brush slowing their movement.

OCEAN

Annie is being hoisted into the helo. Middleton frantically swims back into the cave with a stokes basket.

INSIDE CAVE

The water is rising. Charley struggles to keep Kate afloat, holding her steady. Charley watches as water surges around Middleton strapping Kate into the basket.

CHARLEY

I'm sorry. I did all I could. I know I was responsible for these girls. I'm so sorry.

MIDDLETON

Looks you did an excellent job.

KATE

She has to get home soon because she has prom tonight.

MIDDLETON

Don't you worry -- I'm gonna get you both home as soon as I can.

(to Kate)

I'm gonna swim you out. It's gonna be a little rough. I need you to be brave.

(to Charley)

Here's what I need you to do. Hold on to the back of the basket for me. You're gonna kick with all you've got -- and I'm gonna kick with all I've got.

(to Kate)

I need you to trust me.

Tears stream from Kate's eyes as they move.

MIDDLETON (CONT'D)

Let's go!

Middleton pulls the stokes thru the water kicking on his back. Charley swims alongside helping pull the floating stretcher.

As they try to move forward, the current starts to pull them toward the rear of the cave. They move ahead 20 yards and are pushed back 30. Water pounds over them. They all gasp for air.

FOREST

Dunnigan looks across the canyon at the fire moving rapidly.

DUNNIGAN

(into radio)

All units Rescue 3 -- the fire has turned up slope. Move to the I.P. We've got to get out!

BRYANT (RADIO)
Copy Rescue 3, this is Bryant --
standing by for major trauma
extraction. ETA to your I.P.
unknown.

Off Dunnigan's reaction --

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. CATALINA - DAY

INTERCUT

CAVE

Middleton and Charley try to push out of the cave through the invisible line of force. Once again they are pushed back - forced underwater. As they surface, a large log comes at them, Middleton ducks to miss being hit.

MIDDLETON

Watch for the break and give it all
you've got.

The water pounds against them, then as it moves back out --

MIDDLETON (CONT'D)

Let's go.

They make it through the barrier being tossed and pulled, drinking salt water.

I.P./DROP SPOT

Dunnigan, Mathews, Rivera, Maddox, and our three victims are at the drop spot.

DUNNIGAN

(into radio)

Rescue 3, we are critical now,
what's your ETA?

BRYANT (RADIO)

ETA less than thirty seconds.

Flames are surging around them on three sides. Smoke is so thick there is barely visibility.

DUNNIGAN

Prepare for first extraction!
Injured go first.

Maddox grabs Hannah and Gloria.

MADDOX

Let's go.

HELO

Comes in dropping basket. Maddox helps Hannah and Gloria on. They are lifted to safety.

The fire is moving in fast. The basket comes back down. Mathews and Maddox are trying to get Jo into the basket.

JO

Nooo! Nooo! My baby! I've got to help her! Colby! My baby!

MATHEWS

You can't go down there.

JO

I can't leave my baby! Nooo!

She tries to break free, screaming. Mathews puts a lock grip on her hooking his arms around her waist. It takes both of them to contain her. Maddox gives a thumbs up. They are all three hoisted off the ground.

JO (CONT'D)

No! Let me go! Let me go! Colby! My baby --

ON THE GROUND

The smoke is blinding.

DUNNIGAN

(to Rivera)

I hear something.

Rivera listens, shaking his head.

RIVERA

(shouting)

I don't hear anything! Let's go!

But Dunnigan turns towards the approaching smoke, straining to hear. He points.

DUNNIGAN

Out there!

And then we HEAR it too, a FAINT CRY, barely audible above the roar of the fire, a LITTLE GIRL'S VOICE.

He charges off into the thick smoke.

RIVERA

Dunnigan!

MATHEWS POV

From the helo of Dunnigan's yellow NOMEX firefighter suit moving away disappearing into the smoke.

MATHEWS

Dunnigan!

Dunnigan fighting his way through the THICK SMOKE.

DUNNIGAN

(fighting to breath)

Colby...Colby!

He stops, his eyes burning in the acrid smoke, trying to control his breathing. He listens... Again through the ROAR of the approaching fire he HEARS the faint HUMAN CRY. He fights on, heading towards where he thinks the sound is coming.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

(gasping)

I'm coming, Colby, I'm coming!

He moves on quickly being swallowed up by the thickening SMOKE, his yellow NOMEX suit slowing fading from sight.

DUNNIGAN (V.O.)

(faint; receding)

Colby! I'm coming! Colby!

Dunnigan emerges into a forested area, trees burning, smoke obscuring nearly everything. He pauses, listening.

DUNNIGAN

Colby!

And then, nearby, a faint CRY, closer now.

COLBY (V.O.)

(faint)

Help me!

