



Episode #2

"IN REMEMBRANCE"

written by
Tanquil Lisa Collins

RESCUE 3
"In Remembrance"

Written by
Tanquil Collins
And
Gregory Bonann

September 3, 2012

Tower 18 Productions
P.O. Box 514
Malibu, CA 90265
(310) 562-4769

R E S C U E 3
"In Remembrance"

TEASER

OVER A BLACK SCREEN

The SOUND OF OARS in their locks. Repeating rhythmically.

FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - PRE-DAWN - ESTABLISHING

In the pre-dawn light, the glassy deep blue water turns into textured ripples.

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - SAME TIME

An OAR BLADE RIPS VIOLENTLY INTO THE CALM WATER.

MOVE UP THE BLADE

To an OAR LOCK, then --

A HAND

Gliding the oar.

MUFFLED FADED ECHOES --

MAN'S VOICE/DUNNIGAN (O.S.)
I need someone to step in who
cares...

THE OAR

DIGGING MORE VIOLENTLY

MAN'S VOICE/DUNNIGAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'm counting on you...

TILT UP TO REVEAL

JOHN MATHEWS, wet with sweat, burrows his oars with all he's got hoping to somehow mask a haunting pain that's much deeper than physical.

PUSH TIGHT

Into Mathews eyes, as we --

FLASH POP TO:

FLASHBACK

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - DAY

Blades hit the water pounding.

TIGHT ON GLOVED HANDS

Powerfully rowing oars.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

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

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

MATHEWS POV

A DISTORTED GHOST-LIKE IMAGE of HAL DUNNIGAN looking directly at him.

DUNNIGAN

You need to be responsible...

BACK IN SCENE

EXT. OPEN OCEAN

For the first time we see Mathews in the bow seat ROWING a TWO MAN DORY ALONE.

ON EMPTY STERN SEAT IN FRONT OF HIM

Where Dunnigan always sat. SHIPPED OARS and Dunnigan's ROWING GLOVES (FROM FLASHBACK ABOVE) are on the seat.

MALE VOICE/DUNNIGAN (O.S.)

Make this your motivation...

Mathews stops rowing, staring at the empty seat, as if to reassure himself that Dunnigan really isn't there.

WIDE SHOT

A lone Mathews begins again his fierce row, circling around a RED BELL BUOY adorned with lounging SEA LIONS.

ON MATHEWS FACE

The water reflecting an eerie glow across his tormented expression.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HELO - FLASHBACK (OVER EMOTIONAL SCORE)

TIGHT ON MATHEWS FACE

The same eerie glow as he watches the ground below engulfed in flames. The roar of the blaze is deafening. Sounds and visuals from THE NIGHT DUNNIGAN WAS KILLED.

EXT. CHARRED MOUNTAIN

IN SLOW MOTION Mathews jumps out of the helo --

MATHEWS
(screaming)
Dunnigan! Dunnigan!

There's nothing but scorched forest. Nothing.

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

He frantically runs searching, screaming into the thick smoke.

FADE TO BLACK.

END FLASHBACK - BACK IN SCENE

EXT. WATER'S EDGE - DAWN

A WAVE RUSHES in carrying the DORY.

ON BOW OF DORY

CRASHING into the sand. The sand stops it hard.

A HAND

Grabs the bow piece USING ENORMOUS STRENGTH dragging the vessel 15 feet up onto the BERM.

WIDE SHOT

Mathews, from the back, rowing gloves in one hand carrying four oars walks away from the dory he's left on the beach.

EXT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Mathews approaches headquarters as the AMERICAN FLAG IS BEING RAISED. Mathews stops dead in his tracks.

ON FLAG

Being raised ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP, THEN SLOWLY LOWERED TO HALF MAST.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS LOCKER ROOM - LATER

A SERIES OF TIGHT SHOTS

Black pants. Belt. White shirt. Tie. Brass buttons. Cuff links. Brass name plate.

Mathews stands in front of a FULL LENGTH MIRROR -- HIS IMAGE IS REFLECTED BACK for the first time in his CLASS "A" UNIFORM. All looks perfect until --

He takes his cap from the top shelf of his locker revealing a bottle of painkillers. He picks up the bottle, then tosses it back. No more. He puts on his cap, pausing for a brief moment, then closes his locker exiting.

HIS EXIT REVEALS

A LOCKER with DUNNIGAN'S NAME PLATE. The GLOVES (DUNNIGAN'S) that were in the empty seat in the dory, hang from a hook just below his name.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. GROSSMAN BURN CENTER - RIVERA'S ROOM - DAY

ALFONSO RIVERA lays sleeping in a hospital bed. Bandaged beyond recognition, he's attached to an array of tubes and a monitor displaying his vital signs.

CHARLEY FRAZER, 19 year-old fresh-faced All American blonde, is setting up an iPad next to his bed.

CHARLEY

(whispering)

I know you're sleeping Alfonso, but if you should wake up -- I've set this iPad so you can see the service for Lifeguard Captain Dunnigan? It starts at ten. All you have to do is touch the screen. I'm Charley, I was on the rescue with you. I'm a cadet lifeguard.

(a beat)

If you sleep through the service -- I'm recording it, so you can watch it later.

EXT. HEADQUARTERS BEACH - DUNNIGAN'S MEMORIAL - DAY

The parking lot is filled to capacity with a rainbow of RED, WHITE, YELLOW, AND BLUE VEHICLES.

A STAGE is set with the ocean as it's backdrop. A LARGE WREATH with "DUNNIGAN" hangs in front of the podium. An easel displays a LARGE PHOTO OF HAL DUNNIGAN. Resting on a table, Hal's ashes are displayed in a RED URN adorned with his FIRE HELMUT and BADGE placed alongside a collage of photos of Hal both personal and in all forms of service -- NAVY SEAL, LIFEGUARD, and FIRE UNIFORMS.

