

**SCENT**

"Pilot"

Written by  
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Based on *Scent of the Missing* by  
Susannah Charleson

Carol Mendelsohn Productions  
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. STATE PARK - CAMPGROUND - NIGHT 1

Middle of nowhere Texas, middle of the night. Nothing but rustling trees and the occasional menacing eye of a nocturnal scavenger. Makes you instantly think "Blair Witch" and that nothing good can come of being out here.

TOMMY (V.O.)

The night was still. All the terrified campers could hear was the groaning of the dead rising from their graves....

We hear GROANING, as the CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHES into --

2 INT. TENT - NIGHT 2

Dark except for the glow of a FLASHLIGHT held under the chin of TOMMY JOHNSON (12). Spinning a *ghost story*. Doing his best to scare his sister GEORGIA (10), younger brother CHARLIE (8) and recently widowed mother, MRS. JOHNSON, mid 30s. All of them tucked into an oversized sleeping bag.

TOMMY

... Zombies scratched at the tent.  
"You have awakened us from our eternal sleep. Now we will feast upon your brains."

GEORGIA

That's not how they talked. Do the voice like Dad did.

Mentioning their father puts the damper on everyone.

TOMMY

I am. Shut up.

He thanks her with a punch to the arm.

MRS. JOHNSON

Tommy, knock it off.

GEORGIA

It was scarier when Dad told it.  
C'mon, Charlie, tell him.

But Charlie recedes deeper into the sleeping bag, withdrawing from his family.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

TOMMY  
(to Georgia)  
See what you did?

Mrs. Johnson shuts them both down.

MRS. JOHNSON  
Time for bed.

TOMMY  
But Mom --

MRS. JOHNSON  
Don't argue with me. Just go to  
sleep.

As Tommy turns off the flashlight and the tent plunges into  
darkness --

3 INT. THE JOHNSON'S TENT - MORNING

3

Morning light shoots through the unzipped tent flap. Mrs.  
Johnson stirs, shivers. It's cold. *Why's the flap open?*  
She looks over at her kids... Tommy... Georgia... then  
realizes, no Charlie.

4 EXT. CAMPGROUND - TENT - MORNING

4

Mrs. Johnson exits the tent, scans the immediate area. No  
sign of Charlie.

MRS. JOHNSON  
Charlie?!

No answer. Fear sets in.

MRS. JOHNSON  
Charlie?! Charlie?!

Tommy, concerned, scrambles out of the tent.

TOMMY  
Mom?

MRS. JOHNSON  
Where's Charlie?!

As this question hangs in the air --

5 EXT. CESSNA 182 - DAY - FLYING

5

OPEN on the bright blue morning sky, only now we're five  
thousand feet up and flying in a single engine Cessna.

6 INT. CESSNA 182 - EARLY MORNING - FLYING

6

A YOUNG MAN pilots the Cessna. Early twenties, focused. In the passenger seat is SUSANNAH CHARLESON. Mid-thirties, optimistic, adrenaline junkie.

SUSANNAH  
No in flight service. Good thing I brought my own snacks.

She pulls out a small BAG OF PEANUTS. Offers him some.

SUSANNAH  
Peanut?

Suddenly, the plane is smacked by a thermal and the left wing dips dramatically. This rattles the young pilot.

YOUNG PILOT  
Oh, crap.

He pulls up too hard on the nose, over-correcting the dipped wing... the plane climbs fast, too fast, stalls. The nose dips. Susannah seems unfazed, keeps eating.

YOUNG PILOT  
Crap!

SUSANNAH  
We going down?

He shoots her a panicked look. Not sure.

YOUNG PILOT  
I... uh...

The plane is losing altitude.

SUSANNAH  
(a look)  
Ground's getting awfully close.

YOUNG PILOT  
Oh, God. We're gonna die!

SUSANNAH  
Here, hold these.

Susannah hands him the peanuts and calmly takes the yoke.

SUSANNAH  
Full throttle. Release back pressure on the yoke. Opposite rudder. Regain airspeed. Pull out of the dive.

6 CONTINUED:

6

The plane recovers and gains altitude. The young pilot is relieved, but disappointed in himself.

YOUNG PILOT

Sorry, Susannah. Wrong side of pass/fail, huh?

SUSANNAH

Yeah. But few more months, you'll be doing these --

A devilish glint in her eye, she puts the plane into a SPIN. The Young Pilot SCREAMS as the plane spins on its axis --

7 EXT. AIRPORT - LANDING STRIP - DAY

7

Plane now on the ground. Susannah and the Young Pilot exit the plane. Front of his flight suit's stained with VOMIT, he staggers a bit, finding it hard to walk a straight line.

SUSANNAH

Some ginger ale, you'll be good as new.

JERRY LANG, 50s, a Paul Dooley type, approaches as the young pilot staggers toward the hangar. Jerry looks to Susannah --

JERRY

That kid puke in my plane?

SUSANNAH

It happens.

Jerry knows he's not getting the full story.

JERRY

What did you do this time? Barrel roll? Cuban Eight --

SUSANNAH

Just a little spin. Or two.

(off his look)

Kid wants to be a pilot. Got to learn how to stomach it.

JERRY

You never puked. Eight years old, you're right beside me. We're doing tailslides, kulbits. You loved every minute of it.

SUSANNAH

Chip off the old block.

7 CONTINUED:

7

Susannah kisses Jerry on the cheek and turns to leave.

JERRY

Where do you think you're going?

SUSANNAH

Got a date.

JERRY

Date can wait.

Jerry tosses a towel at her --

SUSANNAH

Dad --

JERRY

You wanted to have your fun, you clean it up.

Off Susannah's smile --

8 INT. CHARLESON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

8

A modest warm suburban home. Talking on the phone is ALAN CHARLESON, late thirties, science teacher, baseball coach. Everyone knows him, everyone likes him.

ALAN (into phone)

... You're excited scouts are courting your son. I get it. Arm like that, Joe could go all the way. But he's sixteen...

Susannah pushes through the back door, carrying a WINE SHOP BAG. Alan kisses her on the cheek, but continues his conversation.

ALAN (into phone)

... All I'm saying is, don't put all this pressure on him. Let him be a kid. Go to prom. College.

Susannah unpacks the bag, pulls out some wine and cheese. Shows them to Alan, who smiles.

ALAN (into phone)

... Mr. Reed, trust me, major league baseball's not going anywhere. Just think about it. We'll talk more at the game tomorrow.

As he hangs up --

8 CONTINUED:

8

ALAN

Hi.

SUSANNAH

Hi.

ALAN

(re: food)

Wine, cheese. All this for me?

SUSANNAH

Hike first, then picnic.

ALAN

Going to make me work for it.

(then, realizing)

Couple of my players called. Wanted to get in some extra practice before regionals. But I can be done by five --

SUSANNAH

-- You're just trying to get out of the hike.

Before he can confirm, SPLASH! Followed by --

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

Hey! Get out of there!

Susannah and Alan know exactly what's happening. Susannah hands the bottle of wine to Alan.

SUSANNAH

Here. We're going to need this.

As they rush out the back door --

9 EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - BACK YARD POOL - MOMENTS LATER

9

Susannah and Alan race through the gate and over to the pool where their dog, PUZZLE, a golden retriever, is blissfully doing laps in their neighbor, MR. MCGILL's, pool.

ALAN

Mr. McGill. We're so sorry.

SUSANNAH

Puzzle, out of the pool.

Puzzle stubbornly ignores her.

9 CONTINUED:

9

MR. MCGILL

Why don't you just get your own  
damn pool?!

ALAN

You like merlot?

Alan offers the bottle to Mr. McGill, as Susannah tries to  
coax Puzzle out of the pool.

SUSANNAH

Come on, Puz, out.

Puzzle keeps swimming.

MR. MCGILL

A little training wouldn't hurt  
that dog.

ALAN

Trust me, she's had a lot of  
training.

SUSANNAH

She's just strong-willed.

(then)

I'm serious, Puz. Out of the pool.  
Now!

ALAN

Strong-willed. Selective hearing.

SUSANNAH

Guess we're doing this the hard way.

Susannah hands her CELL to Alan, kicks off her shoes and  
DIVES into the pool. She swims toward Puzzle, who thinks  
this is fun and swims away from her.

SUSANNAH

Oh, you think this is funny?

A huge smile on Puzzle's face. Just then --

Susannah's CELL RINGS. A distinct RINGTONE, like a tornado  
warning. Susannah and Puzzle both react. So does Alan.  
Fun's over. Puzzle scampers out of the pool, Susannah right  
behind her. No longer disobedient and delinquent, Puzzle  
shakes off the water, getting Alan and Mr. McGill wet.

Alan hands the ringing cell to a soggy Susannah.

ALAN

Looks like no hike for you either.



9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
North Metro K-9 Search and Rescue,  
Susannah Charleson.

SMASH CUT TO:

10 INT. CHARLESON HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

10

Susannah, still on her cell, scribbles notes. Alan grabs a towel, dries an excited Puzzle.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
How old's the boy?... How long's  
he been missing?... Place last  
seen?... Where are we meeting you,  
Sheriff?

(checks her watch)  
I can be there in under an hour.  
I'll alert the rest of my team.

She clicks off, looks up at Alan.

ALAN  
How old's the boy?

SUSANNAH  
Eight. Wandered off from a  
campground. If we find him quickly,  
we can still salvage our date. You  
should buy another bottle of wine.

ALAN  
(shakes his head)  
My eternal optimist.