There is a giant roar as the fire crests the ridge above him. It's flowing down the canyon like water -- converging from two sides, it will cut him off any second.

With the fire at his back, Dunnigan follows the voice to the edge of a shallow ravine. Entering the burning grove of trees, he SEES COLBY frozen in fear from the approaching fire. He charges after her, quickly taking her in his arms.

DUNNIGAN

It's okay, I've got you!

He turns fighting his way back up the ravine, holding Colby close to his chest. Charging through the smoke, the ROARING FIRE close behind.

CLOSE ON DUNNIGAN'S EYES

We see in his eyes the fighter he has been all his life, the determination never to quit that has made him a warrior and a hero, and he's not about to quit on this one.

BACK IN SCENE

Suddenly from behind a horrendous CRASHING SOUND.

ON FLAMING TREE

Plummeting towards them.

BACK IN SCENE

He throws Colby ahead of him as the flaming trunk crashes down, pinning his legs to the ground. He struggles to free himself but it's no use, he's trapped.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)
Run Colby! Run straight ahead!
Don't look back!

Colby, terrified, hesitates.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)
Run Colby! Just like I told you! Go
-- your mom is waiting for you!

She hesitates, then turns running into the smoke, disappearing from sight.

Desperately Dunnigan fights to pull himself from the flaming tree using the last of his strength, the flames begins to surround him, it's the fight of his life...

SMOKE WIPES frame

Back to Rivera on the ground.

HELO'S POV

Nothing but thick smoke when suddenly --

COLBY APPEARS IN THE SMOKE.

COLBY
(coughing)
Mooooommm! Help me Mommie! Help!

ON THE GROUND

The fire storm is racing straight toward them.

IN SLOW MOTION taking in the horrifying details --

Rivera runs grabbing her. He reaches back grabbing his fire shelter shaking it open. The wind almost pulls it away from him.

Supporting Colby with his arm, he lifts her into the bag. He gets in with her in the shelter built for one, cocooning her with his body.

HELO

Rises to avert the flames.

ON THE GROUND

Rivera drops into a depression in the ground pulling the shelter over Colby's head. He doesn't fully fit into the bag with her.

The roar of the blaze is deafening. Rivera shields his head with his arms as the fire races over them.

HELO'S POV

The area engulfed in flames.

IN HELO

JO
(sobbing)
No! No -- my baby!

MATHEWS
Don't look!

Off all of our crews and victims reactions --

Everyone stares blankly at the disaster below.

As the dust settles, the chopper circles, everyone in shock and anguish.

HELO POV

A cloud of smoke rises from the flames. Bits of ash drift down.

Circling back to the drop site all that is visible on the ground are ashes.

BRYANT'S POV

Through heat vision goggles -- slowly, something begins to move. The prop wash from the chopper blows away the ash to reveal Rivera emerging like a phoenix rising from the ashes holding Colby.

IN THE COCKPIT

Cheers of joy as the helo starts to lower down. Jo cries out with relief.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
Where's Dunnigan?

THE HELO

Hovers close to the ground. Maddox pulls Colby aboard. As Mathews and Middleton grab Rivera helping him in --

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
Where's Dunnigan!

Mathews jumps out of the helo --

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Dunnigan! Dunnigan!

There's nothing but scorched forest. Nothing.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
Where is he?
(screaming)
Dunnigan! Dunnigan!

He frantically runs searching, screaming --

IN THE HELO

Jo grabs her daughter holding on for dear life.

Maddox sees that Rivera, in shock and covered in ash, has been severely burned.

MADDOX
Oh my god! Rivera!

One of the girls throws up as Maddox starts frantically working on him. From the look on her face we know he is in bad shape.

ON THE GROUND

Mathews continues to run -- searching, screaming.

INSIDE HELO

The radio crackles.

EVERYONE INSIDE WAITING TO HEAR -- and then Mathews voice --

MATHEWS (V.O.)

(defeated)

I found him. I found Dunnigan...

(a beat)

He's gone.

Over the crews reactions...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. HOSPITAL

Mathews, holding onto Dunnigan's charred helmet, stares through a glass window at Rivera in a hospital bed. Rivera's head and upper body are bandaged. Maddox, Bryant, and Middleton are huddled nearby. Robertson with them. A DOCTOR walks out of Rivera's room.

MATHEWS

How is he?

DOCTOR

He has third degree burns on over forty percent of his body. He's lucky to be alive. We've given him something for the pain. He's sleeping now.

They are all in shock. Experiencing too much pain for one day.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You should all go home -- get some rest. Come back tomorrow. He's got a rough road ahead, he's gonna need all of your support to get through this.

They all stand in silence as the doctor exits. Finally --

BRYANT

I know we all need some time alone to process all of this. But we should debrief as soon as possible.

MADDOX

It's what Dunnigan....

MATHEWS

Tomorrow...