A HARPIST, playing Amazing Grace, sets the mood. Programs are being distributed and seats are filling with BANDS of UNIFORMED FIREFIGHTERS, LIFEGUARDS, COAST GUARDSMEN, and NAVY MEN. All are dressed in their respective CLASS A UNIFORMS.

Their usual camaraderie of backslapping and jokes replaced with solemn handshakes and embraces.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

A WHITE SUV with RED "RESCUE 3" INSIGNIA ON THE DOOR is parked next to headquarters. LILLY MADDOX is behind the wheel. LOIS DUNNIGAN, wearing a royal blue dress, in the passenger seat.

MADDOX

I don't know how you're finding the strength Lois. I...

Her emotions take over and she can't speak. Lois takes Lilly's hand in hers.

LOIS

I imagine it's like you when you face danger, you rise -- you do what you have to do. Somehow the strength comes.

Lilly nods, then exits, walking around opening the door for Lois.

LOIS (CONT'D)

I see John. I'd like to see him for a moment before the service.

RESCUE 3 CREW MEMBERS ANDY MIDDLETON, ALEXIS BRYANT and CHASE ROBERTSON are near the front.

ROBERTSON

I've never seen so much brass.

BRYANT

Shows how respected Hal was.

MIDDLETON

Pretty amazing.

Robertson nods toward headquarters. Middleton turns to see --

MATHEWS

Exiting headquarters, stops to take in the incredible scene.

Mathews feels someone take his arm from behind. It's Lois.

MATHEWS

You're just who I needed to see about now. You look lovely.

LOIS

Hal loved me in this color. Always said it made my eyes bluer.

MATHEWS

I can see that.

LOIS

Lilly picked me up. I wanted to stop to see Alfonso on the way but she was worried about traffic on the PCH.

MATHEWS

You're amazing. Even at a time like this, you're thinking of someone else.

(a beat)

How're you holding up?

She nods.

LOIS

He just wanted to be cremated. No casket. No fanfare.

(clenching her teeth to control her emotions)

He left me detailed instructions in case this should ever happen.

MATHEWS

Why am I not surprised? I can see him now writing up instructions for his own funeral in that journal of his.

Lois smiles.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

This memorial is for all of us as much as it is for him. We need to honor him -- have some kind of closure.

(a beat)

It's still not real to me. I just can't stop thinking about it.

LOIS

(squeezing his arm)

Time...

As they pass through the sea of heroes. ALL EYES ARE ON THEM, both feeling and sharing their pain. A feeling of admiration and respect for Mathews, Lois and more importantly -- Dunnigan permeates the scene.

LOIS (CONT'D)

He wanted his ashes dropped at sea, Johnny. Can you help me with that?

MATHEWS

I'll take care it of.

Maddox joins Middleton, Bryant and Robertson who are seated in the second row just behind A SEAT RESERVED for Lois.

Mathews takes Lois to her seat. Robertson reaches out to touch Mathews shoulder as he walks by. Their eyes lock, no words needed.

They all get up embracing Lois. Bryant hugs Mathews.

BRYANT

(supportive into Mathews
ear)

You ready for this?

Mathews nods.

IN THE BACK OF THE MASSIVE CROWD, Charley, is behind a WEBCAM recording.

EXT. BEACH DUNNIGAN'S MEMORIAL - CONTINUOUS

SIX BOATS representing FIRE, LIFEGUARD and COAST GUARD move in a slow procession up the beach parallel to the shore.

A LINE OF FIRE TRUCKS MOVE IN A SLOW PARADE single file from north to south towards the crowd from the parking lot.

Pelicans fly overhead as Mathews walks to the podium. Hesitating for a moment, he eyes the crowd.

MONTAGE MUSIC OVER SPEECH

MATHEWS

(Clearing his throat)
Please excuse my papers --
(holding up pages)
I just want to get this right...

He shuffles the papers in his hand, anxious.

TIGHT SHOT

Of Charlie behind the camera filming.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

...Cause frankly it's one of the
most important things I've ever
done.

MATHEWS IMAGE

Framed in the lens of Charlie's camera.

CUTAWAY

INT. GROSSMAN BURN CENTER - RIVERA'S ROOM - SAME TIME

The heavily bandaged Rivera wakes up. He spots the iPad on the bed next to him. A LARGE YELLOW POST-IT READS: TOUCH THE SCREEN TO WATCH

Rivera touches and the memorial instantly comes onto the screen.

EXT. BEACH - DUNNIGAN'S MEMORIAL - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON LOIS

Showing great strength.

MATHEWS (V.O.)

Lois, I know you've suffered a tremendous loss -- we all feel it and share it with you. I know that's evident from the circle of support here today.

CLOSE ON MATHEWS

At the podium.

MATHEWS

We're all here to honor the life of Harold Robert Dunnigan. I suppose he represented something different to each of us -- lifeguard, firefighter, SEAL, husband, mentor, hero, friend. To me, he was just Hal.

PAN Hal's FIRE HELMUT, BADGE, and UNIFORMS.

MATHEWS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

When I tried to imagine what I might say today - all I could come up with were questions.

CUTAWAY - FLASHBACK

Mathews on the beach with note pad writing his speech.

MATHEWS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

How do you honor a man who changed your life?

(MORE)

MATHEWS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
How do you sum up a life so fully
lived in a few choice words...

WE PAN

The photo collage of Dunnigan.

TIGHT ON MATHEWS EYES

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
I met Hal my first day at BUDS
seventeen years ago. He was my
instructor. And fortunately for me,
when I became a member of SEAL Team
3, he became my team leader. I've
known him my whole adult life and
no one has been a bigger influence
on me.

REACTIONS

From each of our Rescue 3 team.

MATHEWS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Eleven months ago, on the beach
just around the point, Hal stood by
my side as I scattered my wife's
ashes.