FOLLOW Susannah into --

11 INT. CHARLESON HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

11

Puzzle's glued to Susannah's side, waiting for deployment orders. She strips off her wet clothes while TEXTING her team -- *"Missing eight-year old boy. Texas State Park. Green Tree Campground. South Entrance. Call if coming."*

As Susannah pulls on her Search and Rescue Gear, her cell phone PINGS. *Think an electronic roll call, as the display shows the members of her team checking in -- "Team Shadow, ETA, two hours." "Team Boomer, out of state. Sorry."*

During this, Puzzle goes to the closet and fishes out her own RED VEST, embroidered with her name and the insignia: NORTH METRO K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE. Puzzle holds it in her mouth, impatiently waiting for Susannah to strap it on her.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SUSANNAH

Oh, sure. Now you're Lassie.

Puzzle wags her tail. Susannah puts the vest on her and gives Puzzle the command she's been waiting for --

SUSANNAH

Let's go to work.

12 EXT./INT. SUSANNAH'S FORD EXPLORER - DRIVING - DAY

12

SERIES OF SHOTS. Driving north like a bat out of hell. This is a woman who feels the need for speed. City quickly gives way to suburbs, which gives way to wilderness. We pass a sign that reads: *TEXAS STATE PARK, 30 miles... BLUE LAKE, 50 miles --*

13 EXT. CAMPGROUND - AFTERNOON

13

Campground resembles a crime scene. POLICE CARS, UNIFORMED DEPUTIES, PARK RANGERS, and the K-9 UNIT'S MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND (MIC) parked in the middle of it all.

PICK UP the Explorer as it peels in, leaving a cloud of dust in its wake. Susannah and Puzzle jump out. She spots SHERIFF BUD BISHOP, 40s, an imposing straight shooter, heads over.

SUSANNAH

Sheriff Bishop. Susannah Charleson,  
K-9 Search and Rescue.

He shakes hands with her, but looks askance at Puzzle.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Where's the rest of your team?

SUSANNAH

On their way. I just drive really fast.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Over the speed limit?

SUSANNAH

Always heard you're allowed to go ten, maybe twenty over.

(off his look)

You haven't met my partner, Puzzle.  
She can shake, too.

Puzzle raises a paw, but the Sheriff doesn't take it.

13 CONTINUED:

13

SUSANNAH

How's Sheriff Conrad enjoying his retirement? He and Puz were best buds.

SHERIFF BISHOP

He moved to Oregon.

(eyes Puzzle)

I worked gangs before this. Not much call for dogs.

SUSANNAH

Don't worry. We don't bite.

Just then, PETE DURBIN, in a wheelchair, rolls to the doorway of the Mobile Incident Command ("MIC"). Twenties, former military guy who never lost the haircut. He's the team's COMTEC -- communications technician. He looks to Susannah.

PETE

Ma'am. We're up and running.

SUSANNAH

Thanks, Pete. But you're not in the Marines anymore. Don't have to call me Ma'am.

PETE

(teasing)

Yes, Ma'am.

As Susannah, Sheriff Bishop and Puzzle head for the MIC --

SUSANNAH

Want to bring me up to speed?

SHERIFF BISHOP

Mrs. Johnson woke up around eight. Youngest son, Charlie, wasn't in the tent. She and her other two kids searched for a couple of hours before notifying Park Rangers. They notified us.

Puzzle nudges Sheriff Bishop's hand. He ignores her.

SHERIFF BISHOP

We searched for another three hours. Then called you.

SUSANNAH

(doing the math)

So Charlie Johnson's been missing at least six hours.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

They head into --

14 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - MINUTES LATER

14

Mobile command for the SAR team. Walls lined with HIGH TECH EQUIPMENT, GPS, DIGITAL MONITORS, etc. A PHOTO of the missing boy, Charlie Johnson, displays on the BIG SCREEN.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Most likely, the kid just wandered off. Got lost. May be hurt.

More insistent this time, Puzzle nudges the Sheriff again.

SHERIFF BISHOP

What's with your dog?

SUSANNAH

She just loves a man in uniform.

Sheriff continues to ignore Puzzle. Turns to Pete.

SHERIFF BISHOP

All these high tech toys, you got a map?

PETE

Yes, sir.

Pete pulls up an INTERACTIVE MAP on the big screen.

PETE

I've marked the areas that have already been searched.

As the "MARKS" appear on the map --

PETE

Here, here and here.

SUSANNAH

Sheriff, what do we know about Charlie? Does he have a history of wandering? Running away?

SHERIFF BISHOP

Not according to his mother.

SUSANNAH

Problems at home? School? Any big change in his routine recently?

SHERIFF BISHOP

Father died six months ago.

14 CONTINUED:

14

Puzzle rubs up against the Sheriff affectionately, leaving DOG HAIR on his pants. He tries to brush it off.

SUSANNAH

Sorry. She doesn't take no for an answer.

PETE

(re: Susannah)

Wonder where she gets it from.

Susannah shoots him a look.

PETE

Sorry, ma'am. C'mere, Puzzle.

Puzzle goes to Pete for some love.

SUSANNAH

(to Sheriff)

Does Charlie have any wilderness training? He a Cub Scout?

SHERIFF BISHOP

Not as far as I know.

SUSANNAH

Right or left handed?

SHERIFF BISHOP

Why is that significant?

SUSANNAH

When lost, a right-handed child will usually turn right not left.  
(then)

I need to talk to Mrs. Johnson. More information we have, better our chances of finding Charlie.

15 EXT. CAMPGROUND - NEAR THE JOHNSON'S TENT - DAY

15

Area around the tent has been cordoned off, a Deputy posted. Seated nearby, with her kids tucked under each arm, is Mrs. Johnson. Kids perk up at the sight of Puzzle.

SUSANNAH

Mrs. Johnson, I'm Susannah, K-9 Search and Rescue. This is my partner, Puzzle.

(to the kids)

What're your names?

15 CONTINUED:

15

TOMMY

I'm Tommy.

GEORGIA

Georgia.

SUSANNAH

Puzzle really likes having her belly rubbed.

As if on cue, Puzzle rolls onto her back so Tommy and Georgia can rub her belly. Which they do.

GEORGIA

Your dog is wearing clothes.

SUSANNAH

That's her work vest. Puzzle's a special dog. She finds people.

TOMMY

She going to find Charlie?

SUSANNAH

If anyone can, it's Puzzle.

While Puzzle keeps the kids occupied, Susannah sits next to Mrs. Johnson.

SUSANNAH

Mrs. Johnson, you and your kids go camping a lot?

Struggling to keep her emotions in check --

MRS. JOHNSON

Every summer. My husband loved it.

SUSANNAH

I heard he passed away recently. I'm sorry.

MRS. JOHNSON

(nods, then)

The kids really wanted to come here. Didn't want to disappoint them. Charlie was in the sleeping bag when we went to bed.

(wracked with guilt)

I didn't even hear him leave.

Susannah puts a comforting hand on Mrs. Johnson's hand.

SUSANNAH

Kids wander off all the time. It's not your fault.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

SUSANNAH (CONT'D)

(then)

Have you camped here before?

MRS. JOHNSON

No. But it's close to town. Thought  
if anything went wrong, we could  
just pack up and go home.

Mrs. Johnson stares at her kids, playing with Puzzle.

SUSANNAH

(observing, then)

Tommy and Georgia are both right  
handed. What about Charlie?

MRS. JOHNSON

(finds it odd)

Same...

SUSANNAH

Mrs. Johnson, before Puzzle can  
start searching, she needs to smell  
something that smells like Charlie.

(then)

Do you have the clothes he was  
wearing yesterday?

MRS. JOHNSON

He has them on. I have some clean  
ones in the car.

SUSANNAH

They won't have his scent. You  
said he was in a sleeping bag?

16 EXT. CAMPGROUND - NEAR THE JOHNSON'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

16

SUSANNAH (O.S.)

Smell that.

OPEN on Puzzle's active nose, as she smells the sleeping  
bag. Then, looks up at Susannah.

SUSANNAH

Find that.

Puzzle bee-lines for a makeshift line-up of Mom, Tommy and  
Georgia. Puzzle finds *that scent* on Mrs. Johnson and *alerts*  
with a BARK.

SUSANNAH

Good girl. Find more that.

Puzzle moves to Tommy. BARKS again.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

SUSANNAH

Good work, Puz. Find more that.

As Puzzle continues to work, Pete and an impatient Sheriff Bishop, his radio SQUAWKING, look on.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Why's the dog smelling them? We know where they are.

PETE

We don't have anything with just Charlie's scent on it. Puzzle's trained to identify everyone who handled that sleeping bag. And when she's eliminated all their scents, only scent left will be the missing boy's.

UNDER THIS, Puzzle moves over to Georgia and alerts a third time, ANOTHER BARK. Susannah returns to Pete and the Sheriff.

SUSANNAH

All set.

SHERIFF BISHOP

One dog? Fifty square miles of park?

SUSANNAH

Impressive, isn't it?

Sheriff doesn't know what to think of her. Pete jumps in.

PETE

Puzzle goes out first to determine direction of travel. As the rest of the teams arrive, they sector out from there.

SUSANNAH

We do this all the time, Sheriff. We're pretty damn good at it.

OFF the Sheriff, silenced for now --

CUT TO:

17 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - MOMENTS LATER

17

Pete fires up his GPS monitor. Puzzle's location PINGS on the MAP.

(CONTINUED)



17 CONTINUED:

17

PETE (into radio)  
Team Puzzle, your GPS is up and  
running. You are go for lift off.

18 EXT. CAMPGROUND - SAME TIME

18

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Copy that, Houston.

Susannah detaches Puzzle's leash and leans in close to her.

SUSANNAH  
Got to break in a new Sheriff, Puz.  
Let's show him what we can do.  
(then)  
Find more that!

Puzzle gives Susannah a look that says, "Just try and keep up" and darts toward the woods. Susannah following --

ANGLE BACK to Mrs. Johnson and her kids, the Deputies, Park Rangers, all watching Puzzle enter the woods and turn right, Susannah hot on her heels. As she goes, several SAR TRUCKS roll past her, more CANINE TEAMS arriving.

