

KIDNAP

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN EVERYTOWN, U.S.A. - DAY

A WHITE CHRYSLER MINIVAN cruises through SUBURBAN EVERYTOWN, USA. Look, there's a Wal-Mart. Over there, a Rite Aid. A strip mall. An Applebee's. Bed Bath & Beyond. Home Depot. Wendy's. Chevron. THE REAL WORLD.

I/E. MINIVAN (MOVING)

Behind the wheel is KATE McCOY (30's, brown hair). In the CHILD'S CAR SEAT behind her is FRANK (4, curly blond hair), playing with a handheld VOICE CHANGER/RECORDER toy.

On the ceiling, there's a PULLDOWN SCREEN playing a children's DVD: "THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD".

DVD NARRATOR (VO)

"A little steam engine had a long train of cars to pull. She went along very well till she came to a steep hill. But then, no matter how hard she tried, she could not move the long train of cars. She pulled and pulled. She puffed and puffed. Choo-choo! But the cars would not go up the hill. "Surely--"

FRANK

(says it along with
the video)

"Surely I can find someone to help me!"

DVD NARRATOR (VO)

"...she thought. Over the hill and up the track went the little steam engine. Choo, choo!"

FRANK

(into toy)

Choo, Choo!

Frank REWINDS and plays his voice back, LOWERING and RAISING the pitch, entertaining himself profusely.

Kate grins, lets him go a little wild with it. Her CELL PHONE rings (a children's song ringtone: "The Wheels On The Bus Go Round and Round"). She turns down the dvd.

KATE

(into phone)

Helllll-ooo.

(beat)

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

Out Mother's Day shopping with our future professional teeball player.

(smiles)

You know what he wanted to get me?

A D-O-G.

(beat)

Oh, he told you?

(listens, laughs)

Well done, good sir. Well done.

(beat)

No, we're almost finished. I'm right by the mall so I'm going to run in there and then we're heading home. How about you, are you about to leave work?

(beat)

Oh no. How late?

(beat)

So I'll probably have to put Frank to bed before you and I celebrate, huh.

(grins)

Oh really?

(ooh-hoo)

Wow, I think I would like that very much. In fact, maybe I'll take a minute at the mall and try on some Father's Day presents.

Her GPS NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM speaks up.

GPS (VO)

You missed your turn. Make a U-turn if possible.

KATE

Oops, hold on, I have to make a U-turn. Here, talk to Frank.

She passes the phone back to Frank. Frank holds up his toy (the "VOCODER") to the phone.

FRANK

(in loud, distorted
ROBOT VOICE)

HIIIIIIII, DAAAAADDDDDYYYYYYY!!!

Kate pulls into a left-hand turn lane. Checks for traffic. Just one car coming. She has plenty of time to U-turn... but she still waits and lets it pass. OVERLY CAUTIOUS.

GPS (VO)

Make a U-turn.

Then there's another car coming way down there. She looks back at where she needs to go. Come on, make the U-turn...

FRANK

Daddy?
 (looks at phone)
 Mom, it hung up.

KATE

 (watching traffic)
 Hold on to it. He'll call back.

GPS (VO)

Make a U-turn.

Come on, *turn*. A STATIONWAGON pulls up behind her. HONKS!

Oop! Kate chickens out and makes a LEFT TURN into a residential street. She immediately pulls into a DRIVEWAY.

GPS (VO) (CONT'D)

You missed your turn...

FRANK

Who's house is this?

KATE

Nobody's, Frank. Mommy's
 just...being extra safe, that's
 all.

She REVERSES out of the driveway. Pulls back up to the road, flips on her right turn signal.

EXT. MINIVAN (CONTINUOUS)

On the rear bumper, next to her blinking TURN SIGNAL, is an old tattered STICKER that reads: "BABY ON BOARD".

EXT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

ESTABLISHING ON: a giant SHOPPING MALL surrounded by parking lot and a circular "PARK N' RIDE" road with trees.

The WHITE MINIVAN pulls into the lot and parks.

INT. MINIVAN - CONTINUOUS

Kate gets out, and SLIDES open Frank's SLIDING DOOR. Unbuckles him from his car seat.

KATE

You ready?
 (sees his shoes)
 Uh oh. Shoes untied.

Frank hangs his head. Ashamed.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Did you forget how to do them?
 (smiles)
 It's okay, honey, they're hard.
 Here, we'll split it up. Mommy'll
 do one and then you do one, okay?

She starts on his left shoe.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Sooo, we tie it just like normal,
 right? And then when we're done,
 we don't let go of the two loops.
 What do we do?

FRANK
 Tie them together?

KATE
 Tie them together.

Frank stares down intently as she ties it.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Okay. Your turn.

Frank picks up his laces on the other shoe. His CHUBBY
 LITTLE FINGERS string them together.

Kate watches him admiringly.

He quickly ties a knot, then pauses with the loops in each
 hand...how does this work again....?

Then he remembers, and ties them together, extra-tight.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Perfect. Look, you just did it all
 by yourself!

Frank feels a moment of satisfaction.

KATE (CONT'D)
 (leans in)
 Why do we like double knots?
 (beat)
 Hmm? 'Cause why?

FRANK
 Because a knot... umm...

KATE
 "Because a knot can come loose..."

FRANK
 (joins in with her)
 "...but a double knot can never
 come loose."

All done. She kisses his forehead. PICKS HIM UP.

KATE
 Alright, you tyer you, let's walk.

FRANK
 I'm not a tire!

KATE
 Yes you are. You are now.

FRANK
 (laughs)
 I'm a tire?

KATE
 Yep. You better hope I don't get a
 flat on the way home. You got
 Mommy's cell phone?

FRANK
 Yep!

As a BROWN HATCHBACK pulls into a spot in the background,
 we follow Kate and Frank as they walk toward the Mall,
 HOLDING HANDS in the parking lot, riffing with each other
 on their silly tire gag. Kate has a SHOPPING BAG.

INT. JCPENNEY DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Kate and Frank walk through the GLASS DOORS into a JCPENNEY
 DEPARTMENT STORE. Everywhere, pink signs and banners
 proclaim: "MOTHER'S DAY SALE".

Kate goes up to the counter with her bag.

KATE
 Hi, I'd like to return these.

JCPENNEY LADY
 Okay.
 (takes pants)
 Do you have a receipt?

KATE
 Mm-hmm.

JCPENNEY LADY
 We can only give you store credit,
 is that okay?

KATE

That's fine. Can you hold it up here while I look around?

JCPENNEY LADY

Of course. Take your time.

Kate turns around and realizes Frank is gone.

KATE

Frank?

Muffled GIGGLING.

KATE (CONT'D)

Uh-oh. Where's Frank? Where could he have gone?

She sees his SHOES sticking out at the bottom of a circular clothing rack. She digs through the clothing rack next to him, eliciting more GIGGLING.

KATE (CONT'D)

Well, I guess I lost him forever...

She finally pushes open his clothing rack. There's FRANK! He SCREAMS with delight!

KATE (CONT'D)

There he is! Okay, come on.

Kate walks around the store with Frank. There's a little CHILDREN'S TV AREA with colorful flooring. A couple of OTHER LITTLE KIDS watching some animated movie.

FRANK

OH! Can I watch TV?

KATE

No, stay with me. We're only going to be here for a minute.

Frank plays back what she said on his Vocoder, giving her a DISTORTED ROBOT VOICE. It's pretty DISRUPTIVE.

KATE (CONT'D)

Frank. Shhh. That's too loud to be playing with in here.

Frank looks down at his Vocoder while Kate shops around for a minute. He accidentally walks right into a MALE SHOPPER's leg.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oop! Careful!
 (to Male Shopper)
 I'm sorry.

MALE SHOPPER

Oh, he's fine, he's fine.
 (tousles Frank's
 hair)

Frank looks down, shy, as they walk away. He kicks at his shoes for another excruciating minute of Kate's clothing perusal. He sits down underneath a clothing rack.

FRANK

Can I hide one more time?

KATE

No Frank. No more hide and seek.

FRANK

Why not?

KATE

'Cause Mommy's not here to play.
 Come on, get up. The sooner Mommy
 finishes here the sooner we'll get
 home.

Frank looks back over at that tantalizing TV area.