CLOSE ON LOIS

MATHEWS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He encouraged me to keep going.
That hasn't always been easy.

Mathews at the podium.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
He reminded me often that,
"Vulnerability isn't weakness. It's
strength."

ON CHARLEY

Clearly touched as she films Mathews.

TIGHT ON HER WEBCAM

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
Hal and fellow fireman Alfonso
Rivera heroically answered a call
in the Catalina fire last week.

As we --

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GROSSMAN BURN CENTER - RIVERA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rivera, listening in obvious pain, his eyes the only thing visible under the bandages.

MATHEWS (V.O.)

Eight year old, Colby Adams, was missing. Her mother was beside herself with fear.

BACK TO:

EXT. BEACH - DUNNIGAN'S MEMORIAL

JO ADAMS hugging her daughter, COLBIE.

MATHEWS (V.O.)

It was because of Hal's God-given instincts, and Rivera's selfless act, that Colby is alive today.

On Mathews at the podium.

MATHEWS

Hal saved lives. Mine is one of them.

On Lois, wiping her eyes.

MATHEWS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He held us accountable. He challenged us.

TIGHT MADDOX FACE

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

EXT. CAMP 8 FIRE ACADEMY - MALIBU - DUSK

TIGHT ON MADDOX EYES

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

A gentle breeze rustles through the trees surrounding Maddox who sits alone in a dark blue uniform looking out at the expanse of ocean below. Even this high you can hear the sound of the crashing surf below. Dunnigan joins her.

DUNNIGAN

So that's it. You're just gonna quit?

MADDOX

I had no idea what I was getting in to.

DUNNIGAN

Why are you here Maddox? Are you here for yourself or someone else? Cause if you're here for your parents or to impress your boyfriend -- you should quit. It's too tough.

She continues staring at the ocean below.

DUNNIGAN (CONT'D)

But if this is what you want -- then you better man up. From the moment you came to this camp I saw something in you. Something most don't have.

(a beat)

At the end of the day, we all have to be responsible to something -- you gotta have a purpose. It's what gives life meaning. If you quit now, you're the one who has to live with that decision. You better make sure it's the right one.

BACK TO:

EXT. BEACH - DUNNIGAN'S MEMORIAL

Maddox shuffles in her seat as she focuses on Mathews at the podium.

ON MATHEWS

At the podium.

MATHEWS

Hal loved the bond of men and women who served as a team. He believed that everything we do, we do for the person on the right of us -- the person on the left.

ROBERTSON gazes out at the water reflecting a dozen shades of silver. Seagulls scatter along the surf.

MATHEWS (V.O.)

His motto - "Every man has a job to do. Every man is a link in the chain. Every man serves the whole."

ON BRYANT

MATHEWS (V.O.)

He knew that when we gathered around him to plan a rescue, we were going out to face life and death stakes - aware of the harsh reality, any one of us may not come back.

ON MADDOX

MATHEWS (V.O.)

Rescue 3 was Hal's brainchild. He knew the importance of interagency cooperation. Being a SEAL, working in fire, water, air -- he felt it was only natural that lifeguards, coast guard and firemen join together to improve lifesaving efforts.

ON AMERICAN FLAG

With the blue sky and ocean as it's backdrop waves in motion as if in perfect partnership with the wind.

MATHEWS (V.O.)

Hal hand-picked each one of us -- we are his legacy now.

PAN

The Rescue 3 team reactions.

MATHEWS (V.O.)

Hal loved his job - and when his shift was done, he loved going home.

CLOSE ON LOIS

MATHEWS

Hal won't be going home again. For that, I feel like I failed my friend.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
(looking toward the water)
I say goodbye to my mentor, my hero
-- the father I never had.

Mathews steps away from the podium.

MONTAGE CONTINUES OVER ECHO TAPS

FOUR HONOR GUARDS IN DRESS BLUE UNIFORMS stand motionless alongside the podium. One soldier holds a folded AMERICAN FLAG with care in his white gloved hands. TWO HONOR GUARDS pull out CEREMONIAL BUGLES that are tucked under their arms.

THE BUGLES

Are raised as the hallowed notes of TAPS begin to echo --

The crowd stands.

The TWO OTHER HONOR GUARDS move in precision gently unfolding the American flag pulling it taut. They begin re-folding it in 13 smooth folds. On the last fold --

ONE SOLDIER walks over stopping in front of Lois. He kneels in front of her, holding the folded flag waist high with the straight edge facing her. His lips move. Only faintly in the music do we hear --

HONOR GUARD
...a grateful nation...

The Honor Guard extends the flag to Lois, then rises to attention and salutes.

ON FIREMAN

RINGING A FIRE BELL once, the sound echoing out over the waves.

As the sound of the bell dies, it is replaced by the unmistakable noise of helicopters

THREE HELOS

A FIREBIRD, A CDF SUPER HUEY, AND A COAST GUARD HELO come over the hill. One by one, each lowers, hovering. Each then curtsies (DIPS), then pedal turns flying away together.

SIX RESCUE BOATS

In single file slowly motor into the open expanse of ocean.

THE FIREBOAT

Peels off alone in the MISSING MAN FORMATION.

END MONTAGE

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HEADQUARTERS GREAT ROOM - A DAY LATER

The dining table is running over with food. Robertson is making a plate. Mathews is pouring himself coffee. Maddox, Bryant and Middleton walk in.

MATHEWS

Coffee?

MIDDLETON

Love some.

BRYANT

I've never seen so much food. Let me guess -- Mrs. Dean.

ROBERTSON

Yep. She's gonna miss Hal as much as anybody.

BRYANT

He had such patience with her -- taking her blood pressure every other day when she dropped by.

MIDDLETON

Eating her rubbery quiche.

BRYANT

I can't believe there's an investigation today.

MADDOX

There's always an investigation.