SUSANNAH (over radio)  
Team Puzzle beginning the search.

19 EXT. WOODS - LATER

19

PICK UP Puzzle, loping through the dense foliage, down a dirt path, hot on the missing boy's scent. Suddenly, *her head lifts, her body tenses*. Susannah reads her signals.

SUSANNAH  
Where is he, Puz? Where's Charlie?

**SUSANNAH'S POV: A SCENT IMAGE OF CHARLIE appears on the path. A visualization of what Puzzle is smelling. SCENT CHARLIE turns, looks at Susannah as if to say "find me". He's there for an instant, then heads deeper into the woods.**

Puzzle follows. Trailing the exact path "Scent Charlie" just took. Susannah right behind her --

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Team Puzzle to Base. Puzzle has  
the boy's scent. Trailing it now.

OFF their mutual determination --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - LATE AFTERNOON 20

OPEN on the BANK OF MONITORS. Pete's eyes glued to the GPS DISPLAY, as TWO PINGS PULSE ON-SCREEN -- Susannah and Puzzle.

Pete ZOOMS in on their location on the INTERACTIVE MAP displayed on the big screen and FLAGS the update.

SUSANNAH (over radio)  
Team Puzzle to base. Continuing to trail Charlie's scent. Pete, any hot spots nearby?

PETE (into radio)  
Picnic area two miles east of you. Playground right next to it.

SUSANNAH (over radio)  
Kid magnet, but Puzzle's leading me west.

21 EXT. WOODS - LATE AFTERNOON 21

SERIES OF SHOTS -- As Puzzle weaves through the trees, establishing Charlie's direction of travel. Her excited pants confirm to Susannah, behind her, that she's on scent.

Suddenly, Susannah's progress is halted by an uncooperative branch that snags her sleeve. As she tries to extricate herself, Puzzle comes running back, impatient.

SUSANNAH  
I know, I know, keep up.

Puzzle resumes her search, quickens her pace. Susannah tries her best to keep up. Ahead, signs of sunlight break through the trees. Puzzle bounds forward, out of the woods and onto --

22 EXT. DIRT ROAD - LATE AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS) 22

Puzzle hesitates, then heads up the road (another right turn). A beat. Then begins to circle, nose to the ground. Susannah bursts from the woods, sees Puzzle circling.

SUSANNAH  
Where'd it go, Puz? Work it out.

Susannah crosses to the other side of the road, hoping Puzzle will pick up the scent there. But she doesn't. She looks over at Susannah, as if she's failed.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

SUSANNAH  
Trail fell apart. Don't beat  
yourself up. Cookie?

Susannah pulls out a cookie, gives half to Puzzle and takes  
a bite from the other half and radios in:

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Team Puzzle to Base. We've lost  
the trail at a dirt road.

INTERCUT WITH:

23 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - LATE AFTERNOON

23

Pete checks out Susannah's location on the map.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Scent's probably been dispersed by  
vehicles driving through the area.  
I need a verification dog out here.

PETE (into radio)  
Yes, ma'am. Team Shadow's just  
gearing up.

24 EXT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - MOMENTS LATER

24

Pete wheels out of the MIC and over to Sheriff Bishop, taking  
reports from his Deputies.

PETE  
Team Puzzle has established Charlie's  
direction of travel. But lost his  
scent at a dirt road.

Pete wheels to the Sheriff's low tech MAP OF THE AREA laid  
out on the hood of his cruiser and points.

PETE  
Right here.

SHERIFF BISHOP  
Main access road to the park. More  
than likely kid got into a vehicle.  
Means we're looking at an abduction.

PETE  
Due respect, sir, there are other  
possibilities.

24 CONTINUED:

24

SHERIFF BISHOP

Like some good samaritan picked him up? Would've called 911. Predators love campgrounds. Parents on vacation, not paying attention.

(then)

Thanks for your help. My deputies will take it from here.

As he turns to walk away --

JAKE (O.S.)

But we're just getting started.

Sheriff turns to find another member of the SAR Team, JAKE KINNEY. Late twenties, ripped, body straight out of a firefighter calendar. At his side, red rubber BALL in her mouth, is a high energy Border Collie named SHADOW.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Who the hell are you?

Shadow GROWLS.

JAKE

Team who's done forty-two searches in the last year. Pulled survivors from the rubble of Hurricane Laurence. Recovered bodies from a plane crash in the Gulf. And if you don't mind, my partner, Shadow, objects to profanity.

PETE

Jake Kinney. Sheriff Bishop. The new sheriff in town.

Shadow drops her ball at the Sheriff's feet.

JAKE

(to Shadow)

Same uniform, different guy. He won't play ball.

As Shadow picks the ball up and drops it in front of Pete --

JAKE

You're new, so let me explain how this goes. Two dogs working scent always tell you more than one dog alone. Just like an extra set of eyes at a crime scene.

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

PETE

Sheriff, this may not be an abduction. Charlie might have doubled back from the road. He could still be in these woods.

SHERIFF BISHOP

And your dog is going to be able to confirm that?

JAKE

Shadow will either confirm Puzzle's direction of travel or find some variation along the trail.

(then)

We may approach things differently, Sheriff, but we all want to find Charlie Johnson.

OFF the Sheriff, considering --

25 EXT. CAMPGROUND - NEAR THE JOHNSON'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

25

PICK UP Jake, shrugging on his gear, as he and Shadow approach the taped off tent. DEPUTY posted.

JAKE

Deputy, do you have that scent article?

(off his look)

The family's sleeping bag?

DEPUTY

I bagged it for evidence. It's in my van.

He leads Jake to his van, retrieves a BULGING GARBAGE BAG.

JAKE

You put the sleeping bag in that?

Jake leans in and smells the plastic. Shakes his head.

JAKE

A deodorizing garbage bag?

SUSANNAH (V.O.)

Floral or lemon fresh?

INTERCUT WITH:

26 EXT. DIRT ROAD - EARLY EVENING

26

PICK UP Susannah, on her CELL. She and Puzzle are headed back to the campground. Daylight fading.

JAKE (into phone)  
More like mountain spring. Killed  
any trace of Charlie's scent.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
And did you communicate that to the  
Sheriff?

JAKE (into phone)  
I did. First, I thanked him for  
destroying our only scent article.  
Then, I suggested he fly a chopper  
over the road to disperse any of  
Charlie's *remaining* scent.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
And I was worried you'd lose your  
temper.

JAKE (into phone)  
(teasing)  
Like you did in Bryson? Standing  
in the middle of that highway. In  
the perp spotlight. Waving your  
arms, screaming like a crazy person.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
I prefer the term mentally unstable.  
And hey, I chased that chopper away,  
didn't I?

Just then, a CAR HORN HONKS, and a MASERATI CONVERTIBLE drives up. At the wheel, SEDONA MURPHY, late twenties, windblown but in that irritating way that makes her even more of a knockout. Her Belgian Malinois, CHAOS, harnessed in back.

SEDONA  
Need a lift?

Puzzle answers for Susannah, leaps into the back with Chaos. Clearly, very excited to see him.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
Jake, see you back at base.

STAY WITH SUSANNAH, as she hangs up and straps Puzzle in.

SUSANNAH  
Puz, we talked about this. Getting  
in the back seat with a boy.

26 CONTINUED:

26

SEDONA

Good thing he's neutered.

Susannah circles the car.

SEDONA

Would have been here sooner. Had to drive all the way from Austin.

SUSANNAH

In a Maserati Gran Cabrio. Do you know how fast this thing can go?

SEDONA

I didn't want to get a ticket.

SUSANNAH

This car goes from zero to sixty in four point four seconds.

Susannah crosses to the driver's side, opens the door.

SUSANNAH

Move over.

Sedona jumps into the passenger seat. Susannah slides behind the wheel. Revs the engine. Susannah's in heaven.

SUSANNAH

Baby, where have you been all my life?

As she hits the gas and they speed off, tires spinning --

27 EXT. DIRT ROAD - EARLY EVENING - MOMENTS LATER

27

Convertible roars down the road. Dogs, noses in the air, enjoy the breeze. Susannah looks at the overcast sky.

SUSANNAH

Could be your first search in the rain.

SEDONA

Ready to get wet. Got my gear in the trunk. Extra pair of boots. Plastic cover for my radio. Just like you taught me. Any other tips?

SUSANNAH

(re: convertible)

Yeah. Put the top up on this beauty tonight.

28 EXT. CAMPGROUND - STAGING AREA - EARLY EVENING

28

The crowded staging area. The convertible roars up. Sedona and Susannah get out. Sedona shakes out her hair. All the Deputies' heads crank, checking her out.

SEDONA

These guys never seen a Maserati before?

SUSANNAH

(smiles)

It's not the car they're checking out.

Susannah approaches her teams and their crated search dogs (several AIR SCENT DOGS now present). Pete joins her.

SUSANNAH

What's the plan?

PETE

You're the boss, you tell me.

SUSANNAH

That was a test. And you passed.  
(then)

We send out the air scent dogs. Not as quick as working Charlie's scent, but if he or anyone else is out there, dogs will find them.

PETE

Good plan, Ma'am.

SUSANNAH

Now you're just sucking up.

PETE

(smiles, then)

Team Whisky can sector out in the immediate area, in case Charlie doubled back. We can run Team Chaos and Team Buster from the road.

SUSANNAH

Let's do it.

Susannah looks around, sees -- the Sheriff and his Deputies, going over a map... A POLICE VAN, back doors ajar, Tommy and Georgia playing with an IPAD... Then --

Mrs. Johnson, cup of coffee in hand, sitting at the campfire, trying to keep warm, trying not to lose it. Susannah grabs a BLANKET and she and Puzzle approach. As Susannah drapes the blanket around Mrs. Johnson's shoulders and sits down --

(CONTINUED)



28 CONTINUED:

28

SUSANNAH

Thought you could use this.