FRANK

Mom, it's the acorn part! Can I
 just go watch the acorn part?

KATE

Frank, no. No more questions.

Frank hangs his head in defeat.

Kate looks over some DRESSES. Ehhh, eh...OOH, this one's kind of hot. She TAKES IT OFF THE RACK. Hm, it's ON SALE.

Walks back to the DRESSING ROOM.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hi, just one please.

DRESSING ROOM LADY

Here you go.

The Lady hands her a "1" CARD. Kate eyes a row of WAITING CHAIRS by the Dressing Room.

KATE

Alright, Polo, you sit right there
where I can see your feet, okay?

Frank sits down. Kate heads back to the dressing room.
She looks back at Frank.

He's mischievously sticking his foot out towards the door,
like he's about to steal a base. Grinning at her.

KATE (CONT'D)

Frank, I'm serious. Be good.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate sets down the "1" card. She steps out of her heels,
unbuttons her shirt and slides her skirt down her legs,
gets down to bra and panties.

KATE

Marco.

FRANK (OS)

Polo.

Kate tries on the SEXY DRESS, checks herself in the mirror.

Wow...she looks GORGEOUS. She pulls her hair back, sizing
herself up. It's not too often she allows herself a moment
like this -- to be a *Woman* and not just a *Mom*.

She's pretty critical of herself, but this dress really is
looking like a knockout. She practices her entrance into
the bedroom...

FLASH: *A middle-class America bedroom. We see Kate come
out of the closet wearing the dress, her hair done up. She
poses in the doorway for her HUSBAND (35, handsome), who
sees her and immediately turns off the TV.*

YES. Sold. She starts taking it off.

KATE

Marco.

She steps back into her skirt, pulls it up. She buttons up
her shirt. There still hasn't been a response.

KATE (CONT'D)

Maaar-co.

She bends her head down, looks underneath the door to where
Frank should be sitting. No little feet.

KATE (CONT'D)

Frank? You still there?

Great. She puts on her shoes.

INT. CHANGING ROOM STATION

Kate gives the number back to the lady.

DRESSING ROOM LADY

Do you want to take it up front?

KATE

Frank?

(beat)

Did you see where my son went?

DRESSING ROOM LADY

I'm sorry, I was folding. I didn't know I was supposed to watch him.

KATE

No, you weren't, it's fine.

(beat)

Ummmm, oh yes, I'll take it up with me. Thanks.

(beat)

Frank! I'm checking out!

No answer. Well, she's not going to reward this misbehaving bid for attention.

She goes up to the front counter and sets the dress down.

JCPENNEY LADY

Found everything alright?

KATE

Yes, thank you.

JCPENNEY LADY

Great.

KATE

Frank! Mommy's checking out!

No answer.

JCPENNEY LADY

Okay, the balance comes to...eleven dollars and fifteen cents.

KATE

Just put it on the card, that's fine.

JCPENNEY LADY

Okay.

She slides Kate the receipt. Kate signs it.

JCPENNEY LADY (CONT'D)

Thank you!

KATE

Thank you.

(beat)

Fraaaa-aaank! Are you hiding?
Come out right now. It's time to
go.

(smiles at JCPenney
Lady)

Sorry.

JCPENNEY LADY

No problem. He's probably in our
TV area.

Kate sighs and walks over to the TV AREA.

KATE

Frank, I'm leaving!

She gets over there... ...no Frank. There's his VOCODER.

KATE (CONT'D)

(picks it up, puts it
in her purse)

You left your toy sitting out-

Her voice trails off. The color drains out of her face.

Oh My God. Oh My God. She heads back to the counter.

The JCPenney Lady smiles knowingly at Kate, until Kate gets
closer and she sees how DISTRESSED she is.

KATE (CONT'D)

He's not there...

JCPENNEY LADY

Do you want to page him?

KATE

I don't know where he is!

JCPENNEY LADY

What's his last name?

KATE

McCoy.

The JCPenney Lady picks up her INTERCOM.

JCPENNEY LADY
 (over loudspeaker)
 "Frank McCoy? Frank McCoy? Please
 come to the checkout counter, your
 Mom is waiting for you."

KATE
 (yells out to the
 entire store)
 Does anyone see my son?

JCPENNEY LADY
 Maybe he's looking at toys...?

KATE
 Where's the toy section?

JCPENNEY LADY
 On the other side of the escalator,
 there's a bunch of lunchboxes and
 then you-

KATE
 (already walking)
 Can you call security?

Kate hustles around the escalator to the toy section.

LOUDSPEAKER (OS)
 ATTENTION MALL SECURITY, WILL
 SECURITY PLEASE COME TO THE
 JCPENNEY AT SOUTH END, 1st FLOOR
 THANK YOU.

Here's the toy section. Doesn't see Frank anywhere.

MAKEUP COUNTER CLERK
 Are you looking for your son?

KATE
 Yes, have you seen him?

MAKEUP COUNTER CLERK
 There's some children in our little
 TV area over...

KATE
 No, I looked there!!!
 (bites nail)
 Did you see anybody talking to him
 or anything?

JCPENNEY LADY (OS)
 (over loudspeaker)
 "Frank McCoy? Frank McCoy? Your
 mother is waiting for you at the
 checkout counter..."

Kate scans the room. Sees the MALE SHOPPER Frank bumped
 into.

KATE
 (stalks over,
 accusatory)
 Did you see my son?

MALE SHOPPER
 Huh?

KATE
 Tell me right now! Did you do
 something with my son???

MALE SHOPPER
 I don't...what?

Kate sizes him up, UTTER FEAR in her eyes.

KATE
 Stay right there! KEEP HIM HERE!
 EVERYBODY KEEP THIS GUY RIGHT HERE!

MALE SHOPPER
 (hands up)
 Okay, I'm not going anywhere.
 (looks around)
 What's happening?

JCPenney Lady worriedly picks up the microphone:

LOUDSPEAKER (OS)
 ATTENTION MALL SECURITY, WE NEED
 SECURITY AT JCPENNEY'S IMMEDIATELY.

Kate looks back at the Male Shopper -- oh god, he's telling
 the truth.

A few nervous SHOPPERS back away from a FRANTIC Kate.
 JCPenney Lady tries to control the situation.

JCPENNEY LADY
 Ma'am...MA'AM... Could he have
 gone into the mall?

KATE
 No, he's *scared* of the mall...

JCPENNEY LADY

Could he have already gone to your car? Where could he have gone?

KATE

I don't know...
 (looking everywhere)
 FRANK???

Kate looks around. She finally goes out the front doors...

EXT. PARKING LOT

...and walks towards where she was parked.

KATE

FRANK?

She comes to her row. WAAAAY DOWN THE ROW, she sees TWO FIGURES talking to Frank by their BROWN HATCHBACK.

KATE (CONT'D)

FRANK! GET OVER HERE NOW!

One of them suddenly PICKS HIM UP and climbs into the backseat with him.

(beat)

KATE

NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!

Kate RUNS toward them. The Hatch slams down.

The OTHER FIGURE is still on his knees, messing with the bumper... ...Kate gets closer...

He was unscrewing his license plate. Oh shit, he just took off his LICENSE PLATE. He gets into the car with it.

The Hatchback STARTS UP and REVERSES out of its space FAST.

KATE (CONT'D)

NOOOOOO!!!! NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!

Kate gets to the Hatchback and GRABS the passenger-side DOOR HANDLE.

The Hatchback TAKES OFF down the parking lane. Kate is yanked off of her feet and DRAGGED across the asphalt, still refusing to let go of the handle.

KATE (CONT'D)
 HEEEELLLLLLLLPPP!!!!!!

She finally lets go and falls to the ground. She instantly jumps back up to her feet and CHANGES COURSE, running to her MINIVAN.

She MASHES the buttons on her key ring, unlocking the door and setting off the PANIC ALARM.

KATE (CONT'D)
 HELP!!! HHHELLLP!

The Hatchback is already ZOOMING out of the parking lot.

Kate gets in her minivan and starts it, SCREAMING. She TEARS FORWARD through an empty space and after the Hatchback.

Her PANIC ALARM SOUNDS across the lot. There are almost no bystanders around right now.