ROBERTSON

Especially if there's a death.

BRYANT

B couldn't they wait a few more days?

MATHEWS

No. They do it as soon as possible while it's still fresh in the minds of everyone involved.

BRYANT

Who actually will be interviewing us?

MIDDLETON

An Incident Review Board. They'll have representatives from all the agencies as well as City DA, Councilman and Supervisor. They're looking to see if there was any negligence or violations to safety rules.

MATHEWS

I know one guy who would love to shut Rescue 3 down. So he's gonna be looking for any reason to. Just treat it like one our debriefs.

(a beat)

I'm gonna head over to the hospital -- see Rivera. I'll be back in time for the hearing.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GROSSMAN BURN CENTER - DAY - ESTABLISHING

INT. GROSSMAN BURN CENTER - RIVERA'S ROOM - DAY

A bandaged Rivera lays in a hospital bed. A DOCTOR is looking at his chart.

DOCTOR

I'm going to up your morphine. It'll make you sleep more but right now that's what you need to heal. The next few days are critical to make sure no infection sets in.

Mathews at the door, hears the doctor, pausing.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You're going to be enduring even more pain when we start skin grafts in the next few days. Your mental state is key. You've got a long road ahead of you Alfonso. Cartilage melts, there's severe damage to your nose and ears. You're going to need a number of surgeries. You won't be fighting fire again.

On Rivera -- his eyes barely visible through the bandages.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

You're going to need a lot of support.

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I know this is a lot to take in. I can have someone come in for you to talk to.

Rivera's eyes move to Mathews entering.

MATHEWS

Hey buddy.
(to doctor)
Am I interrupting?

DOCTOR

No. I was just on my way out. I'll check on you later today Alfonso.

MATHEWS

Thanks Doc.
(to Rivera)
I hear you've made it through the first critical time.

Rivera nods.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

The service for Dunnigan was this morning. Charlie said she set you up to watch.

Rivera's eyes are full of water.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

I can only hope we can all find some closure. We've all got a rough road ahead emotionally -- and I can't even imagine what you're going through.

The tears now spill from Rivera's eyes.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

So help me I don't know why this happened. You. Dunnigan. I keep thinking there was something I could have done.

There's a long silence.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

We're all gonna be here for you, every step of the way.
(a beat)
I have to head back to headquarters for the debrief investigation. I'll be back tonight.

As Mathews starts to exit --

RIVERA
(barely audible)
I'm not done yet.

Mathews turns walking back to his bed side.

MATHEWS
I couldn't hear you.

Rivera looks up with desperation in his eyes.

RIVERA
I gotta come back.

Mathews touches his bandaged hand.

EXT. RESCUE 3 HEADQUARTERS - DECK - DAY

Mathews joins Bryant, Robertson, Middleton, Maddox, and Charley on the deck.

MIDDLETON
How's Rivera?

MATHEWS
He needs motivation. The doctor doesn't think he'll ever make it back. Too much physical and emotional trauma. We've got to do everything we can to be there for him.

ROBERTSON
He's dealing with the worst kind of pain and it's only the beginning.

MATHEWS
Which is why we want to keep him motivated to keep fighting - give him a reason to come home. How would you feel if a doctor told you that you'd never save another life?

They react in silence.

MADDOX
We should set shifts to be at the hospital for him.

BRYANT
I can make a chart based on our schedule here.

They all nod.

MATHEWS

(to Charley)

Thanks for being here, Charley. Since you were part of the rescue and a cadet lifeguard, I thought it was important.

CHARLEY

I'm happy to help in any way I can. And sir, I've known for years I wanted to be a lifeguard. But never more than at Dunnigan's service -- hearing your words.

MATHEWS

Thanks Charlie. And thanks for setting up the Webcam for Rivera. I know he wouldn't have wanted to miss Dunnigan's memorial. I just saw him but forgot to ask if you were able to work out a way for him to interact in this review?

CHARLEY

It's all taken care of. He'll be able to text his responses directly to my computer.

MATHEWS

Great.
(to others)
You guys ready?

They head inside.

ROBERTSON

(to Mathews)

You okay?

MATHEWS

I can't let go of this. Part of me is still on that island surrounded by fire. I feel like there was something I could have done.

Robertson puts a hand on Mathews shoulder as they go inside.

INT. HEADQUARTERS MEETING ROOM - DAY

The Rescue 3 Team enter. THE REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS consisting of: SUPERVISOR HUBBELL, COUNCILMAN CLAROS, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL RESCUE OPS & USAR CHIEF RINK, COAST GUARD AIR STATION SAN FRANCISCO & SAR CHIEF STURGELL, and SANTA BARBARA LIFEGUARD CHIEF BECK sit with solemn faces observing. DEPUTY DA PATRICK gestures Mathews and the others toward empty chairs. Charley sets up her webcam and laptop.

CHARLEY

I'm just setting up the feed so that firefighter Rivera will be part of this. He'll be able to tap his screen to text in any responses.

Patrick nods as Rivera, in his hospital bed, appears on the laptop screen.

PATRICK

This is a formal hearing, and what you say will be recorded. I know you've all suffered a great loss and I'm sorry you have to go through this. Just try to relax and answer my questions as best you can remember. A line-of-duty death has occurred. It's important for us to learn what each person saw.

The Rescue 3 Team, now forced to recall a very bad time, sit quietly, listening, but looking off in various directions. Only Charley looks directly at the interviewer who wastes no time getting started.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

Let's begin with the moment you jumped off the helicopter. Did you understand where your safety zone was?

ALL

Yes, sir.

Rivera's "Yes" response comes on the screen.

BRYANT

Dunnigan had predetermined our IP.

Mathews eyes a clock on the wall -- this could be a long ordeal.

MATHEWS POV

Of wall clock displaying 2:03.