MRS. JOHNSON

Thanks... Sheriff told me Charlie was abducted.

SUSANNAH

It's just one possibility.

MRS. JOHNSON

I never thought anything could be harder than losing my husband. But not knowing where Charlie is. Or who he's with --

Puzzle senses her distress, and puts her head in Mrs. Johnson's lap. As she pets her --

SUSANNAH

I know you're scared. But you can't give up hope. I haven't.

Mrs. Johnson takes Susannah's hand, grateful. A beat.

SUSANNAH

Mrs. Johnson --

MRS. JOHNSON

-- Alice.

SUSANNAH

(smiles, then)

Alice. I need something else with Charlie's scent. Is it okay if I go to your house and collect it?

Mrs. Johnson pulls out her house keys, hands them over.

MRS. JOHNSON

Take whatever you need.

29 ON SUSANNAH - MOVING

29

Now Susannah walks over to Sheriff Bishop, mid-briefing.

SHERIFF BISHOP

(to Deputies)

... Make sure those check points have been set up. And I want a list of all known sex offenders within a hundred mile radius.

As the Deputies rush off, the Sheriff eyes Susannah --

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

SHERIFF BISHOP

I already apologized about the sleeping bag --

SUSANNAH

Sheriff, I need a new scent article. Means a trip to the Johnson's house. Which one of your deputies is going to drive me?

Susannah heads for a row of police cruisers. Puzzle sprints to her side. Sheriff falls in step beside them.

SHERIFF BISHOP

You're not in charge here, Mrs. Charleson.

SUSANNAH

Mrs. Charleson is my mother-in-law. And she makes me look like a pushover.

SHERIFF BISHOP

(ignoring)  
This is a police investigation. My investigation.

SUSANNAH

That's why I'm asking you for a deputy.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Can't spare one right now.

SUSANNAH

Then, I guess it's you and me.

She holds his look. A beat, then --

SHERIFF BISHOP

Get in.

He unlocks the door to the back of his cruiser.

SUSANNAH

We'll get there faster if I drive.

Sheriff stuffs Susannah in the back seat like a perp. As Puzzle jumps in after her --

SHERIFF BISHOP

You take that dog everywhere?

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

SUSANNAH

When we're working, I'm the one following her.

As Puzzle smiles at the Sheriff --

30 EXT. DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

30

Along the road, on either side, we see MOVING LIGHTS. Each AIR SCENT DOG has a safety light attached to their collar, each of the handlers has a FLASHLIGHT. RADIO CHATTER, BG.

TEAM MEMBER (over radio)

Team Whisky to Base. Sector's cleared. Standby for new sector or return to base?

31 EXT. ANOTHER SECTOR - NIGHT

31

FIND Sedona and Chaos, working their sector. Chaos, nose to the ground, veers away from the road, showing interest in --

32 EXT. THE NEARBY WOODS - NIGHT

32

Sedona radios in --

SEDONA (into radio)

Team Chaos to Base. Chaos is showing interest, heading north.

Chaos races into the darkness. All we can see is the faint glow of his safety light, darting through the trees. Sedona quickens her pace. A beat, then Chaos starts BARKING.

SEDONA (into radio)

Team Chaos is alerting a find.

Sedona cuts through the brush into a small clearing. REVEAL a PARKED COMPACT CAR, and an embarrassed, naked COUPLE half-lying on a blanket. Sedona's a little embarrassed too.

SEDONA

Oh, God, sorry.

Chaos keeps BARKING at them. Sedona's trying not to look at their nakedness.

SEDONA

Good boy, good find.

As she rewards him with a piece of SALMON JERKY, the couple try to cover themselves.

32 CONTINUED:

32

NAKED MAN

Thought we were alone out here.

SEDONA

Not tonight.

(then)

Sedona Murphy. Canine Search and Rescue. Working with the Sheriff's Department to locate a missing boy.

Sedona shows them a PHOTO of Charlie Johnson.

SEDONA

Have you seen him?

They shake their heads.

NAKED MAN

We in trouble?

SEDONA

(looks at the ground)

Kind of. That's poison ivy you've been rolling around in.

Sedona pulls a TUBE OF CALAMINE LOTION from her pack and tosses it to the couple.

SEDONA

Calamine lotion. You're going to need it.

(into radio)

Team Chaos find is not our missing boy.

(then)

Let's go, Chaos. Find more.

As they take off --

33 EXT. JOHNSON HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

33

Sheriff's cruiser pulls into the driveway of the suburban house. Sheriff Bishop lets Susannah and Puzzle out. Susannah takes in the scene. Grass that's a little overgrown. Porch that could use a coat of paint. But still welcoming.

As they approach the front door, the Sheriff holds out his hand. Susannah hands over the keys and he unlocks the door.

34 INT. JOHNSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

34

Susannah, Puzzle and Sheriff Bishop enter. Place looks lived in. TOYS, SPORTS STUFF, VIDEO GAMES scattered.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

A HUGE FISH TANK glows and bubbles in a corner. *Water.*  
Puzzle bee-lines to it. PAWS the glass.

SHERIFF BISHOP

She got cat in her?

SUSANNAH

She has a thing for water. Almost  
drowned in the toilet when she was  
a puppy. Give it up, Puz. You're  
a dog, not a fish.

But Puzzle doesn't move. Fixated on the water, the fish.  
Meanwhile, the Sheriff looks around, staring at photos of  
the kids and Mrs. Johnson. He starts looking in drawers.

SUSANNAH

What are you doing?

SHERIFF BISHOP

My job.

SUSANNAH

Looks more like snooping without a  
warrant.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Mrs. Johnson gave us her key. All  
the permission we need.

(then)

No pictures of the father.

He opens another drawer, discovers a stash of father photos,  
with Mrs. Johnson, with the kids, etc. He holds them up --

SHERIFF BISHOP

She put him in a drawer. Makes you  
wonder.

As Puzzle continues to paw at the tank --

SUSANNAH

Wonder what?

SHERIFF BISHOP

What kind of husband, father he  
was. What kind of mother she is.

SUSANNAH

(hits close to home)

How about she lost the love of her  
life and seeing his face everywhere  
is just too painful for Alice --

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

SHERIFF

-- Alice?

SUSANNAH

She's not a suspect. And I'm not a cop.

SHERIFF BISHOP

No, you're just a volunteer.

SUSANNAH

(wrong thing to say)

That's right. Just a volunteer. I don't get paid to do this. Matter of fact, it costs me money. Which my husband isn't thrilled about. But I do this because it's a calling. Because I can make a difference. Save somebody's life.

(then)

So, other than your pension and my sunny disposition, how are we that different?

This silences the Sheriff. Then --

SUSANNAH

C'mon, Puzzle, find more that.

Hearing the magic words, Puzzle tears herself away from the fish tank and follows her nose toward --

35 INT. JOHNSON HOUSE - BOYS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

35

Two twin beds, hastily made, boy messy. Puzzle doesn't show any interest in either of the beds. Instead she indicates interest at the closet door. Susannah opens the door, looks inside to find --

A MAKESHIFT HIDEOUT. BLANKET and PILLOW on the floor. FLASHLIGHT. Puzzle jumps onto the blanket and wiggles her body excitedly.

SUSANNAH

Good girl. Good that.

She gloves up, takes out an evidence bag. As she reaches for the pillow, a BOOK falls out of the pillow case, SMACKING hard against the floor, startling Puzzle.

SUSANNAH

Sorry, Puz. My bad.

(picks up book)

"The Adventures of Bobby D."

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

Just then, the Sheriff enters, PILL BOTTLE in hand.

SUSANNAH

Pillow case. Great scent article.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Alice is self-medicating. Sleeping pills. Could explain why she didn't notice her kid wander off.

(then)

What's your dog doing in the closet?

SUSANNAH

Charlie's been sleeping in there.

Sheriff notices a HOOK & EYE LOCK on the door --

SHERIFF BISHOP

Or locked in there by his drugged out mother.

(off her look)

She's a single parent now. If she can't even look at pictures of her dead husband, how's she managing three kids?

SUSANNAH

You're one of those half-empty people, aren't you, Sheriff?

SHERIFF BISHOP

Just a realist. You should try it sometime.

SUSANNAH

I take my cue from my dog. She's an eternal optimist.

SHERIFF BISHOP

You really think that boy is still wandering in the woods?

(off her look, yes)

He didn't wander anywhere. He ran away. From her. And got himself abducted. It's been eighteen hours. Probably already dead.

This hits a nerve with Susannah. She gets in Sheriff's face.

SUSANNAH

Until we're staring at a body, Charlie Johnson is still alive. And Puzzle and I are going to find him.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

36 EXT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - NIGHT

36

Sedona hands CASH to a PIZZA DELIVERY GUY and takes the huge stack of PIZZA BOXES from him. Jake swoops in to help her.

JAKE

Let me help you with those.

SEDONA

Always the hero.

Jake takes them from her.

JAKE

That's why I run into burning buildings for a living.

SEDONA

(smiles)

I know. Mr. July. You gave me the calendar.

Shadow drops her ball in front of Chaos, but as soon as he goes for it, Shadow grabs it and runs away. As this teasing continues --

JAKE

Happy to autograph it for you. Maybe over a drink?

SEDONA

I know all about firefighters.

JAKE

Not all of it's true.

As Pete wheels over, Sedona takes a couple pizza boxes and heads for a group of Deputies and Rangers.

SEDONA

(to Pete)

Rest of the pizza's for the team.

PETE

Really nice of you, Sedona. Thanks.

He notices Jake watching Sedona walk away --

PETE

Her father owns half of Texas. She's blue blood, you're blue collar. Never going to happen.