I/E. MALL AREA - CONTINUOUS

The Hatchback is waaaaay over there, stuck driving in the PARK-N-RIDE that circles the mall. Kate shortcuts across the parking lot and chases them. She has never driven like this before.

She BLASTS HER HORN. Frantically digs through her purse, finally DUMPING it out on the passenger seat. Digging through the junk with one hand...

KATE
 Where's my PHONE!?!?!?!?

A SPEEDBUMP causes her phone charger to fall onto the floor. She eyes it. Eyes Frank's empty carseat.

Her car alarm abruptly cuts off, punctuating her realization: FRANK HAD HER PHONE. Oh NO.

She SWERVES to avoid a FAMILY coming out of a SPORTS AUTHORITY. She SCREAMS out her window.

KATE (CONT'D)
 CALL THE POLICE!!!

I/E. MAIN ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The Hatchback TURNS LEFT on a RED LIGHT through THREE LANES OF TRAFFIC, and disappears up onto an INTERSTATE ONRAMP.

KATE
 Oh no! Oh NO!

Kate has to wait for an onslaught of traffic to cross. She BASHES her steering wheel in FRUSTRATION!

KATE (CONT'D)

STOP!!!

She finally inches out... A CAR HONKS and SWERVES not to hit her! Kate JERKS forward, trying to cross... A SPORTS CAR comes right at her -- SQUEALS ITS BRAKES!!!

She finally CROSSES. She hears ACCIDENTS happen behind her as she BARRELS up the onramp, SWEATING BULLETS... WAIT! THERE THEY ARE!

I/E: INTERSTATE ONRAMP - CONTINUOUS

The Hatchback is stuck behind three other cars waiting at a "ONE CAR PER GREEN LIGHT" entrance. It can't get around them! The first car gets a green and goes.

Kate jumps out of her Minivan and runs to the Hatchback. She grabs the driver's side door - LOCKED. Through the window, the ANXIOUS DRIVER looks up at her, then covers his face with his arms.

KATE

LET ME IN!

The second car gets a green and GOES. The Hatchback moves FORWARD a car-length. Kate grabs on the Hatchback's rear hatch handle -- LOCKED. She can hear Frank inside-

FRANK (OS)

MOMMY! MOMMMYY!!!

KATE

FRANK!

She runs for the only remaining CAR in front of the Hatchback, waving her arms. That car gets the green and SPEEDS away from this crazy woman waving her arms.

KATE (CONT'D)

NOOO HELP ME!!!! HELP!!!

She turns around and tries to block the Hatchback, but it ZOOMS right past her and gets on the interstate. She rushes back into the Minivan and throws it into DRIVE. MERGES ON TO THE HIGH-SPEED, TRAFFIC-CONGESTED INTERSTATE!!!

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kate merges onto a LARGE HIGHWAY with CONCRETE DIVIDERS. CROWDED. TRACTOR-TRAILER TRUCKS are all around her.

She SWERVES in between two trucks...trying to get ahead of them and find the Hatchback. One changes lanes, not seeing her...ALMOST CRUSHES HER BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM!!!

She squeezes through. THERE'S THE HATCHBACK! RIGHT BESIDE HER!!!!

KATE
(screaming out the
window)
FRANK!!! GIVE HIM BACK!!!

Kate PULLS UP to the front of a MACK TRUCK and SCREAMS at the driver.

KATE (CONT'D)
HELP ME!! CALL THE POLICE!!!

She can't see up to the driver. He doesn't seem to respond.

The Hatchback zooms ahead, making dangerous LANE CHANGES in the crowded traffic. Kate loses sight of it again. She speeds up, honking her horn endlessly...

...all she sees ahead is a wide-load DUMP TRUCK...she keeps going...passes the Dump Truck on her right-

OH SHIT! The Hatchback was HIDING in front of the Dump Truck!

It immediately takes an EXIT! Kate is already PAST the exit!

She STOMPS ON THE BRAKES. Behind her, the DUMP TRUCK "HOOOOOOOONNNNNNNKKKKKK"s! It BARELY AVOIDS hitting her, sending DEBRIS all over the road.

Kate throws the Van in REVERSE and looks backward.

OUT THE BACK WINDOW: FAST, ONCOMING TRAFFIC SWERVING TO EITHER SIDE!!! HERE COME THOSE BIG TRUCKS...WHOOSH!!!

Kate CAREFULLY REVERSES, TERRIFIED. WHOOSH! WHOOSH! Cars FLY BY, HONKING and SQUEALING. Her heart stops with every WHOOSH!

Kate is almost back to the EXIT, still looking out the back window...

WAIT! Across the overpass, on the other side of the HIGHWAY, the HATCHBACK comes up on an onramp and STARTS GOING THE OTHER WAY!

KATE (CONT'D)

WAIT! WAAAIIT!

FUCK! Kate EXITS-

POV WINDSHIELD: We immediately turn LEFT into Traffic --
HOOONK!! HONNNNKK!!!

We go under the OVERPASS, then JERK LEFT back onto the
ONRAMP, almost HITTING another CAR.

I/E: INTERSTATE HEADING THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION

Kate gets back on that interstate and BURNS RUBBER -- she's
got to make up time, FAST!

INT. MINIVAN - CONTINUOUS

Kate's right hand fumbles with one of Frank's MAGIC
MARKERS, trying to SCRAWL information on her dashboard.

KATE

(trying to remember)

"Datsun"... "280... or "Z80"...

She looks ahead -- a couple cars here and there, but no
Hatchback. STEPS ON IT...85...90...

KATE (CONT'D)

God...God, please please please
don't let me lose them. Pleeeeeease,
God. I know I never pray to you
unless someone's sick or I'm on a
plane or something, but pleeeeeease,
I need just this one thing and I'll
never bother you again, just please
let them be up here. If you let
them be up here, I won't let him
out of my sight again, I swear to
God...

SUDDENLY, up ahead -- an SUV changes lanes, revealing the
HATCHBACK!

KATE (CONT'D)

OH GOD!

(sits up)

Oh God! Thank you! Thank you!!!

The Hatchback STOMPS on it. Kate follows suit.

She approaches the SUV on her left. Kate HONKS HER HORN
and SCREAMS OUT HER WINDOW. The SUV has its windows up.
The GUY inside hears nothing. The Hatchback is getting
FURTHER AWAY while Kate tries to keep pace with this SUV.

KATE (CONT'D)
 (BLASTS HER HORN)
 HEEEEEEYYYY!

The SUV GUY finally hears her. ROLLS DOWN his window.

KATE (CONT'D)
 CALL THE POLICE!!!

The WIND RUSHING PAST THEM is DEAFENING. The Guy motions "What?"

KATE (CONT'D)
 CALL THE POLICE!!!

The Guy still can't hear her... Suddenly, the Hatchback BRAKES in front of the SUV so the SUV has to fall back! Kate SHUDDERS! Having successfully ended Kate's conversation, the Hatchback triumphantly VRRROOOOMMMSSS up ahead of her again.

KATE (CONT'D)
 (as they pass)
 FRAAAANNNKK!!!!

Kate WIPES SWEAT off of her face. Checks her rearview. A FORD TAURUS is coming up behind her. Kate HONKS her horn, waves her arm out the window.

Suddenly, the Hatchback's HATCH OPENS, sticking UPWARDS in the air. A BIG, HEFTY WOMAN is visible in the BACKSEAT, digging through something.

KATE (CONT'D)
 FRANK!!!

Kate PULLS UP to the Hatchback's rear, trying to get a glimpse of Frank inside. The Woman suddenly LIFTS a HEAVY TOOLBOX. She lugs it onto her shoulder, and then TOSSES the TOOLBOX.

Kate SWERVES WILDLY to the right. The TOOLBOX SMASHES on the street, BOUNCES UP...and CRUSHES into the WINDSHIELD of the FORD TAURUS behind her.

Kate gets control again. She checks her side mirror-

IN MIRROR: The Taurus clumsily ROLLS across the GRASS MEDIAN DITCH and into the southbound lanes, where it is instantly HIT by another car.

Kate LOSES HER BREATH. DID SHE JUST SEE SOMEBODY DIE????

Her gaze moves from the MIRROR back to the windshield-

A WRENCH is FLYING RIGHT AT HER-

KATE (CONT'D)

GOD!