ROBERTSON

And tonight -- the call's gone out for the swim...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Charley is coming out of a treatment room heading down the hall. Middleton joins her.

MIDDLETON

Charley, how're you doing?

CHARLEY

The doctors say I'm okay, but I don't feel okay.

MIDDLETON

Something hurt?

CHARLEY

No. Nothing physical. I just feel like I'm in a daze.

MIDDLETON

I'm with ya. We've all been through a lot today. I wanted to ask you if you'd mind coming by our headquarters tomorrow. Be a part of our debrief. You were instrumental in the rescue effort today.

CHARLEY

Sure.

MIDDLETON

What you did out there was amazing. Turns out Kate did have a neck injury. Doctor said your actions saved her life. You should feel really good about that.

CHARLEY

I don't feel too good about anything right now.

MIDDLETON

What about your prom, that should take your mind off of things.

CHARLEY

I don't have any desire to go any more.

MIDDLETON

Maybe being around friends is what you need.

CHARLEY

I don't know, I don't even have time to go back and get ready.

MIDDLETON

I'll tell you what -- text your friends to bring your stuff and pick you up at headquarters. I'll get you there.

Off Charley's nod --

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E HELO/BEACH/HEADQUARTERS PARKING LOT - NIGHT

MUSIC MONTAGE

A SERIES OF SHOTS

Charley in the back of the Coast Guard Helo with Middleton. Bryant is piloting. A series of shots -- Charley in the outdoor shower, pulling her wet hair back tight into a bun. The limo waiting in the parking lot. A GIRLFRIEND with her dress and makeup. Charley putting it all on in the parking lot.

Middleton watching as she steps out in her beautiful sparkly lilac princess gown. Her DATE giving her a flower. They take a picture on their cell phone.

As they get into the limo, pulling away --

END MONTAGE

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A BLACK SCREEN comes to life with flashing silver streaks. It resembles our opening red and yellow emergency lights bleeding into the black frame... but different.

WIDEN AND PULL BACK TO REVEAL

The darkness of the ocean's surface is illuminated by rays from the moon sending a shimmering light across the water.

A HAND

Breaks the still of the glassy water cutting into the calmness.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

A SWIMMER powering through the frame. FOLLOWED BY --

ANOTHER SWIMMER and ANOTHER --

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

A MASS OF SWIMMERS heading out to sea through the moon-lit water.

Settling into the darkness, the swimmers gather in a large circle, treading water. Only their heads visible.

TILT UP TO REVEAL

Mathews with a tear in his eye. Next to him, Maddox, Middleton, Bryant and Robertson all part of the circle completed by other lifeguards, Coasties and firefighters. At least 50 of Dunnigan's closest comrades about a half-mile off shore.

This solemn ceremony, one of the most revered traditions in "the service," always takes place immediately after one of their own dies on duty. It is the time for all to gather and memorialize their comrade, learn of the circumstances of his death and cry together in a venue where tears can be washed immediately away with salt water...

As the circle tightens --

MATHEWS

Swims to the center of the circle. Immediately surface-diving and disappearing into the depths below.

UNDERWATER

Mathews, with something in his hand, swims straight down into the lens and by camera.

UNDERWATER LOOKING UP

We see the circle of swimmers above on the surface, their silhouettes outlined by the moonlight.

ON MATHEWS

Reaching the bottom of the ocean, leveling, he ignites a BRIGHT RED MAGNESIUM FLARE, a brilliant explosion of light illuminating everything.

ABOVE THE WATER

From twenty feet below, the glowing light begins to rise toward the surface, directly in the center of the circle where Robertson descended. The entire circle of comrades is illuminated from below in a brightening REDDISH light... eerie and magical all at the same time. It's as if a circular rainbow were ascending from the depths.

MATHEWS

Breaks the surface, holding the FLARE high above his head illuminating the faces of our team. He then drops the flare letting the blazing light slowly return to the bottom, the symbolic birth and return to the sea for a man who has loved and respected it his entire life.

As the flare reaches the bottom, A FIRE RESCUE boat comes onto the scene from the open ocean. A HUGE GARRISON FLAG (the largest flag made) waves from a pole in mid-transom of the boat. A LIGHT SHINES UP on the flag. The boat makes a 360 degree turn around the "Circle of Friends" disappearing back into the darkness from which it came.

The Coast Guard Helicopter suddenly illuminates the area with it's MIDNIGHT SUN SPOTLIGHT hovering over our circle. The chopper turns the water below totally white shining the searchlight down.

We see each of our characters close-up as the rotor wash of the helo wipes the tears from their eyes and they raise their arm in a final military salute of respect for a man who will be dearly missed.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

Arms in the air, together they take one last deep breath and in unison dive deep into the ocean leaving only the white rotor wash of the helicopter remaining on the surface.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END