JAKE

Susannah says: Never say never. Doesn't apply just to searches.

(CONTINUED)



36 CONTINUED:

36

Jake's CELL RINGS. ON the display -- Susannah. He hands the rest of the pizzas to Pete, then answers his phone.

JAKE (into phone)  
Hey, Suz. Just talking about you.  
You still at the Johnson house?

He listens, looks over at TWO DEPUTIES at a picnic table with Mrs. Johnson. They're taking notes, she looks agitated.

JAKE (into phone)  
Yeah, they're talking to her now.

As Jake listens some more, his eyes now FIND Tommy, throwing twigs onto a campfire --

37 EXT. CAMPGROUND - CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

37

Tommy pokes the fire with a stick. Suddenly, a RED RUBBER BALL lands at his feet. Tommy looks up to see Shadow staring at him. Jake joins them.

JAKE  
Shadow's just going to stare at you  
till you throw it.

Tommy throws the ball. Shadow hustles off. Jake sits down.

JAKE  
You doing okay?

Tommy shrugs.

JAKE  
You and your brother are pretty  
tight, huh? Share a room and  
everything?  
(off a half nod)  
Me, too. Except I was the annoying  
little brother. Always into his  
stuff. Bugging him.

TOMMY  
Not so bad.

Shadow returns with the ball. Tommy throws it again.

JAKE  
No matter what I did, my big brother  
always had my back.  
(then)  
My friend Susannah found Charlie's  
blanket and pillow in your closet.  
(MORE)

37 CONTINUED:

37

JAKE (CONT'D)

Looked like he'd been sleeping in there. Doesn't like his bed?

Tommy shakes his head, a deep sadness falling over him.

TOMMY

After Dad died, Charlie started sleeping in there. Liked to pretend he was camping.

JAKE

Because that's what you did with your Dad.

Tommy nods. Shadow returns, Tommy throws the ball again. Harder this time, venting his frustration.

TOMMY

Not the same without him. Mom's having a real hard time, too.

JAKE

She ever take it out on you guys?  
(off his look)  
Susannah said there's a lock on the closet door.

Tommy's getting pissed now --

TOMMY

My Dad put that lock on. Because Georgia's always stealing my stuff.  
(then)  
Mom would never hurt us. She loves us. You can tell those cops that.

JAKE

Okay. I will. Can I ask you one more question?  
(off his nod)  
Charlie was stashing a book in his pillowcase. Why hide it?

TOMMY

Not hiding it, keeping it close.  
(then)  
"The Adventures of Bobby D." Dad used to read it to him. Kind of their thing.

Tommy's eyes well with tears --

TOMMY

Please, you got to find Charlie. If anything happens to him....

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

Jake puts his arm around Tommy, as Shadow, returning with the ball, lays down at their feet --

38 INT. SHERIFF'S CRUISER - MOVING - NIGHT

38

An awkward silence in the car. Susannah's reading Charlie's book in the back seat, Puzzle in her lap. Sheriff glances at her in the rear view --

SHERIFF BISHOP

Book that good or company that bad?

SUSANNAH

Toss up.

(then)

You ever read this? 'Adventures of Bobby D'?

SHERIFF BISHOP

What do you think?

SUSANNAH

You're probably more of a Mickey Spillane guy.

(then)

This is the story of a boy who goes on an adventure to a magical island, Lighthouse Point, where he finds everything he's ever lost.

(from deep sadness)

Be nice if a place like that really existed.

Just then, the RADIO SQUAWKS.

DISPATCH (over radio)

Sheriff, we just got a sighting. Boy matching Charlie Johnson's description was spotted at Marty's Gas and Go.

SHERIFF BISHOP (into radio)

Dispatch, I'm fifteen out. Send deputies to that location.

SUSANNAH

If Charlie was there, you're going to need the dogs, too.

As Susannah pulls out her cell --

39 EXT. MARTY'S GAS AND GO - NIGHT

39

Jake and Shadow are waiting, as the Sheriff's CRUISER pulls up. Sheriff gets out, opens the door for Susannah and Puzzle. BAGGED PILLOWCASE in hand, Susannah joins Jake.

39

CONTINUED:

39

Puzzle greets him enthusiastically. He pets her adoringly.

JAKE

How's my favorite blond?

SUSANNAH

(teasing)

Too bad that doesn't work on Sedona.

JAKE

Pete has the biggest mouth in Texas.

SUSANNAH

Communications tech. What do you expect?

She looks up at the cloud filled sky --

SUSANNAH

Going to rain. Soon.

CAMERA SWINGS OVER to the Sheriff, being briefed by a Deputy.

DEPUTY

Gas Station Attendant recognized Charlie from the news. He was here around nine, looking at candy.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Anyone with him?

DEPUTY

Busy night. Attendant didn't notice.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Surveillance?

DEPUTY

Pulling it now.

BACK TO Susannah, who looks at the cloud filled sky as Jake opens the evidence bag for Shadow.

JAKE

Smell that.

Shadow noses the PILLOWCASE. Then, Susannah re-scents Puzzle.

SUSANNAH

Okay, good, still got it? Find more that.

CAMERA TRACKS with the two dogs as they follow the scent. But instead of heading toward the mini-mart, Puzzle and Shadow veer right.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

Susannah and Jake exchange a curious look, as they follow their dogs PAST the pumps... PAST the open garage... Around the side of the building... TO a RESTROOM DOOR.

Puzzle and Shadow both show interest. Sheriff joins them. KNOCKS on the door. No answer. He tries it, locked.

JAKE

Need the key.

Sheriff looks to a Deputy, who rushes off to retrieve it.

SHERIFF BISHOP

According to the Attendant, Charlie didn't ask for the key. So someone took him in there.

This hangs heavy over our guys. Just then, the Deputy returns with the KEY and unlocks the door. You can see it on their face, are they going to find Charlie's body in this restroom?

Susannah and Jake step back, as the Sheriff pushes open the door to find --

AN EMPTY RESTROOM. No Charlie.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Clear.

A collective sigh of relief. Even the dogs relax noticeably.

SECOND DEPUTY

(calls out)

Sheriff. Tape's cued up.

SHERIFF BISHOP

(to First Deputy)

Call the Crime Lab. Get the CSIs down here. Have them run the place for prints.

Deputy nods as the Sheriff, Susannah and Puzzle, Jake and Shadow head into --

40 INT. MARTY'S GAS AND GO - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

40

The ATTENDANT looks up from behind the counter as the Sheriff, Team Puzzle and Team Shadow enter.

ATTENDANT

See the sign?

He gestures to the sign over the counter: "*No shirt, no shoes, no service. No dogs.*" Susannah flips the sign around --

SUSANNAH

Not tonight. We're with him.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

SHERIFF BISHOP  
Don't even bother arguing with her.

Under this, Puzzle, nose to the ground, has found her way over to the SNACK DISPLAY. Sheriff takes note.

SHERIFF BISHOP  
She got something?

As if on cue, Puzzle plucks two SLIM JIMS off the display --

SUSANNAH  
Yeah, Slim Jims.

SHERIFF BISHOP  
She planning on paying for those?

As Puzzle drops one Slim Jim at Shadow's feet, and starts tearing into the other --

SUSANNAH  
She left her wallet in her other coat.

JAKE  
(stifles a laugh)  
I got this.

As he pulls out his wallet, Sheriff and Susannah look from Jake to the SURVEILLANCE VIDEO on a screen behind the counter.

ON THE SCREEN: Charlie, in a HOUSTON ASTROS CAP, steps INTO FRAME. A tense beat.

SUSANNAH  
That's Charlie.

SHERIFF BISHOP  
And that's who took him.

Charlie's ushered out by TWO YOUNG MEN, over to a RED PICKUP TRUCK. Early twenties, they're tattoo'd, pierced, each carrying a SIX-PACK OF BEER, open cans in their hands.

They hoist a hesitant Charlie up into the cab, then slide in on either side of him and drive away. [Note: the Pickup has a RACK OF SPOTLIGHTS mounted on its roof.]

SHERIFF BISHOP  
Proves the boy was abducted.

OFF Susannah, her worst fears realized --

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 EXT. MARTY'S GAS AND GO - DAWN

41

Dawn is breaking. Heavy rain clouds fill the sky. As Jake pours water into a BOWL for Puzzle and Shadow, Puzzle submerges her entire face in it. BG, a somber Susannah confers with the Sheriff, then walks over to Jake.

SUSANNAH

Sheriff's putting out an amber alert.  
Now that he has a make and model on  
the pickup.

JAKE

More eyes we have looking for  
Charlie, the better.

Just then, MRS. JOHNSON'S SUV, tears up to the gas station. She jumps out and races to Susannah and Jake.

MRS. JOHNSON

Heard the police radios. Did you  
find Charlie?

Her eyes beg for answers.

SUSANNAH

Alice, I'm sorry. You really need  
to talk to the Sheriff. He has all  
the current information.

She can see there's something Susannah's not telling her.

MRS. JOHNSON

No, I want you to tell me. Where  
is my son? I need to know what  
happened to him. Please --

She starts to cry. Susannah tries to hold her, but Mrs. Johnson's overcome with grief and guilt, losing it.

MRS. JOHNSON

He's dead. Charlie's dead. That's  
why you won't tell me. Oh, my God.  
It's my fault. My baby --

She's sobbing now. The Sheriff comes over.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Mrs. Johnson, we're still looking  
for Charlie. But there have been  
some new developments.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

He puts an arm around her and leads her off. Susannah looks to the SUV where Tommy and Georgia, faces pressed to the glass, watch their Mom freak out, freaking them out. OFF Jake watching Susannah, rattled --

TIME CUT TO:

42 EXT. MARTY'S GAS AND GO - LATER

42

Jake exits the mini-mart, now in his RAIN GEAR. He's drinking a cup of coffee, Shadow at his side. Just then, Jake feels a cold, wet nose nudge his hand. Looks down to see Puzzle, trying to get his attention.