K-PATT!!! The wrench CHIPS the windshield right at Kate's face-level.

The Woman looks worried, then PULLS the HATCH down, holding it near-shut as they pass by a 50's JALOPY. Then she lets it up again.

Kate SCREAMS at the Jalopy as she gets next to them.

KATE (CONT'D)

HELP ME!!! CALL THE POLICE!!

The ELDERLY COUPLE inside is TERRIFIED of her. Forget about them -- Kate catches up again...

The Woman LIFTS THE FLOOR COVER UP in the Hatchback... Then the vehicle DISAPPEARS around the CURVE of an Exit.

I/E. CURVING EXIT - CONTINUOUS

Kate follows them into the curve. CRANES her neck to see around the trees.

A metal CAR JACK skitters around the bend, bouncing on the asphalt. Then a cardboard SPARE TIRE COVER follows it.

Uh-oh. They're going to throw something else, but Kate won't be able to see it until the last second. She GRIPS her wheel and CURLS around the blind bend, BRACING HERSELF. It could happen at any second...

CURVING... CURVING...

She COMES OUT of the curve onto a NEW HIGHWAY. There's the Hatchba- OH SHIT!!!!

A SPARE TIRE is BOUNCING RIGHT AT HER.

KATE

Huhh-

Kate HAS NO TIME TO MOVE. The Minivan KA-BLUMPS over the tire, like driving head-on into a CURB. Kate SCREAMS!! She SMACKS the Van into a GUARDRAIL! The impact JERKS her to the left, sending her across two lanes, almost HITTING another car...

She HITS the LEFT-SIDE GUARDRAIL and ricochets off like a pinball! STEER! GET CONTROL!

Kate regains control, STUNNED. SHE ALMOST JUST WRECKED!
She doesn't breathe... Looks ahead...

And then GUNS it. CATCHING UP with the Hatchback, their
hatch now CLOSED.

Her mind SCRAMBLED, her limbs numb, Kate is having serious
trouble BREATHING. In fact, she's nearly HYPERVENTILATING.

She thrusts her head back. CONCENTRATE. Breathe. Breathe.

Kate stares at her WEDDING RING as she clutches the wheel.
Breathe. She flips on the cold A/C. She gets control.

She still can't get over it -- THEY JUST TRIED TO KILL
HER!!! She looks around for an indication that SOMEONE,
ANYONE on the road is aware of this situation. NOTHING.

KATE (CONT'D)

(looks around)

How can they do that? How can they
just do that??!?

(beat)

How does nobody know...?

Kate hits the RADIO. AM. NEWS. Tuning through stations.
DARTING HER EYES up at the road still. Still in the chase.

She finally gets a signal. Some AM TALK RADIO PROGRAM.

FEMALE TALK RADIO HOST (OS)

...and it's ten 'till the hour, but
before we go to the news...

News & Traffic, YES. She leaves the radio on and
concentrates on driving.

FEMALE TALK RADIO HOST (OS)

(CONT'D)

...we have the results from our
Mother's Day poll. When asked what
your *ideal* Mother's Day would be,
23% of you said being with family,
13% of you said dinner at a nice
restaurant...

Kate's eyes dart from the road to the radio. She TAPS THE
STEERING WHEEL IMPATIENTLY.

KATE

COME ON!!!

FEMALE TALK RADIO HOST
 ...12% of you said "sleep", haha,
 and 9% suggested... taking a day
 trip.

Kate is about to THROW her radio out the window.

FEMALE TALK RADIO HOST (CONT'D)
 (her MUSIC kicks in)
 Okay, folks, I'm going to take a
 quick break and hand you over to
 Bill for traffic. Bill?

Kate TURNS UP THE VOLUME.

TRAFFIC GUY (OS)
 Howdy there, Linda. Well, if
 you're headin' northbound on the
 95, traffic is just easin' along
 for a patch there right near
 Kernersville...

Kate listens intently. It just sounds like a regular ol'
 everyday traffic report.

TRAFFIC GUY (OS) (CONT'D)
 ...other than that, smooth sailing
 on the 40, the 85, the 144, not too
 much to report. Remember to watch
 Wavy TV 8 for further updates or
 check with us online...

Kate grips the wheel, staring BLANK-EYED ahead of her.
 Nothing? Nothing about her? An ANNOYING RADIO COMMERCIAL
 begins -- Kate doesn't even register it.

Up ahead, the Hatchback turns on its LEFT TURN SIGNAL.
 Wha...? Kate moves up closer...

The Hatchback suddenly BOLTS RIGHT and gets off at an EXIT.

Kate doesn't miss a beat, FOLLOWING them right down the
 exit. She SMACKS the radio button -- OFF. Why are they
 going so SLOW? Where are we going?

EXT. MOE'S GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The Hatchback pulls into a GAS STATION. It stops at a PUMP
 and THE DRIVER (40's, thin, lanky) immediately jumps out.
 He has a BASEBALL CAP pulled over his eyes. SUNGLASSES.

Oh God, this is it. Kate takes a DEEP BREATH as she bumps
 over the curb into the Gas Station...READY FOR ANYTHING...

As she pulls up, the Driver raises a BLACK SHOTGUN AT HER---

JESUS! She STOPS the van and instinctively ducks down...

Nothing. When she raises her head again...

...he tosses the shotgun to the ground. Wait -- it wasn't a shotgun. It's a BLACK SQUEEGEE.

He BLUFFED her. And now he's got his other arm STICKING INTO THE BACK WINDOW of the Hatchback. Behaving as though he has a GUN to Frank's head.

DRIVER

Stay in the van!

Kate is stopped at another gas pump catty-corner from them. From her vantage point, she can't tell if the Driver has a GUN in that other hand or not. She has every reason to believe he's bluffing her again... but what if he's not?

Kate grabs her door handle--- about to get out---

The Driver reacts, violently reaching his other arm into the window!

FRANK (OS)

DOON'T! OWWWW!

KATE

Okay!

Kate CRINGES. B-BEEPS her horn! The Driver looks over. Kate puts her hands up for him to see -- "Okay, okay, you're in charge!"

He eyes her suspiciously, breathing heavy. Frank is CRYING.

What can she do? She sees a PAY PHONE at the curb. Maybe she could--

K-RUNK! The PASSENGER DOOR opens and the WOMAN (big, heavy, mid-forties, gray hair) gets out, a baseball cap pulled down on her head. She walks into the FOOD MART.

The Driver stays right where he is, arm in the window, eyes locked on Kate. Kate can hear Frank CRYING in the Hatchback. She's PARALYZED with indecision! What should she do?

DING-A-LING! Kate looks over to the FOODMART and sees an ELDERLY, FRIENDLY ATTENDANT walking towards her. Huh? What the-

She looks up at her gas pump kiosk: FULL SERVE. \$5.00.

The Driver rubs his stubble NERVOUSLY. He stares back at Kate. He discreetly put his fingers to his lips: "SHH!"

We hear Frank crying LOUDER! Kate gulps and lowers her hands to the dashboard as the Attendant gets to the van and raps on her passenger window.

OLD ATTENDANT

Howdy, ma'am. What can I top you off with today?

Kate is stiff as a board. She cuts the engine. Looks over at the Attendant. She shakes her head "no" at him, trying to somehow signal her distress...

OLD ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Nothing? What can I get fer ya then, just a quick checkup?

Kate's heart breaks as she hears Frank CRY. They've got her by the balls. She nods to the Attendant.

The Attendant goes to grab a Squeegee. Kate sits, facing forward, motionless. Listening to Frank's BAWLING CRIES. Locking eyes with the Driver. Agonizingly impotent.

Suddenly, a SQUEEGEE drags SOAPY WATER across her windshield, OBSTRUCTING her view. Then the Attendant leans over the hood of the Minivan, SQUEEGEEING her windshield. He nods his head back to the Hatchback with the screaming kid.

OLD ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

(friendly)

Somebody's tired of being in the car, huh?

Kate smiles friendly. She bites her lip. Her magic marker scrawlings are right underneath him on the dashboard: "DaTSuN BroWN 280 z80". She inches her quivering hand across the dashboard and POINTS at the scrawlings. TAPPING her finger on them. Trying to catch the Attendant's eyes. LOOK, Dammit! LOOK!