BACK IN SCENE

PATRICK
Who was IC?

ALL
Dunnigan.

PATRICK
Was IC always in command and
communication with each member of
the rescue team?

Mathews sits in silence listening to the others recounting each moment before his friend got lost in a wall of flames. He feels like he's in a distorted dream - having to relive the nightmare on Catalina one more time.

INSIDE MATHEWS HEAD POV

The clock on the wall is ticking loud. LOUDER. LOUDER. He sees each of his teams faces blurring as they answer questions.

PATRICK (V.O.)
(muffled, echoing)
Where was Dunnigan at that time?

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

EXT. CATALINA - I.P./DROP SPOT - DAY (FROM FIRST EPISODE)

Dunnigan, Mathews, Rivera, Maddox, and THREE VICTIMS are at the drop spot. Flames are surging around them on three sides. Smoke is so thick there is barely visibility.

DUNNIGAN
Prepare for first extraction!

BACK IN SCENE

INT. OFFICE

Mathews stares blankly at Patrick. He's a blur, his questions seem to all run together garbled.

PATRICK

What happened next? Where was each man on your crew?

TIGHT ON MATHEWS EYES

Haunted by the memory.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CATALINA - I.P./DROP SPOT - DAY (FROM FIRST EPISODE)

The Helo comes in dropping basket. Maddox helps HANNAH and GLORIA (Victims) on.

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

JO

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

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 --

MATHEWS POV

From the helo of Dunnigan in his yellow NOMEX firefighter suit moving away and disappearing into the smoke.

Patrick's voice echoing -

PATRICK (O.S.)

Why was no one in communication with Dunnigan? Why did he run back into the fire?

BACK TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Charley is watching the computer screen.

CHARLEY'S POV

On the computer screen typed words appear: "We heard a voice yell for help."

CHARLEY
(reading aloud)
Alfonso's response -- We heard a
voice yell for help.

All of our Rescue 3 team are stunned. They are learning this for the first time. Dunnigan heard the little girl call for help!

Patrick's voice seems like an echo --

PATRICK
Was it clear to the team who was in
command?

Suddenly --

All of the Rescue 3 TEAM'S CELL PHONES begin to beep with a TEXT ALERT snapping Mathews out of his trance.

They all reach for their phones reading the same message.

MATHEWS

Takes a moment to gather his thoughts, then stands.

HIS TEAM

Immediately surround him.

MATHEWS
Bryant get in the air and get all
video up and online -- you are my
eyes. Robertson, get on the water
and call Chief Frazer. Ask him to
pull guards from the towers.
Rendezvous in the water for pick-
up. Maddox -- coordinate with
Gallagher -- get the engine and
roll all available back-up -- 88's,
70's, 71's. I'll meet you at IC.

As they're moving --

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
The tide's rising -- be ready to
triage in the water and E-Vac by
air.

As they exit, Mathews turns to the board.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)
Excuse us.

On Charley taking it all in as the whole Rescue 3 team is gone.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

OVER BLACK SCREEN

We hear the STRUM OF HELICOPTER BLADES. FAINT. GROWING LOUDER AND LOUDER.

FADE IN:

EXT. SKY OVER OCEAN - AFTERNOON

Through the spinning blades of the helo, we see the CHURNING WHITE WATER below.

The Rescue 3 Chopper hovers in the air near a cliff by the ocean.

INSIDE THE HELO

Bryant is at the controls next to a CO-PILOT. A MECHANIC, in the back sits next to Middleton who's positioned next to the starboard doorway ready to hit the water.

BRYANT'S ARIEL POV

The scene below is chaos. Rescue vehicles with flashing lights adorn the Pacific Coast Highway. A TRACTOR AND FRONT AXLE OF A BIG RIG teeters on the edge of the cliff 30 feet over enormous boulders resting beside the ocean. The cab has come to a rest on its side DRIVER'S SIDE UP. From the cliff, there is no access to the beach, it's too steep. The only way to the cove below is via the water.

In front of the big rig, there's a mangled guard rail where cars were pushed over the edge. A BLUE FORD TAURUS is on it's side on the beach directly under the 18 Wheeler. About thirty feet away, a GREEN SUV is upside down in the surf line.

ON HELO

Middleton, in full rescue gear, is in the doorway. The Mechanic gives him 3 taps to his helmet and -- HE DROPS OUT TO THE WATER BELOW.

EXT. ACCIDENT SITE - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT RESCUE SHOTS in, on, & around the water

A SERIES OF ECU'S (EXTREME CLOSE UP'S)

Sirens. Screams. Emergency lights flashing. Rescue workers scurrying with equipment. Smoke and dust fill the air. Confusion. More emergency vehicles arriving.

CARS are slowing along the road looking to see what happened.

Mathews, at IC (Incident Command), perched near the cliff a safe distance from the dangling 18 Wheeler. He stands at the back of the White Rescue 3 SUV opened displaying video monitors, maps, charts, and various equipment. A fire engine close by, Maddox and several FIREFIGHTERS are at his side.

MATHEWS

Close PCH north bound at Temescal
and South bound at Sunset.

The firefighters move.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

(to Maddox)

Move the engine into position and
cable off the big rig.

Maddox moves to the engine as Mathews picks up the radio.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

(on radio)

Rescue 3 this is Mathews. Request
Robertson to hit the water.
Rendezvous with Middleton to access
the situation. I don't want anyone
else on that beach!

ON MADDOX

And another FIREMAN CABLING THE RIG.

ON MATHEWS

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

(on radio)

Bryant -- I need the see the
situation inside that cab. Who's in
there and their condition?

ON BRYANT

BRYANT

(into headset)

Roger that.

INSIDE HELO

Bryant nods to the Co-Pilot.

ON HELO

Moving toward the rig.

THE RESCUE 3 SCARAB

With SIRENS FLASHING arrives at the scene. Robertson, standing on the starboard side gunnel, is holding onto the bridge ready to go.