JAKE

What's up, Puz? You still hungry?

He offers her a cookie from his pocket, but Puzzle doesn't take it. Instead, she turns and walks away from him, then looks back as if to say, *follow me*. Jake and Shadow follow Puzzle toward --

43 EXT. MARTY'S GAS AND GO - PICNIC AREA - CONTINUOUS

43

Susannah sits alone on a picnic table. Shutting down, as if a switch has flipped. Jake takes a seat beside her. The dogs lie down. A beat. She doesn't acknowledge him.

JAKE

Ninety-one percent of *stranger abducted* kids are murdered in the first twenty-four hours. It's a bad stat.

(off her silence)

But it's the other nine percent that keeps you going. And it's you that keeps us going.

SUSANNAH

She's blaming herself.

JAKE

She's trying to make sense out of something that makes no sense. It's not fair. It's not right. Bad things happen.

(then)

Mrs. Johnson didn't hear Charlie leave the tent. Kids wander off. They play with matches. They also get sick. Sometimes they die.

(MORE)



43 CONTINUED:

43

JAKE (CONT'D)

And most of the time, it's no one's fault.

Susannah looks at him. Because he's not talking about Mrs. Johnson now. Or Charlie.

JAKE

It's been eight years since you lost your daughter. You can beat yourself up every day for the rest of your life. But that's not going to bring her back.

(then)

I believe in you and that nine percent. If we get back out there, we still have a shot at saving Charlie. And his mother.

Susannah remains silent.

JAKE

That's all I got.

(more silence)

Okay. I'm breaking out the big guns.

He pulls a YOO-HOO out of his jacket, hands it to her. She smiles --

SUSANNAH

Yoo-hoo?

JAKE

You know how I feel about my Yoo-hoos. But if you need it, it's yours.

SUSANNAH

You are one helluva friend.

As Susannah puts her arm around him, Puzzle and Shadow get to their feet --

JAKE

Don't spread it around. Don't want to ruin my image.

OFF their shared look, handlers and dogs back in the battle --

44 EXT. STATE PARK - EARLY MORNING

44

Huge expanse of dense WOODS.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

DIRT ROAD winding out of the park, merging with a TWO-LANE. Along that road, Marty's Gas and Go. And out there somewhere, under the drizzle, is Charlie Johnson. SERIES OF SHOTS: Teams Puzzle, Shadow and Chaos search their various sectors.

45 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - EARLY MORNING

45

ON the big screen interactive map, Pete follows Puzzle and Shadow's progress. In another quadrant of the map, he follows the AIR SCENT DOGS (including Chaos), who are working sectors in the woods adjacent to Marty's Gas and Go.

Pete looks up, hears RAIN hitting the roof of the MIC.

PETE (into radio)  
Team Puzzle, your rain's coming in. Most of the teams have been out all night. Should think about dutying down.

INTERCUT WITH:

46 EXT. WOODS - VARIOUS SECTORS - EARLY MORNING

46

Team Puzzle, Team Shadow and Team Chaos are all wearing RAIN GEAR as they search their separate sectors.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Pete, if you call it my rain, everyone's going to blame it on me.

JAKE (into radio)  
How you liking the rain, Sedona?

SEDONA (into radio)  
You mean this drizzle?

JAKE (into radio)  
Better watch out for Water Crawlers.

Susannah smiles, knows where this is going.

SEDONA (into radio)  
What are Water Crawlers?

PETE (into radio)  
Spiders. Nasty little buggers.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Jump out of the trees when it rains.

Sedona looks up at the canopy, a little worried.

46 CONTINUED:

46

JAKE (into radio)  
 Didn't one go down your shirt last  
 year, Susie?

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
 Had to take my top off in front of  
 all those deputies. Made fifty  
 bucks in singles.

The sound of SNICKERING over the radios. Sedona realizes  
 they're messing with her --

SEDONA (into radio)  
 Very funny.

JAKE (into radio)  
 Gotcha.

STAY WITH SEDONA. Ahead of her, out of sight, Chaos BARKS.

SEDONA (into radio)  
 Team Chaos to Base. We're six miles  
 east of the Gas Station. Chaos has  
 something...

BARKING continues. CAMERA surges through the trees, searching  
 for the source. FINDING Chaos focused... BARKING... at  
 something on the ground. Next to him, Sedona's on her radio:

SEDONA (into radio)  
 He's showing strong interest in a  
 baseball cap.

INTERCUT WITH:

47 EXT. CAMPGROUND - NEAR MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - EARLY MORNING 47

Sheriff Bishop, hears this on his radio, heads for the MIC.

SHERIFF BISHOP (into radio)  
 This is Sheriff Bishop. Team Chaos,  
 please inform. Is it a red Houston  
 Astros cap?

Now we SEE the RED CAP on the ground in front of Chaos.

SEDONA (into radio)  
 Team Chaos to Sheriff. Affirmative.

48 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - EARLY MORNING

48

Sheriff Bishop enters, eyes the DOTS on the INTERACTIVE MAP.

48 CONTINUED:

48

SHERIFF BISHOP  
Which one's Team Chaos?

PETE  
This one.

He points on the map. The area's dense forest. But nearby, just to the east, is a creek.

SHERIFF BISHOP  
Creek runs dry this time of year. Give the pickup easy access to a secluded spot in the woods. Could be looking at a body dump. I'll send my guys out --

PETE  
-- Canine teams can sector out from where Team Chaos found the cap.

SHERIFF BISHOP  
You got any cadaver dogs?

49 EXT. WOODS - DAY

49

DRIVING RAIN. THUNDER. LIGHTNING. Making it difficult for Susannah and Puzzle, who are sloggng through their sector.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Let the cops think what they want. Just because we found Charlie's baseball cap, doesn't mean he's dead. This is still a search, not a recovery.

STAY WITH Susannah and Puzzle as they arrive at --

50 EXT. SMALL FOOT BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

50

An old, rickety, wooden bridge spanning the CREEK. Susannah and Puzzle start across, but predictably, Puzzle stops to stare at the RISING WATER under her. *Time for a swim?*

SUSANNAH  
Keep it moving, Puz.

As Puzzle makes her way across the bridge --

51 EXT. WOODS - DAY

51

SERIES OF SHOTS: Team Puzzle and Team Shadow, drudging through the wet and muddy woods as they search their separate sectors.

52 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - DAY

52

Pete monitors the DOPPLER RADAR and LOCAL NEWS STATIONS. Sedona pushes in, drenched, but still looking fabulous.

PETE

It's really coming down now.

SEDONA

Chaos had a power nap, I had a gallon of caffeine. Ready to go back out.

Just then, a FLASH FLOOD WARNING scrolls across every channel. Pete cranks up the volume on his EMERGENCY RADIO --

RADIO (V.O.)

Flash Flood Warning for North Central Dallas County. National Weather Service Doppler Radar indicates very heavy rain and thunderstorms over the warned area.

As the advisory continues, Pete looks worried.

PETE

Game changer.

SEDONA

C'mon, we have rain gear. Charlie doesn't.

OFF Pete, torn --

53 EXT. WOODS - DAY

53

Pitch black sky. Rain coming in sideways. Suddenly, LIGHTNING illuminates Team Puzzle. Unfazed, Puzzle's showing interest in a SMALL CLEARING, picking up a scent... then, losing it... picking it up again, nose to the ground.

**SUSANNAH'S POV: SCENT IMAGE OF CHARLIE flutters in the clearing, as Puzzle finds, then loses his scent.**

PETE (over radio)

Team Puzzle, Team Shadow, a Flash Flood Warning has just been issued for your immediate area. All teams should return to base now.

Susannah, her radio now wrapped in plastic, responds.

SUSANNAH (into radio)

Team Puzzle to Base. No time for a flash flood.

(MORE)

53 CONTINUED:

53

SUSANNAH (into radio) (CONT'D)  
 Puzzle's got a lot of interest at  
 our coordinates. Charlie's  
 definitely been through here.

INTERCUT WITH:

54 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - DAY

54

Pete and Sedona study the map. Noting Susannah's location.  
 The spot where Charlie's cap was found is also marked.

SEDONA (into radio)  
 That's two and a half miles from  
 where we found his cap.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
 Puzzle's nose is on the ground.  
 She's trailing his footsteps. He  
 was on his feet. Charlie could  
 still be alive --

Her last few words are garbled --

PETE (into radio)  
 You're breaking up. Team Puzzle,  
 Team Shadow, get back to the road.  
 Rendezvous with transport.

55 EXT. WOODS - TEAM SHADOW'S SECTOR - DAY

55

A rain-soaked Jake and Shadow now stand near the bank of the  
 creek, the water level rapidly rising.

JAKE (into radio)  
 Team Shadow to Base. Copy that.  
 Our sector's clear. But we've got  
 a little problem --

FOLLOW his look across the raging water TO --

56 EXT. WOODS - TEAM PUZZLE'S SECTOR - DAY

56

Susannah and Puzzle staring at the same raging water from  
 the opposite side of the creek. The bridge now gone.

JAKE (into radio)  
 -- Bridge is washed out.

He calls out to Susannah --

56 CONTINUED:

56

JAKE

You're on the wrong side of the creek.

SUSANNAH

Yeah. I noticed.

JAKE

Maybe I can throw you a rope. Pull you across.

SUSANNAH

(joking)

You're not going to swim over, carry us to safety? What kind of firefighter are you?