The Attendant doesn't catch it. Finished, he moves back behind the Minivan, leaving her alone with the Driver again.

DING-A-LING! The Woman comes out of the Food Mart with an ice cream cone and a ROAD MAP. Gets in the Hatchback.

The Driver -- never taking his eyes off of Kate -- reaches over with his free hand and opens his gas tank.

Puts the nozzle in and starts pumping, then resumes his threatening position. TENSED. If he does have a gun in there, he looks like he's ready to pull the TRIGGER at any moment.

--PFFFFSSH!! WHA- Kate looks down. The Attendant is kneeled down by her driver's-side TIRE, putting air in. He's RIGHT OUTSIDE HER DOOR!

OLD ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Like me to check yer tires?

KATE

(nods)

Please.

...but she pronounces it "Police", in an attempt to send him a message without openly subverting the Driver's orders. It seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

She eyes the Driver. He's watching her every move. Can she afford to try to speak again? The Attendant's right by her window! She has to try! She opens her mouth...

Then a CELL PHONE rings from inside the Hatchback. The ringtone: "The Wheels On The Bus Go Round And Round"... The Driver looks inside, curious.

Kate is distracted for a just long enough that the Attendant moves away to the rear tires. Another chance missed.

A moment later, the Woman holds Kate's CELL PHONE out the window of the Hatchback for Kate to see. FUCK! They discovered it!

Kate stares HOPELESSLY through her windshield. The Driver can see everything she does, there's no use...

OLD ATTENDANT (OS)

Pop yer hood for me.

Kate blinks. A sudden glimmer of HOPE flashes across her eyes. She leans down and POPS her hood.

The Attendant comes around the front of the van, looking for the latch. Kate looks around inside the van... What can she do... A MARKER. HER POCKETBOOK. Okay... get ready to make a move...

KA-KRRUUUUNNK! The Attendant OPENS HER HOOD. It raises up, BLOCKING THE WINDSHIELD ENTIRELY.

She instantly opens her purse, grabs the marker, gets out a FIVE DOLLAR BILL, and scrawls on it:

CALL 911 SON KIDNAPPED -- BROWN DATSUN NO PLATES -- NOT A JOKE

The HOOD GOES DOWN. Kate drops the marker and ASSUMES THE POSITION again. The Driver is now inside the Hatchback, watching her in his side-view mirror.

OLD ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

You know yer missin' a muffler down there? Should really get that replaced.

Kate doesn't say a word. The Attendant shrugs.

OLD ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Some other time, then.

(beat)

Allright, no gas, so that's five dollars even.

Kate folds her FIVE DOLLAR BILL so he won't see the note yet. She passes it to him, but her eyes dart over to the Hatchback as she does it. The Driver notices her demeanor. He's suspicious.

OLD ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Thanks a bunch! Have a nice day.

The Attendant starts back towards the Food Mart. Suddenly the Driver gets out and walks towards him. REACHING behind his back.

DRIVER

Hey!

The Attendant stops. OH GOD, is the Driver going to kill him? The Driver takes out... his WALLET.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Think I could get change for a five?

OLD ATTENDANT

All I have's a five.

DRIVER

Oh, that's what I mean. Can I *change* a five.

(digs through his wallet)

Hold on a sec...

The Driver jogs over to the Hatchback, opens the door. The Attendant stands there waiting, the \$5 folded in his hand. He still hasn't LOOKED at it! Kate wants to just SCREAM AT HIM! LOOK AT IT! LOOK AT IT!

The Driver jogs back over, holding out five \$1 bills. The money changes hands and the Attendant nods, walking away.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

Thanks.

The Driver walks back to his Hatchback, then stops. He's READING the note she wrote on the bill. OH JESUS.

He looks up at Kate VENGEFULLY. BARELY-CONTAINED RAGE.

He angrily YANKS his door open and gets inside. The Hatchback STARTS UP. Kate hears Frank BAWLING!!! She gnaws at a fingernail -- are they going to PUNISH Frank for what she did?

The Hatchback REVERSES and then PULLS UP BEHIND HER. The Driver HONKS his horn and points to the EXIT. Kate obediently starts her engine, KICKING HERSELF.

She noses towards the exit, and the Hatchback crawls right behind her. She stops at the road, and finds herself right next to that PAY PHONE. It's just TAUNTING her.

HOONNNK! HONNNNK! The Hatchback impatiently flashes its brights at her, flipping on its turn signal as an order. She obeys, and pulls out of the Gas Station.

So many chances, and she FAILED. Kate's eyes tear up. Why didn't she say something...do something???

KATE

Stupid.

Her GAS GAUGE shows her at just above a QUARTER TANK.

KATE (CONT'D)

(wipes her eyes)

You're so stupid.

The Hatchback FLASHES ITS BRIGHTS. Flips on its RIGHT TURN SIGNAL. Kate gets the message. Turns right. They head back up the HIGHWAY ONRAMP.

EXT. BRIDGE-LIKE ONRAMP - CONTINUOUS

Kate squints, pulls down her sun visor. Paperclipped to the sun visor is a PHOTO. FRANK on his first day of school. Kate can't hold the tears back. CURSES HERSELF.

KATE

Why didn't you do anything! You're so stupid!!!

They approach the highway. The Hatchback nearly SIDESWIPES Kate as it pulls past her to merge onto the highway. WHHHOOA!! The Hatchback almost merges right into a TRAILER TRUCK!

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh God! Oh baby!

Kate sucks in air as the Hatchback clumsily corrects itself and takes off down the highway.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh God. Oh God. You can't do this anymore. You're gonna get him killed. That's why people don't do this, Kate. They call the police.

Kate hits buttons on her GPS, and ICONS appear on her map. She hits the nearest one.

GPS (VO)

Cracker Barrel. Get in the right lane. To take. Next exit.

Kate bites her knuckle, then nods. She's right. This is the right answer. Flips on her turn signal.

Tik tok tik tok tik tok tik tok...

Kate glances up at that PHOTO. Frank's staring at her, as if to ask, "Where are you going, Mommy?"

KATE

(tries to explain)

Baby, Mommy's gonna let them have you for a minute so she can go call the police, and then we'll be right back to get you, okay?

GPS (VO)

Bear right onto Exit 19.

Here it comes. She eases into the EXIT LANE.

KATE

(choking back phlegm)

Mommy just needs help and the police have radios and helicopters and things Mommy doesn't have.

She slows. The Hatchback gets further away. No turning back now... She's about to do this...

GPS (VO)

Exit... Exit...

KATE

I'll be right back. I promise.
 (she doesn't believe
 it)
 I'll be right back.

Tik tok tik tok tik tok tik tok... "Exit" "Exit"

She PULLS back onto the highway and lets the exit go by.

Tik tok tik tok tik tok tik tok TIK-- - -

She looks at Frank's PHOTO. Looks at the Hatchback that he's in. She can't leave him. She just can't.

GPS (VO)

*You missed your exit. For.
 Cracker Barrel.*

(beat)

*Make a U-turn if possible. New
 directions. For. Cracker Barrel.*

Kate ANGRILY PRESSES BUTTONS on the GPS until it shuts up.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The TWO VEHICLES zoom down the highway. The scenery is becoming more RURAL. There's no other traffic around.

INT. MINIVAN (MOVING)

Kate can't bear to have Frank staring at her. She CLOSES the visor. Wipes her eyes. Don't start saying your goodbyes just yet. Concentrate. What can you do? She TURNS on the radio again, searches through the fuzz...

RADIO (OS)

...live footage of a police pursuit
 in Forsyth County involving a white
 minivan...

KATE

UUUHHH!! OH! OHH!!!

Kate GASPS! She's SAVED! She leans forward to look out the windshield for a helicopter...

RADIO (OS)

Reports are that a vehicle matching
 the description went on a rampage
 in the Kempsville area about twenty
 minutes ago.

(MORE)

RADIO (OS) (CONT'D)

Already we know at least five people have been injured including a teenager, and we have accidents at at least two major intersections...

Kate rolls down her window and looks out, in the sky, behind her...NO COPS.

The WIND RUSHING IN drowns out the radio, until she closes the window again...

RADIO (CONT'D)

...looks like the minivan is pulling over...police are surrounding, the minivan has pulled over now...