A JET-SKI AND SLED (LARGE BOOGIE BOARD)

Follow in the ocean just behind them.

ROBERTSON

Dramatically dives off the boat swimming to shore.

ON SHORE

Middleton comes out of the water running to the Green SUV laying upside down. Inside a WOMAN, bleeding from her forehead and unconscious, is strapped upside down into her seat belt. Waves are raging into the car filling it with water.

MIDDLETON

(into headset)

I'm at car 1, green SUV. One female victim, bleeding from her forehead and unconscious.

Middleton reaches in taking her pulse while checking out the inside of the car for any others.

A LARGE PINK DUFFLE BAG is jammed behind the seat. No sign of anyone else.

MIDDLETON (CONT'D)

(into headset)

Very weak pulse. Possible neck injury.

INSIDE HELO

The Co-Pilot is controlling a NOSE-MOUNTED VIDEO CAMERA. Watching the monitor in the helo, he maneuvers the joy stick capturing the inside of the cab for Mathews.

AT IC

Mathews, with Maddox, eyes the screen in front of him.

ON VIDEO FEED

A MAN inside the cabin is alive, conscious, but injured.

ON BRYANT

Observing the same scene with Maddox.

MATHEWS (V.O.)
He's alive with no way out.

BRYANT
(into headphone)
Looks like he needs some help.

As the Helo hovers --

AT IC

MADDOX
Let's swing the ladder over the cab
and get him out.

MATHEWS
What are the risks?

MADDOX
(a beat)
If the truck goes -- everything may
go with it.

MATHEWS
Too risky.

BELOW ON THE BEACH

Robertson approaches the blue Taurus. Driver's side down. Windshield shattered. Passenger door crushed in. SCREAMS OF FEAR echo from the car. A MAN, with his arm waving out of the partly open passenger window is trying desperately to pry the door open.

MAN
(screaming in Spanish)
¡Ayuda! ¡Ayuda! La puerta no se
abre! Mi esposa no se puede mover!
¡Ayuda!
(Help! Help! The door won't open!
My wife can't move! Help!)

Robertson looks up seeing the rig ready to come down on them.

He gets to the car and looks inside.

Besides the man in the passenger seat, A WOMAN is pinned under the dashboard. TWO SCARED CHILDREN are in the back seat.

The man sees him and screams again.

MAN (CONT'D)

Por favor, ayúdanos! La puerta no se abre! Mi esposa no se puede mover!

ROBERTSON

I'm sorry sir, I don't speak Spanish. Stay calm. I'm gonna get you outta there!

IC

ROBERTSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(over radio)

I'm at the second car -- a blue Taurus positioned directly under the big rig. Four victims. Two adults, two minors. Injuries. Door won't open. Need C collar, basket and Jaws of Life and back-up, sir.

MATHEWS

(into radio)

Go!

IN THE WATER

Lifeguards dive into the water swimming to shore followed by the jet ski and sled.

IC

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

Bryant, I need you to air lift Jaws of Life Spreader and cutter to Robertson on the beach.

BRYANT (V.O.)

Roger that.

INSIDE GREEN SUV

Water surges in and through the SUV. Robertson maneuvers himself in the upside down car fighting the rushing water. He works to place the C Collar around the woman's neck. He fights to hold her up as he unbuckles her seat belt. The belt is tangled around her. Water continues to rush over them. He pulls a knife out of his bag cutting the seat belt to free her.

BACK-UP LIFEGUARDS join helping him get her out of the car.

ON THE BEACH

While protecting her neck and head, lifeguards carry the unconscious woman to the shoreline where the jet ski and sled are waiting.

ON JET SKI

Slowly motoring the victim to the boat.

ROBERTSON

Runs to the cliff face to assist Middleton.

IC

MADDOX
(calling out to Mathews)
Rig's leaking gas.

MATHEWS
Lay down retardant.

MADDOX
Affirmative.

Maddox gives a go sign to the firefighters.

ON FIREFIGHTERS

Spraying the cab and around the rig and hillside with a white foam.

AT TAURUS

Middleton looks up at the rig seeing the retardant being sprayed aware of the eminent danger.

MAN
Sácanos - por favor salvar a mi
familia!
(Get us out - please save my
family!)

MIDDLETON
Te vamos a salir.
(We're gonna get you out.)

HELO

Steadies in the air dangling a cable.

A FIREFIGHTER

Attaches the JAWS OF LIFE to the cable.

IC

MATHEWS

Jaws of Life in route. Pick up on beach 20 yards due east to avoid disturbing hillside.

ROBERTSON (V.O.)

Roger.

MATHEWS

(into radio)

You guys remember how to use 'em or should I send a firefighter down too?

ON MIDDLETON AND ROBERTSON

MIDDLETON

(into radio)

We're proud members of Rescue 3, sir. We know exactly what to do.

ROBERTSON

(to Middleton)

I'll go for the Jaws.

ROBERTSON

Takes off down the beach.

SUDDENLY --

There's a JARRING THUD as the FIRE TRUCK starts slipping with the Big Rig pulling the engine toward the cliff!

ON THE FAMILY

In the Taurus react in horror.

MIDDLETON

Looks up at the rig.

ON RIG WHEELS

Skidding toward the cliff.

ON MATHEWS AND MADDOX

Looking at each other knowing...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. ACCIDENT SITE - LATE AFTERNOON

MATHEWS

(to Maddox)

Get me a double harness.

(into radio)

Bryant, pick me up and take me over
the cab.

ON TAURUS

MIDDLETON

(to the people in the car)

¡Vuelve! (Get back!)

Middleton and Robertson work in sync with the Jaws of Life
prying the door open.

The two children are pulled out from the back seat and handed
off to the other rescuers. The father is pulled out to
safety.