Suddenly, their RADIOS CRACKLE --

INTERCUT WITH:

57 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - DAY

57

A drenched Sheriff Bishop has joined Pete and Sedona. He shouts into the radio, but his words are breaking up --

SHERIFF BISHOP (into radio)

Just heard from one of my deputies. Creek breached its banks! Wall of water's coming your way!

PETE (into radio)

Team Shadow, haul ass!! Team Puzzle get to higher ground, now!!

Jake doesn't want to leave Susannah.

JAKE

I'm not leaving you!

SUSANNAH

Jake, go! That's an order! Go!

Reluctant, he starts running, Shadow at his side. STAY WITH --

58 SUSANNAH AND PUZZLE

58

Also on the move. Racing back into the woods. Searching for a tree with low, climbable branches. Puzzle at her heels.

SUSANNAH

Time to climb, Puz.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

*The CREEK WATER edges toward them. They slosh through the wet forest floor, desperately looking for the right tree. Finally, they find one.*

SUSANNAH

This'll have to do.

Susannah leans into her partner.

SUSANNAH

We've practiced this a hundred times.

She gives Puzzle a kiss, then --

SUSANNAH

Up!

ON PUZZLE, as Puzzle leaps for the lowest branch. But her paws can't get traction on the wet bark. She falls back down. *The water is now pooling around their legs.*

PETE (over radio)

Team Puzzle, status update.

SUSANNAH

(ignoring)

C'mon Puz. You can do it. Up!

With a push from Susannah, Puzzle goes airborne, sticks the landing.

SUSANNAH

Good girl!

Susannah shrugs off her pack and pulls out FIFTY YARDS OF WEBBING. She runs it through the D-RINGS on Puzzle's harness.

SUSANNAH

Up!

Puzzle, slip sliding, climbs up to the next branch. *The water now up to Susannah's knees. She tries to stay calm.*

SUSANNAH

C'mon, Puz, keep going. Up!

Puzzle continues to climb higher, scrambling up wet branch by wet branch as Susannah continues to watch the rising water. *Almost to her hips now.*

59 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - DAY - SAME TIME

59

Pete, Sedona and Sheriff Bishop are getting worried.



59 CONTINUED:

59

JAKE (over radio)  
Team Shadow to Base. We're at the  
road. Safe. What about Team Puzzle?

PETE (into radio)  
Team Puzzle, did you make it to  
higher ground?

Still no response from Susannah.

PETE (into radio)  
Team Puzzle? Susannah? Respond.

After a tense beat --

SUSANNAH (over radio)  
Team Puzzle to Base.

60 EXT. TREE BRANCH - SAME TIME

60

Susannah and Puzzle are both out of breath.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
We're both safe.

PETE (over radio)  
That's good news, Ma'am.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
We've talked about the 'ma'am'.  
Makes me feel old.

PETE (over radio)  
Copy that.

Susannah pulls Puzzle close.

SUSANNAH  
Good, Puz. Good girl. That was  
fun, wasn't it?

Puzzle licks Susannah's face, then shifts focus to the rushing  
water below.

SUSANNAH  
Don't even think about it.

Just then, Susannah's CELL RINGS. It's Alan on CALLER I.D.  
She answers it.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
Hi, Honey.

INTERCUT WITH:

61 INT. CHARLESON HOUSE - DAY

61

Alan is standing in the kitchen. On the counter BG, a new BOTTLE OF WINE.

ALAN (into phone)  
Please tell me you're not out in  
this weather.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
How'd practice go yesterday?

ALAN (into phone)  
You're changing the subject. How  
worried should I be?

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
Alan, I'm fine.

ALAN (into phone)  
You're cutting out. Where are you?

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
Up a tree.

ALAN (into phone)  
That means you're actually up a  
tree. The whole team?

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
No. Just me and Puzzle.

Puzzle BARKS a GREETING.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
She says hi. You should see the  
view.

STAY WITH SUSANNAH, as she spots in the rushing water below --

A RED PICKUP, with a distinctive RACK OF SPOTLIGHTS on its  
roof, swirling in the current, right underneath their tree.

SUSANNAH (into phone)  
Alan, everything's fine, but I've  
got to go.

She hangs up, strains to see inside the truck. Puzzle picks  
up a scent and Susannah gets a look inside. LIFELESS BODIES.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Team Puzzle to Base. I have a visual  
on the red pickup.  
(MORE)

61 CONTINUED:

61

SUSANNAH (into radio) (CONT'D)  
Caught in the flood. Moving  
downstream. I saw bodies inside.

INTERCUT WITH:

62 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - DAY - SAME TIME

62

Pete, Sedona, and Sheriff Bishop glued to the radio.

SHERIFF BISHOP (into radio)  
Charlie Johnson one of them?

Susannah strains to get another look inside the truck, but  
its already too far away, taken by the current.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Couldn't tell.

OFF Susannah, hoping this isn't the end of their search --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

63 EXT. WOODS - THE CREEK DOWNSTREAM - DAY

63

Post-storm. The PICKUP has come to rest at a bend in the creek, beached in the twisted branches of an uprooted tree. The water, no longer raging, laps up against the truck. ANGLE OVER TO --

POLICE CRUISERS, PARAMEDIC VAN and SEVERAL EMERGENCY VEHICLES parked next to the creek. BG, the Sheriff's on his cell. Sedona watches as Jake and a LOCAL FIREFIGHTER attach a SAFETY CABLE to the pickup, to prevent it from floating away.

DURING ALL THIS, Shadow and Chaos are showing interest in the truck. Not a good sign.

SEDONA

(to Jake)

Is Charlie in there?

Jake jumps onto the hood of the truck to get a look inside.

JAKE

(a long look, then)

No. Just the two guys who picked him up.

Sedona indicates the pickup's windows.

SEDONA

Windows are down. Charlie could've been swept out, carried downstream.

Just then, a POLICE TRUCK roars up and Susannah jumps out. Puzzle waits in the bed. Sedona pulls Susannah into a hug.

SEDONA

Thank God you're okay.

SUSANNAH

Takes more than a little flash flood to kill me.

Jake comes over, gives her a bear hug.

JAKE

Sure, rescue yourself. Make me look like a chump.

SUSANNAH

You can be the hero next time.

(then)

What about Charlie?

(CONTINUED)

63

CONTINUED:

63

SEDONA

No sign of him.

The Sheriff comes over with news.

SHERIFF BISHOP

(re: pickup)

Ran the plates. Got an I.D on the bodies. Jason Reid and Scott Doyle. College students. No criminal record. Talked to Reid's father. Said the boys were going camping by the creek.

SUSANNAH

They didn't count on the storm.

SHERIFF BISHOP

By all accounts, these were good kids. Don't think they abducted Charlie Johnson. Probably just giving him a lift.

SEDONA

Eight year old by himself and they didn't call it in?

JAKE

College kids. Bad judgment.

Susannah notices that Puzzle, still in the truck, is restless, HUFFING, straining to go upstream. She looks like an outfielder drawing a bead on a high fly ball. Susannah knows she's picking up Charlie's scent in the air.

**SUSANNAH'S POV: A SCENT IMAGE OF CHARLIE appears, walking upstream along the creek bank. He disappears around a bend.**

SUSANNAH

Puzzle's indicating interest upstream. What if these boys dropped Charlie off before the flood hit?

SEDONA

Dropped him off where?

SUSANNAH

(a theory)

If Charlie hitched a ride, it means he had somewhere he wanted to go.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Same question. Where?

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2)

63

SUSANNAH

On an adventure. Just like Bobby D. The boy in the book his father used to read to him.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Not that again.

Now Jake notices that Shadow's nose is in the air, also picking up Charlie's scent upstream.

JAKE

Shadow's got the scent, too.

As Shadow takes a few steps in that direction, Puzzle jumps out of the truck and joins her. The dogs toss looks back to Susannah and Jake as if to say "*What are we waiting for?*"

SUSANNAH

We trust our dogs. They're telling us Charlie is upstream.

The Sheriff sees what they see. Makes a decision.

SHERIFF BISHOP

Just leave me some teams to search downstream. Cover our bases.

SEDONA

Teams Chaos and Whiskey can handle that.

SHERIFF BISHOP

(to Susannah)

Hope you find him. I don't want to have to tell another parent today their son is dead.

As Susannah and Jake follow Puzzle and Shadow --

64 EXT. WOODS - CLUSTER OF CABINS - DAY (LATER)

64

Teams Puzzle and Shadow make their way past several CABINS. Susannah and Jake on the radio with Pete.

SUSANNAH (into radio)

Puzzle and Shadow are still indicating a westerly direction of travel.

JAKE (into radio)

Hey, Pete.

(MORE)

64 CONTINUED:

64

JAKE (into radio) (CONT'D)  
On that map of yours, you see any  
hot spots Charlie could've been  
drawn to?

INTERCUT WITH:

65 INT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - DAY

65

Pete studies his high-tech MAP, noting the GPS positions of  
Teams Puzzle and Shadow. He examines the surrounding areas.

PETE (into radio)  
Except for those cabins, nothing  
fun in the area. Except for Blue  
Lake.

JAKE (into radio)  
Bodies of water are a big attraction  
for kids.

PETE (into radio)  
It's a large lake. With several  
small islands.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
(light bulb)  
In Charlie's book, Bobby D went to  
an island. Lighthouse Point.

PETE (into radio)  
Don't see any lighthouses on the  
map.

JAKE (into radio)  
How far's that lake?

66 EXT. EDGE OF THE WOODS - DAY (LATER)

66

Trees thinner now. More clearings. Susannah and Jake trail  
behind Puzzle and Shadow. Suddenly --

Puzzle and Shadow raise their noses in the air, picking up a  
strong scent. An instant later, they break into a run.  
Heading for the blue water we can just see through the trees.

As Susannah and Jake struggle to keep up with them --

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Team Puzzle to Base. Both dogs  
showing strong interest, running  
toward the lake. We're on them.