What? That's IMPOSSIBLE!

RADIO (OS) (CONT'D)

...the suspect is coming out right now...she's arguing with the officers...we...we may have an altercation...officers have...okay, looks like officers have subdued the suspect. So this pursuit has ended, thankfully without any more injuries, although we will keep you updated...

KATE

No...that's the wrong minivan...
(slams her wheel)
That's not the right minivan!!!!

RADIO (OS)

(breaking up)
Uh, and again for those of you on your way home, backups are expected for the rest of the afternoon at the intersections of...kssshhhh...

STATIC. Kate is too shell-shocked to even cut it off. WEIRDO, CREEPY RADIO STATIC fills the Minivan.

The TREES beside her open up and reveal "WATER COUNTRY U.S.A.", a big FAMILY-THEMED WATERPARK. A big CARTOON CHARACTER welcomes visitors at the entrance.

Kate obviously recognizes this kid-friendly place. She looks over at the giant WATER SLIDES twisting up into the air in the distance. The CREEPY RADIO STATIC puts her into a zone... her mind drifting for just a moment...

FLASH: Kate teaching Frank how to swim at the water park. Splashing! Having a great time!

Kate SNAPS out of it and looks forward. The Hatchback is slowing down, to where she's almost TAILGATING it. She lowers her speed. Why are they doing this?

She passes a sign with the Cartoon Character pointing: "Where are you going? WATER COUNTRY U.S.A. is back there!" This prompts her to unconsciously glance up at her rearview mirror...

...WAIT. What's that back there? Waaaay back behind her... That dot...

A MOTORCYCLE. Is it...

KATE

Oh God, please.

She adjusts her mirror... Oh yes, that telltale windshield!

A MOTORCYCLE COP is casually heading towards them on the interstate.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh! Oh God!
(out the window)
HELP! HELP!

Kate's not letting this one get away. She smacks her FLASHERS on, grabs her STEERING WHEEL and YANKS it left.

The Minivan jerks LEFT, going offroad, then SWERVES right! LIGHTS BLINKING, SWERVING RECKLESSLY... she looks like the DRUNKEST driver you've ever SEEN!

The Motorcycle Cop's LIGHTS turn on. He's coming for her.

YES! YES! Ahead, the Hatchback keeps going at the speed limit, trying to act like nothing's out of the ordinary.

The Motorcycle Cop pulls up behind her, trying to flag her down. She WAVES for him to come up beside her. He refuses, motioning for her to pull over.

KATE (CONT'D)

NO! Come up here!
(leans out her
window)
HELP!! COME HERE!!!

The Motorcycle Cop finally pulls up beside her.

MOTORCYCLE COP
 (WIND RUSHING PAST)
 Pull over!

KATE
 (WIND RUSHING PAST)
 HELP! They have my son! (beat)
 Kidnappers!

MOTORCYCLE COP
 Pull over!

KATE
 (points at the
 Hatchback)
 NOT ME! THEM! IT'S THEM!

The Hatchback moves into the left lane like a good deferential citizen. Kate ACCELERATES, pulling up next to the Hatchback. She POINTS at it and SCREAMS at the Cop.

KATE (CONT'D)
 PULL THEM OVER!!!

The Motorcycle Cop drives up, noting the Hatchback's missing license plate. He pulls up in between the two vehicles.

MOTORCYCLE COP
 (to Hatchback)
 Pull over!
 (to Kate)
 You too! Pull over!

Behind him, the Hatchback suddenly SWERVES TOWARDS US--

KATE
 LOOK OUT!

The Hatchback CRUSHES THE MOTORCYCLE COP AGAINST KATE'S MINIVAN!!!

Kate SCREEEAMS! She turns her wheel away from them, but the Hatchback stays AGAINST her, and in a confusing MESS, they all three go off the SHOULDER OF THE ROAD!!!!

INT. MINIVAN - CONTINUOUS

Like riding a rollercoaster, we stare through the windshield as Kate goes off the shoulder and TUMBLES down a GRASSY EMBANKMENT. The minivan RUMBLES like crazy, barely staying upright. Kate BOUNCES VIOLENTLY up and down in her seat, even hitting the ceiling once. Her airbag GOES OFF and hits her in the face.

EXT. VALLEY UNDER THE OVERPASSES - CONTINUOUS

The Minivan comes to a STOP. Dazed, Kate pushes down her rapidly-deflating AIRBAG, surprised when it SINGES her fingers.

She examines her surroundings. Both cars have tumbled down the embankment into a muddy VALLEY. CONCRETE SUPPORT BEAMS rise from the grass and go a hundred feet in the air to RAISED HIGHWAY OVERPASSES.

The Hatchback is stopped too, about 50 feet ahead of her.

She leans out her window and looks back up at the twisted wreckage of the motorcycle, hidden in the tall grass and shrubs. The Cop's body is sprawled out in a grotesque, broken pose. They killed him. They KILLED him. Oh God. Oh God.

The Hatchback's door suddenly OPENS. The DRIVER gets out. Faint CHILDREN'S SONGS emanate from inside the car. The Woman snaps at him. He bends down into the car, hiding behind the door.

He stands up again, wrapping his SHIRT around his FACE like some kind of MUJAHADIN.

Kate opens her door, her engine still RUNNING. She carefully steps out to negotiate.

KATE
Why did you do that!?
(no answer)
What do you want?

The CHILDREN'S MUSIC suddenly turns up LOUD, to where it's echoing in this valley. Loud enough to cover up any NOISE.

The masked Driver starts walking towards the Minivan.

Kate thinks twice about this and gets back in the van.

The Driver breaks into a RUN towards her. Kate GASPS and SHUTS HER DOOR. The Driver pulls out a KNIFE and leans down towards her FRONT TIRE.

Kate JERKS the van into REVERSE and LURCHES BACKWARD. MUD SPRAYS into the air. The Driver CHASES her tire, KNIFE extended.

She gets a SAFE DISTANCE from him. The Driver is still coming after her...

Wait a second...

She puts the van into DRIVE.

The Driver hears the gear change -- uh oh.

She DRIVES FORWARD RIGHT AT HIM.

The Driver turns and RUNS from her. She STEERS towards him. He RUNS laterally, finally STEERING HER OUT in the thick mud.

Now she's close to him again, and he goes for those tires! SHIT--- Kate REVERSES just in time, with such an abrupt JOLT that her transmission lets out a loud "KREECH!"

He keeps chasing, those tires JUUUUSSST out of his reach. Kate gets a safe distance from him, then throws it back into DRIVE.

The Driver stumbles backward and runs from her again. Kate GUNS after him, steering even better this time. He is forced to run behind one of the CONCRETE BEAMS and hide behind it as if it were "BASE". Kate STOPS before she would hit the beam.

They look at each other. The Driver is visibly OUT OF BREATH. The blaring Children's Music lends an air of ABSURDITY to their standoff.

He steps out from behind the beam, mud-soaked, making a half-hearted try for those tires one more time...

Kate goes into REVERSE and just stays on it, getting a HEALTHY DISTANCE between herself and these people.

About seventy feet away from them, she STOPS.

The Driver runs after her for a bit and finally stops and puts his hands on his knees. TOTALLY HEAVING, out of breath. He's now about equidistant between both stopped vehicles. Kate can FEEL his exhaustion.

Kate leaves the engine running and STEPS OUT OF THE VAN again. Careful...ready to jump back in at any second...

KATE (CONT'D)

(yells)

What do you WANT?!?!?

The Driver looks back at her, his face still covered. Kate reaches in the Minivan. She pulls out her POCKETBOOK. Holds it up for him. Takes out her WALLET, holds it up for him.

KATE (CONT'D)

There's...god...there's only sixty dollars in this! But I have... credit cards! 10,000 dollar limits! You can access everything I have in the bank between these cards! My pin number is 1015!

She feels stupid, but...gotta try anyway. She **THROWS HER WALLET** as far as she can. It **BOUNCES** open in the muddy grass near the Driver.

KATE (CONT'D)

If you let him go, I won't chase you anymore! All I want is my son, I don't care about anything else! I don't know your license plate, I haven't seen your face! You can get away! I'll tell them I don't know anything!

The Driver notes the **WALLET**. He looks back at the Hatchback...