INSIDE THE TAURUS

Middleton puts the C Collar on the woman. Then using the
Spreader, they open the dashboard, freeing her legs. They
work together lifting her out placing her on the sled now
used as a stretcher.

ON PCH

The engine's wheels SCREECH, sliding slightly again.

IC

Mathews reaches up grabbing hold of the cable. He clips it
onto his harness.

MATHEWS

(yelling to Maddox)

You have command! As soon as I'm
clear with the driver and all the
victims and rescuers are off the
beach - cut the cable.

(into headset)

Ready!

He is hoisted off to cherry pick the driver out of the cab.

MADDOX

Moves into control.

MADDOX

I want another engine over here
asap! Cable it to the rig.

IN THE AIR

Bryant swings Mathews out and into the wind for a careful and deliberate approach to the cab. Once over the cab, he's slowly lowered down.

MATHEWS

(to driver)

Hold on. I'm gonna get you out. Are
you injured?

The diver shakes his head no.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

Carefully put this harness over
your head and under your arms. Then
move toward the window slowly.

As the truck driver does what he was told, the rig starts to
slides just as --

CABLES

Are attached to the rig from the second engine securing the
rig.

MATHEWS

Clips the man's harness to his own.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

(into headset)

Ready to go!

WIDE SHOT

Of the two men being hoisted slowly up and out dramatically
skimming over the cliff to safety.

ACCIDENT SITE

Mathews and the man are lowered to the ground. Rescuers take
the man from Mathews. Maddox is right there.

MADDOX

Good job.

Just as everyone breaths a sign of relief --

Over the radio we hear --

ROBERTSON (V.O.)
Mom from van is conscious -- says
there's a baby in the car. Repeat --
there's a baby in the back set.

MATHEWS
Bryant, take me down there.

ON THE BOAT

MIDDLETON
I looked -- I didn't see anyone in
there.

Middleton jumps up. Robertson follows. They hit the water
swimming to shore.

WIDE SHOT

As Bryant takes Mathews for the ride of his life dangling and
spinning twenty feet under the helo delivering him right next
to the SUV. Water is surging all around it.

MATHEWS

Unclips himself from the cable signaling Bryant to clear the
scene.

A SERIES ON SHOTS IN AND AROUND THE SUV

Mathews surveys the upside down half-submerged SUV. He falls
to his knees crawling inside.

Inside the SUV underwater, he does a visual and physical
inspection reaching out with his hands feeling. Nothing
there.

CLOSE UP

Mathews squinting underwater looking around. No mask. No
goggles. He's blinded by the sting of the salt water in his
eyes.

Mathews moves to the top of the water line surfacing for air
in the front. Looks around. Nothing.

He maneuvers his way to the back, moving the pink duffle bag
that's trapped between the front and back seats.

Afraid that his worst fear, finding the baby underwater,
might be a reality. He goes down. Looks. A blur. Feels. Again
NOTHING.

He hears --

MIDDLETON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Robertson and I are here to help.
I'm coming in.

Mathews rolls over onto his back and breaks the surface to get a breath.

Overhead A BLANKET, half wet and half dry dangles from above. Mathews reaches up pulling the blanket down to reveal -- an UNCONSCIOUS BABY, in a car seat wedged sideways facing up.

MATHEWS
(calling out)
I found the baby! I'm gonna pass
him to you underwater.

As Mathews unclips the baby from the car seat, Middleton's hands appear to take him.

Middleton takes the baby underwater and turns to hand him off to Robertson through the window.

Robertson emerges with the baby who immediately STARTS TO CRY. The sound is music to the ears of Middleton and Mathews as they emerge right behind him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

A television screen broadcasts the local news.

NEWS ANCHOR
The scene last night on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu looked like it was right out of a Hollywood blockbuster when an 18 Wheeler crashed pushing cars over the cliff almost going over itself. Thanks to Rescue 3 -- a new multi-agency rescue unit here in Southern California, the rescue went off without a hitch.

DA Patrick walks over to the TV turning it off.

INT. HEADQUARTERS GREAT ROOM - KITCHEN - MORNING

Robertson has an ice pack on his back at the table watching the local news broadcast.

Maddox is making pancakes. Middleton is leaning over her shoulder with a fork grabbing them right off the griddle eating them almost as fast as she's making them.

MADDOX

Stop eating them all. You're not getting any at the table.

MIDDLETON

That's okay with me.

She swats him away.

ROBERTSON

(yelling out)

We're famous! Our rescue made the news. They said it went off without a hitch. Right!

Middleton joins Robertson who's sitting at table.

ROBERTSON (CONT'D)

I thought I asked you to bring me more ice. I can barely move, my back's killing me.

MIDDLETON

Stop whining you wussy. Try doing some dead lifts. They strengthen your back.

ROBERTSON

Lifting dead weight is what gave me a bad back.

Something catches Robertson's eye.

ROBERTSON'S POV

In the hallway, MRS. DEAN is sitting quietly on the chair by the Blood Pressure Machine. Exactly where she sat three days a week while Dunnigan took her blood pressure.

Without saying a word, he gets up and goes to her.

MIDDLETON'S POV

Of Robertson talking to Mrs. Dean.

BACK IN SCENE

Maddox comes to the table with a plate full of pancakes.

MADDOX
Where's Robertson?

Middleton nods.

They watch together in silence as Robertson sits next to her taking her blood pressure.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Charlie is lifeguarding in Tower 7 near headquarters with another LIFEGUARD. Bryant runs by on the beach. Charlie spots her and runs inside the tower. She grabs a paper from her bag and runs to catch Bryant at the water's edge.

CHARLIE
(running, calling out)
Alexis! Alexis!

Bryant stops looking back.

BRYANT
Hi Charley.

CHARLIE
(out of breath)
I was going to come by headquarters after work, but since I saw you I figured I would just give this to you now.