67 EXT. BLUE LAKE - DAY

67

Puzzle and Shadow burst through the trees and race for the shoreline. But don't stop there. They keep going right into the still water of the lake. Puzzle leading the charge.

Susannah and Jake emerge from the woods. Immediately note a SMALL TREE-COVERED ISLAND, less than a hundred yards from shore. On the island, a RUNDOWN SUMMER HOUSE. And, next to it, a miniature LIGHTHOUSE, like a child's playhouse.

SUSANNAH

Lighthouse.

Their eyes find the dogs swimming toward an OVERTURNED CANOE. Floating in the water, halfway between us and the island.

JAKE

They're swimming hard right to that canoe.

SUSANNAH

Charlie could be under there, hanging on.

JAKE

No PFDs. We should radio for a boat.

She's already stripping off her pack, kicking off her shoes.

SUSANNAH

No time.  
(then, into radio)  
Dogs are in the water. I'm going after them.

Jake starts shrugging off his gear.

JAKE

We're already breaking three procedures. What's one more?

SUSANNAH

Where do you think you're going?

JAKE

You said I could be the hero next time. It's next time.

SUSANNAH

Any excuse to take your shirt off, huh?

Jake strips off his shirt, smiling. Susannah tucks her PLASTIC WRAPPED RADIO into a zippered pocket.

(CONTINUED)



67 CONTINUED:

67

Then, Jake grabs his PLASTIC WRAPPED PHONE and they race into the water.

68 IN THE WATER

68

Puzzle and Shadow have reached the overturned canoe. But once again, they don't stop. They just keep swimming excitedly toward the island.

Susannah and Jake know what this means. They swim over to the canoe. Jake flips it over, confirming -- no Charlie.

JAKE

They're swimming to the strongest scent.

SUSANNAH

Charlie's on that island.

As they swim for all they're worth --

69 EXT. ISLAND - DAY

69

Puzzle and Shadow bound out of the water and along the shore. Then, veer into the trees, hot on Charlie's scent.

The dogs are out of sight, as Susannah and Jake scramble out of the water. Winded, Susannah stops to catch her breath.

JAKE

Two hours at the gym every day.  
I'm not breathing heavy at all.

SUSANNAH

Yeah, but can you do a Cuban Eight  
in a Cessna?

They race after the dogs. Suddenly, they hear --

BARKING. ALERTING. Susannah grabs her radio.

SUSANNAH (into radio)

Team Puzzle to Base. We've got an  
alert.

Jake sprints ahead, following the BARKS. Susannah right behind. They emerge from the trees and find themselves looking down --

70 A ROCKY EMBANKMENT

70

ON THE ROCKS BELOW, Puzzle and Shadow, still BARKING, sit beside a cold, injured, but alive CHARLIE JOHNSON. His leg wedged under some LARGE ROCKS.

SUSANNAH (into radio)  
Team Puzzle to Base, we've got  
Charlie. We need medical attention  
at our coordinates.

71 EXT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - DAY

71

Mrs. Johnson sits at a picnic table with Tommy and Georgia trying to keep them calm. Pete excitedly wheels over.

PETE  
Mrs. Johnson, they found Charlie.  
He's alive.

Mrs. Johnson, Tommy and Georgia's faces flood with relief as they embrace each other.

72 EXT. ISLAND - DAY

72

Susannah and Jake quickly and carefully make their way down the rocky slope to Charlie and the dogs.

SUSANNAH/JAKE  
(to dogs)  
Good girls! Good that!

Puzzle and Shadow stop barking. Charlie looks up at Susannah and Jake, happy to see them.

SUSANNAH  
Hey, Charlie, I'm Susannah, this is  
Jake. We've been looking all over  
for you.

JAKE  
How you doing, buddy?

CHARLIE  
I fell on the rocks. My leg...

Jake is already checking him out. His leg, his vitals.

JAKE  
You're wedged in there pretty good.

Charlie nods. Jake trades a look with Susannah.

72

CONTINUED:

72

JAKE

I don't want to move him.

(to Charlie)

Charlie, I'm pretty sure your leg is broken. But you're going to be just fine. We're going to get you out of here. Bring you to your family.

(to Susannah)

I'll call in his vitals, wait for the boat. Shadow, come.

Jake heads off, followed by Shadow. Susannah and Puzzle stay close to Charlie, trying to keep him warm and calm.

SUSANNAH

Your Mom's going to be so happy to see you.

CHARLIE

How'd you find me?

SUSANNAH

Puzzle and Shadow did. They could smell you.

Puzzle licks Charlie's face. He pets her, comforted by her closeness. A beat, then a confession --

CHARLIE

He's not here. Thought he'd be here.

SUSANNAH

Your dad?

(off his nod)

You must miss him an awful lot.

Charlie nods, tears streaming down his face.

CHARLIE

I really loved him.

SUSANNAH

I know, Sweetheart. It hurts so much to lose someone you love. But you know what I think -- you don't have to go to a magical island to find them. Because they're not really lost. Even when we can't see them anymore, they're still with us. Right here...

Susannah taps her heart. Charlie takes in her words, pulling Puzzle even closer --

73 EXT. BLUE LAKE - LATER

73

MUSIC OVER. Susannah, Jake, Puzzle and Shadow follow the PARAMEDICS, who carry Charlie, on a STRETCHER, toward a waiting AMBULANCE, as --

A POLICE CRUISER pulls up and Mrs. Johnson, Tommy and Georgia leap out. Rush to Charlie, embracing him. Tears of relief.

As the Paramedics load Charlie into the ambulance, Puzzle jumps in with him. Lays her head on Charlie's chest, enjoying the connection. All the reward she needs.

Mrs. Johnson turns to Susannah --

MRS. JOHNSON

Thank you.

Mrs. Johnson hugs Susannah. Tommy looks to Jake, nods his thanks. Then, as the Johnson family piles into the ambulance, Puzzle jumps out and returns to Susannah's side. A final wave, the ambulance doors shut, and it pulls away. OFF Susannah --

74 EXT. MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND - LATE AFTERNOON

74

The SAR team's packing up. All the dogs are kicking back. Jake's playing ball with Shadow. Sedona approaches him.

SEDONA

Good find today.

JAKE

For all of us.

SEDONA

Still want to go for that drink?

JAKE

Thought you weren't into smoke eaters.

SEDONA

I'm willing to make an exception.

Jake smiles. Looks like his persistence finally paid off.

JAKE

I could get a drink.

Just then, Pete wheels over.

PETE

Hey, Sedona, heard you're taking all of us to Hennessy's.

74 CONTINUED:

74

JAKE  
 (realizing)  
 You invited the whole team.

SEDONA  
 Gotcha.

Sedona smiles. Meanwhile, CAMERA FINDS --

Susannah packing up her car, Puzzle in a "down stay" at her feet, when the Sheriff walks up to her. She knows what he's about to say.

SUSANNAH  
 I know what you're going to say.  
 I'm a bit of a risk taker. I have  
 control issues. And I may have  
 broken a few procedures today --

SHERIFF BISHOP  
 -- I stopped counting after five.

SUSANNAH  
 That's a good number.

SHERIFF BISHOP  
 Rules are there for a reason. So I  
 don't have to rescue the rescuers.

SUSANNAH  
 You're right. I'm sorry.  
 (then)  
 But when a boy's life is at stake,  
 I'm kind of like a dog with a bone.

She's ready to accept the consequences of her actions, when --

SHERIFF BISHOP  
 Pit Bull.  
 (off her smile)  
 Went by the hospital. Talked to  
 Charlie. When his mother was  
 planning the camping trip, he saw a  
 picture of that island with the  
 lighthouse. Had the whole thing  
 planned out, even printed a map of  
 how to get there.

Sheriff pulls out A RUMPLED GOOGLE MAP OF THE CAMPGROUND,  
 WITH THE NEARBY LAKE AND ISLAND.

SUSANNAH  
 Pretty smart for an eight year-old.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED: (2)

74

SHERIFF BISHOP  
You never gave up hope.

SUSANNAH  
(smiles)  
Optimist. You should try it  
sometime.

Sheriff extends his hand. As Susannah shakes it, Puzzle lifts her paw -- this time the Sheriff takes it.

DISSOLVE TO:

75 INT. CHARLESON HOUSE - NIGHT

75

Susannah and Puzzle drag through the front door, exhausted. Susannah hangs Puzzle's vest and leash by the door to dry. Puzzle follows Susannah into --

76 INT. CHARLESON HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

76

Susannah sees the new BOTTLE OF WINE on the counter. It's open, a glass poured next to it, and a note. "Had a game. Enjoy the wine. Dinner in the fridge."

Susannah takes a sip of wine, opens the fridge and pulls out a COOKED STEAK. Puzzle wags her tail, nose in the air.

SUSANNAH  
Your lucky day, Puz, we're having  
steak for dinner.

77 INT. CHARLESON HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT - LATER

77

The tub fills with water. Susannah adds bubbles, then peels off her mud-caked clothes.

She settles into the bubble bath, closing her eyes, letting the tension of the last 36 hours drain away.

Puzzle peeks her head around the door. Eyes the bubble bath, longingly. Looks at Susannah, whose eyes are closed. Puzzle creeps into the room. Sensing her, Susannah opens her eyes.

SUSANNAH  
Puzzle, no.

Puzzle stops for a moment, then takes another step toward the tub.

SUSANNAH  
I said no.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

Puzzle ignores Susannah and LEAPS into the tub --

SPLASH! WATER and BUBBLES drench Susannah.

SUSANNAH

Puz! Out.

Puzzle lowers herself into the water. Rests her head on the edge of the tub, lets out a contented sigh.

SUSANNAH

Guess we both earned a bubble bath.

Then, as she and Puzzle relax in the tub, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF PILOT