KATE (CONT'D)

Take it! My address is in there. You think I'm going to lie to you if I know you have my address? If you try that pin number and it doesn't work, you can come to my house and kill me any time you ever want! You think I'm going to lie to you? You think I'm going to risk that?

The Driver looks like he's considering her proposition... Suddenly he **BREAKS INTO A RUN** towards Kate.

Kate **JUMPS** into her Minivan, shuts the door. Puts it in **REVERSE** --

Before she can even take her foot off the brake, the Driver **STUMBLES** and changes direction, anticipating that she's going to charge at him again. He **SLIPS** in the mud and **FALLS ON HIS ASS**.

He gets to his feet, **EMBARRASSED** that she saw that. He runs back to the Hatchback...

WOMAN

Get the wallet!

The Driver snatches up Kate's wallet and **THEN** runs back to the Hatchback.

Kate is TAKEN ABACK at this display. Who are these people?

The Hatchback SMOKES out of the grass and back towards the ACCESS ROAD. Kate SNAPS back into action and GUNS THE ENGINE after them, shaking her head in disbelief. Something has changed in her demeanor.

INT. MINIVAN (MOVING) - CONTINUOUS

The opening DROPS of a LIGHT RAIN start PATTERNING on Kate's windshield. She watches the Hatchback incredulously.

KATE

(she realizes something)

This has never happened to you before, has it?

(beat)

No one's ever chased you like this.

(beat)

You don't know what to do, do you?

You don't have a plan for this.

Just trying to get away. Probably as scared as I am.

Kate sits up in her seat as she follows them back onto the HIGHWAY. This is working. She's psyching herself up. She pulls down her sun visor and addresses herself in the mirror, FRANK'S PHOTO making it feel like they're TOGETHER.

KATE (CONT'D)

Okay.

(beat)

Okay. We can do this. We're smarter than them.

(beat)

They killed a cop. They're going to get caught now, sooner or later.

We just have to make it sooner.

(beat)

How? ... Cell phone... The police might be able to call and trace it.

(beat)

What if they can't? We've got the gas station...

(thinks)

"Moe's Gas Station". Might have a security camera. Definitely has a witness. Ummmm...

(beat)

Red light cameras. They ran a red at the Mall...at the Mall exit, and on Rosemont maybe...

(beat)

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

Write this down. Write this all
down while you remember it.

She fumbles around on that passenger seat for the marker...
Sees Frank's VOCODER toy. It works as a TAPE RECORDER!
She holds it up to her mouth. Looks for the RECORD
button...

It's already DOWN. The red light's on. It's RECORDING.

KATE (CONT'D)

Moe's Gas Station off the 64. Red
light camera at Rosemont and Hill
Boulevard...

Kate hesitates... Why was it already recording?

She STOPS. REWINDS for a second and presses PLAY.

KATE'S VOICE ON TAPE

(very, very muffled)

My address is in there! You think
I'm going to lie to you if I know
you have my address? If you try
that pin number and it doesn't
work...

It takes Kate a second to recognize her own voice; it's
really, really faint. As soon as she does, she REWINDS.

We hear HIGH-PITCHED CHIPMUNK GOBBLEDY-GOOK as it REWINDS
further and further. She randomly presses PLAY.

The sound is WARBLLED. We hear some sort of KIDS' CARTOON?
Mixed with elevator music? Kate's about to rewind...

VOICE ON TAPE (OS)

Whatcha watchin'?

FRANK'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)

Ice Age.

Kate stops. That voice... It's the WOMAN.

WOMAN'S VOICE ON TAPE

Ice Age, neeeat. What's your name?

(beat)

Hmm? I need to know.

FRANK'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)

Frank.

Kate gets NAUSEOUS.

WOMAN'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)
 "Frank"? Do you know where your
 Mommy or your Daddy is, Frank?

FRANK'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)
 My mommy's in the dressing room.

WOMAN'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)
 In the dressing room?

(beat)
 No, son, she's out at the car.
 She's looking for you. She's
 telling everyone she's looking for
 a little boy named Frank. You
 think that's you?

FRANK'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)
 I don't know... 'cause she said she-

WOMAN'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)
 She said he has curly blond hair
 and his name is Frank. I really
 think that's your Mommy outside.
 Come on, let's go find her. Let's
 go, she's scared! She thinks
 you're lost!

Muffled SHHHKK-KSSHHH sounds as Frank gets up from the TV
 area. Then he's gone.

Kate drives for a moment in DAZED AGONY. Then she hears
 her own voice, very faint:

KATE'S VOICE ON TAPE (OS)
 Frank! I hope you're not hiding!

She STOPS it. Goes through a severe emotion.

She EJECTS the mini-cassette and POCKETS it. Her SHAKING
 HAND fishes out another cassette from the messy floor.
 Puts it in.

She looks up at Frank's PHOTO. Holds the MIC up to her
 lips. Her eyes are glistening with tears. LOVE for her
 son. She takes a deep breath and presses RECORD.

KATE
 (not sure what to
 say)
 Frank?

She COVERS HER MOUTH, about to burst into tears. She STOPS
 the tape. Takes a moment to FORCE it back, get control.

Presses RECORD again. Staring at the car holding her son.

KATE (CONT'D)
Franklin... It's Mommy...

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The HIGHWAY spans along some ROCKY OUTCROPPINGS. Through the RAIN-SOAKED windshield, we see Kate SPEAKING into the tape recorder, pouring out her heart to her son.

FLASH: Frank in the same clothes as in the photo, his first day of preschool. He and Kate are in the school hallway, outside his classroom. He's afraid to go in.

KATE
Mommy can't come with you, honey.

FRANK
Why?

KATE
Because I just can't. You have to go by yourself. But there's nothing to be afraid of. Okay? And when you're done, Mommy'll be right here waiting for you. Okay? Can you be brave for Mommy?

Frank nods and hugs her goodbye. He goes into the classroom. Kate stands in the hallway, alone.

INT. MINIVAN (MOVING)

The RAIN has all but stopped. Kate's lips hesitate in front of the MIC.

KATE
And Mommy's gonna always...
(beat)
Mommy's...

She looks at these ROCKY OUTCROPPINGS.

KATE (CONT'D)
Mommy's been on this road before.

She sets the tape recorder down.

KATE (CONT'D)
We've been on this road before, haven't we, Franklin? Huh? When we went to Water Country U.S.A.?
(excited)
'Cause we missed the exit. And we got sooo lost, remember?
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
 (remembers the joke
 they made at the
 time)

"We got so lost that it cost!"

WAAAAAY up ahead is a big GREEN HIGHWAY SIGN.

Kate HITS THE GAS and pulls up on the Hatchback's RIGHT SIDE. She BLASTS HER HORN and SCREAMS OUT AT THEM.

KATE (CONT'D)
 HEYYYY!!! I CALLED THE POLICE!!!

She grabs the VOCODER and holds it up to her ear like it's a CELL PHONE. Looks convincing enough.

KATE (CONT'D)
 I CALLED THE POLICE! LET HIM GO!!!

She doesn't care if they buy it or not. As long as they're DISTRACTED while they pass under this SIGN...

We see it pass over us:

LAST EXIT BEFORE TOLL BOOTH - 1/4 MILE

Kate can't believe this... Now she just has to stay to their right...keep them from EXITING...

The Hatchback suddenly GASSES and VEERS for the EXIT. Kate SWOOPS UP next to them, BLOCKING their EXIT. The Hatchback tries to BRAKE and sneak behind her. Kate BRAKES too, preventing them from moving over...

They PASS the exit. SHE DID IT!

Kate CLAPS HER HANDS in anticipation. It's too good to be true...

There it is. The TOLL BOOTH appears up ahead, a MANNED BARRICADE stretching the full width of the highway.

KATE (CONT'D)
 HAAAAAAA!

Kate is ECSTATIC! The Hatchback SLOWS, unsure of what to do. Kate SMACKS her steering wheel with JOY!

The highway starts to SPREAD OUT for the upcoming Toll Booth. The Hatchback hesitantly MOVES over into the far-left lane, alongside the concrete divider.

It slows to a crawl... Its HAZARD LIGHTS come on... Kate follows right behind them, unbuckling her seatbelt-

It finally STOPS right there in the lane, a hundred feet from the Toll Booth. Frozen in indecision.