Charlie hands her a chart highlighted in an array of colors.

BRYANT
What's this?

Bryant eyes the chart.

CHARLIE
I made it. Since you got called out on the rescue yesterday, I figured you wouldn't have time, so -- I made a chart like the ones firemen use. Each color represents one of us. It's based on our work days -- so we can all take turns visiting Rivera.

Bryant is cleared touched and impressed.

BRYANT
Thank you Charley. This is amazing.

CHARLIE
I just want to help.

INT. RIVERA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

There's a knock on the door. Maddox enters. Rivera opens his eyes happy to see her.

MADDOX
How's my partner?

Rivera nods. There's a long moment of silence.

MADDOX (CONT'D)
That was a dumb thing to say. I'm sorry.

RIVERA
It's okay.

MADDOX
We had a big rescue yesterday. All I could think about was how much you would have loved it. Big rig hanging over a cliff, leaking gas on a car full of people below. Your kind of action.

Rivera nods.

MADDOX (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Rivera.

RIVERA
It's okay.

MADDOX
No it's not okay. I'm sorry I haven't been here to see you. I couldn't...
(a beat)
I've never told you this before but, my father was a wildland firefighter in Colorado. When I was ten, he died in a fire. When we were in Catalina and I watched that fire come at you and Dunnigan...
(emotional)
I was so afraid. It brought up so many feelings.
(a beat)
But what I know is, if this had happened to me -- you would have been the first one at my side.

Rivera's bandaged hand reaches up touching her arm.

INT. HEADQUARTERS - DUNNIGAN'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Mathews is cleaning out Dunnigan's desk. He pulls out his BELOVED JOURNAL. He opens it skimming the pages. An entry catches his eye.

CLOSE ON JOURNAL

In Dunnigan's handwriting: "I'm really worried about John. I don't think he's going to make it and I'm not sure how to pull him out of it this time."

BACK IN SCENE

Mathews closes the journal. This hits home.

Middleton peeks his head into Dunnigan's office.

MIDDLETON

Thought you might be in here. Got a minute?

MATHEWS

Sure.

MIDDLETON

I keep going over the rescue in my mind. I looked in that SUV. I saw a duffle bag in the back seat. I should have moved it. I could have looked closer.

MATHEWS

You're a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, a member of Rescue 3, and in a situation like that there's not much room for error.

Middleton nods.

MATHEWS (CONT'D)

You're also human. We don't always get it right. You'll do it different next time.

MIDDLETON

Thank you.

Mathews gets up and shakes Middleton's hand.

MATHEWS

In our business, when everybody
goes home alive, it was a good day.
Sorry to cut this short but I have
something I have to do.

Off Mathews exit --

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - PRE-DUSK - ESTABLISHING

The ocean reflects a dozen shades of blue and silver. Long shadow beams are cast by the setting sun as pelicans fly overhead.

In the distance, Catalina Island rises up out of the Pacific Ocean. To the left, the Palos Verdes Peninsula stands prominent.

EXT. OCEAN - PRE-DUSK

An OAR BLADE MOVES THROUGH THE CALM WATER sending ripples through the smooth texture.

MOVE UP THE BLADE

To an OAR LOCK, then --

A GLOVED HAND

Powerfully gliding the oars.

ON MATHEWS

Rowing with power and purpose in the bow of the dory.

A HATTED SHADOW

Casts an imagine on the dory.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

Lois Dunnigan sitting in her husband's spot in the stern -- only facing Mathews instead of facing out. She has one hand tensely gripping the gunnel as the boat rhythmically moves with every stroke. Her other hand tightly holding the urn filled with Hal's ashes.

IN THE OPEN OCEAN

The boat glides along the water dancing with a glistening diamond effect.

IN THE DISTANCE

A red bell buoy.

ON DORY

Pulling up to the buoy.

ON BUOY

Sea lions lay atop one another. Some lounging, some splashing and playing.

IN THE WATER

Mathews stops rowing. Shipping his oars behind him, he looks up to Lois.

MATHEWS

This is it. The row we took four days a week for seventeen years.

(a beat)

This is the spot where we always turned to head back home.

LOIS

(wiping a tear)

This seems the perfect place then.

Mathews reached for the urn. He takes off the top and hands it back to her. Lois sits in her husband's spot clasping the urn, tears spill from her eyes. Extending her arm, she spills the contents of the urn into the sea. Her lips move but we can't hear what she's saying. A small cloud of dust and ashes that were once her husband blow through the air.

UNDERWATER SHOT

Deep looking up to the boat as the ashes fall through the streams of light. The dust makes a beautiful gray cloud in the deep blue of the water, with the bone fragments streaking through the cloud like shooting stars.

ON THE DORY

Lois hands Mathews Dunnigan's NAVY SEAL pin.

TIGHT ON MATHEWS HAND

Slapping the pin into the seat next to Lois. Dunnigan's seat.

WIDE SHOT

The sky has turned a brilliant shade of crimson. Birds fly overhead as if choreographed in a perfect V formation. This is paradise.

LOIS (CONT'D)
This was Hal's favorite time of day
to be on the water.

MATHEWS
I know Lois. Mine too...

ON BOAT

With Mathews and Lois.

LOIS
(with eyes full of tears)
He's not coming back John. What am
I gonna do without him...

Mathews reaches for Lois hand.

WIDE SHOT

Of the two in the dory rowing home.

MATHEWS (V.O.)
Lois was right, Hal wasn't coming
back - and I would carry that loss
with me forever. I thought there
was nothing I could do about it.
But at that moment I knew exactly
what I had to do -- carry on his
legacy by committing everything
I've got to Rescue 3. It was his
dream -- and now it would be mine.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK SCREEN

RADIO CALL (V.O.)
Code 3 to Rescue 3, we have an
emergency. I repeat this is a
Rescue 3 operation.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END