Kate STOPS right behind them, throws it in PARK, and JAMS on her horn. She opens her door, WAVING HER ARMS...

KATE (CONT'D)
(to toll booth)
HELLP!!!

As she gets out, the Hatchback's REAR HATCH suddenly OPENS UP, sticking into the air.

INSIDE, the DRIVER is in the back with Frank in his lap and that giant HUNTING KNIFE in his hand. Eyes on Kate.

Kate GASPS. Frank SCREAMS, reaching out to her.

KATE (CONT'D)
FRANK! NO NO! DON'T!

The passenger-side door of the Hatchback opens and the WOMAN climbs out, CALM yet DEADLY SERIOUS.

WOMAN
Kate. Get back in the van, Kate.

KATE
What?

DRIVER
(terrified)
GET BACK IN YER CAR!

KATE
WAIT-

The Woman closes the rear hatch of the Hatchback. She lifts up her shirt for Kate.

WOMAN
I don't have anything, Kate. See?
I'm getting in your van with you.

She opens Kate's passenger door.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Come on. Talk to me.

The Woman gets into Kate's van and closes the door, leaving Kate standing out here on her own. Kate watches a car ZOOM by them towards the Toll Booth.

To any observers, this situation appears perfectly innocuous -- a Hatchback is broken down on the side of the road, and a Minivan has stopped to help them out.

DRIVER (OS)
 (muffled from inside
 Hatchback)
 TELL HER TO GET IN THE CAR!!!

WOMAN
 Kate, DO WHAT HE SAYS! Get in!

What can she do? She can't wave for help in open defiance of the Driver.

FRANK (OS)
 OWWWWWWWWWWW!!!!

WOMAN
 He's KILLING HIM!

That's it. Kate rushes to the van and gets in.

INT. MINIVAN - CONTINUOUS

KATE
 Oh God, no no no please don't-

The Woman leans over Kate and closes her door.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Tell him not to hurt my son!
 Please!

The Woman YANKS the seatbelt tight against Kate's neck and GETS UP IN HER FACE.

KATE (CONT'D)
 -Ulp! ...Please, I'll do anything!

WOMAN
 You will? What'll you do?

KATE
 Anything!

WOMAN
 No, what! What are you gonna do for us, Kate?
 (points to hatchback)
 'Cause he thinks it's all over and that we should kill the kid and run! Is he right? Is it all over?

KATE

Nooo!

WOMAN

No? It's not? Then what? What are you gonna do?

KATE

I- I- I can get you money! I don't know what you...

WOMAN

How much money? \$10,000?

KATE

Yes!

WOMAN

How? How are you gonna get that for us, Kate?

KATE

We'll go to a bank!

WOMAN

We're gonna go to a bank? You mean we're going to go through this toll booth and then we'll go to a bank?

KATE

If you want! Whatever you want!

WOMAN

I want \$10,000. Are you gonna get it for me?

KATE

Yes!

WOMAN

You're gonna wipe your face and we're all gonna drive through this toll booth, and then you're gonna get \$10,000 for me.

KATE

Yes. I promise.

The Woman lets go of the seatbelt. Kate BREATHES in air.

The Woman rolls her window down, sticks out her arm, and WAVES to the Hatchback.

KATE (CONT'D)

What are you telling him?

There is long beat... and then the Hatchback's HAZARD LIGHTS go off. It starts to move forward.

KATE (CONT'D)

Does that mean Frank's okay?

The Woman crawls back behind Kate's seat.

WOMAN

Follow them.

Kate puts it in DRIVE, DRIVING SLOWLY behind the Hatchback.

A hefty arm reaches up and adjusts Kate's rearview mirror so the Woman can see her eyes.

The TOLL BOOTH now towers over their heads, a giant DAM they are about to leak through. The Hatchback is at the Booth. The Driver reaches out the window, paying the TOLL BOOTH GIRL.

TOLL BOOTH GIRL

(far up ahead)

Everything alright? Thought you broke down.

We faintly hear the Driver give some explanation. He points a thumb back at the Van. The GIRL nods.

The TOLL BAR lifts up and the Hatchback goes through. The Toll Booth Girl waves for Kate to go on through.

WOMAN

He paid for us. Go through. Go.

Kate presses the gas softly. She longingly gazes at the TOLL BOOTH GIRL as she passes... but the Woman's eyes are on her the whole time.

THEY PASS THROUGH. Kate watches the Toll Booth get smaller in her rearview mirror. Another golden opportunity -- LOST! How many more can she hope to get?

WOMAN (CONT'D)

(climbs back into the passenger seat)

Pull up next to him.

Kate pulls up alongside the Hatchback. The hefty Woman leans out the passenger window. She yells out to the Hatchback. The wind is rushing so LOUD that Kate can't make out what they're saying.

KATE

What's happening?

The Woman climbs behind the seat again.

WOMAN

The first exit has a Bank of America. Are you Bank of America?

KATE

Yes.

WOMAN

We're gonna get off and go to Bank of America. They're gonna go somewhere else and wait.

KATE

Why?

WOMAN

In case you try something. I can call him.

KATE

I won't. Then how do I get him back?

Silence. Kate tries to see her in the mirror. The Woman reaches up and jerks the mirror upward.

WOMAN

Don't look at me any more.

KATE

How do I get him ba-

WOMAN

I'll call him and tell him to drop him off at a 7-Eleven somewhere.

(beat)

Here's your exit.

Kate can't see the Woman; can't get a bead on her. Here's the EXIT -- The Hatchback keeps going...

Is she really going to let it drive away?

KATE

How do I know you'll tell him that?

WOMAN

'Cause if not for me he would've thrown him out on the interstate a long time ago.

(beat)

Get off.

Kate considers her options, and then turns the Minivan down the exit. The Hatchback continues down the highway, unchaperoned.

EXT. LONELY ROAD W/ TUNNELS - CONTINUOUS

We're on a lonely road. ORANGE CONES mark a CONSTRUCTION AREA that looks like it hasn't been touched for months and months.

KATE

Where do I go?

WOMAN

Just go straight.

They pass through a short TUNNEL as an old TRAIN passes by overhead. This doesn't look like Bank of America turf.

WOMAN (OS) (CONT'D)

Just keep going straight, I'll tell you where to go.

(beat)

Okay? You're doin' good.

Kate hasn't seen a car or any sign of civilization.

The Woman SHUFFLES behind her. Looking around.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Hold on... We might have missed the turn...

KATE

Huh?

WOMAN (OS)

Slow down for a second.

Kate lets off the gas... Feeling very bad about this...

Kate gets PUNCHED IN THE SIDE OF THE HEAD.

MOM

Wait-

WOMAN (OS)

You okay?

MOM

What?

The Woman PUNCHES HER AROUND THE SEAT AGAIN. HARD.

The Woman PUNCHES HER THREE TIMES FAST IN THE SIDE OF THE HEAD.

Kate is trapped in her own seat, getting PUMMELED from overhead. Her vision goes blurry.

The Woman LEANS OVER KATE'S SLUMPING FORM and takes the WHEEL, coasting them over to the side of the road.

Kate OPENS HER EYES WIDE, trying to stay conscious. "She's going to kill me here."

Kate PUSHES down on the gas.

The Woman FEELS IT and PUNCHES Kate TWICE, HARD. Kate FROWNS and STOMPS ON THE GAS. The Woman STEERS them away from the shoulder JUST IN TIME.

Kate puts her HAND on the Woman's face and TAKES THE WHEEL. The Woman STRUGGLES with Kate as the Minivan SHOOTs down the road -- OUT OF CONTROL.

Kate blindly GRABS the Woman's FLANNEL OVERSHIRT and PULLS IT OVER THE WOMAN'S HEAD so she can't see.

The Woman untangles herself from her flannel overshirt and throws it off entirely. She ATTACKS--

Kate BRAKES, then GASSES HARD! The Woman FALLS BACK behind Kate's seat.

Suddenly the SEAT BELT CONSTRICTS AROUND Kate's NECK. The Woman is STRANGLING HER WITH IT from behind!

WOMAN (OS)

Stop the van!

Kate defiantly STEPS ON IT.

I/E. LONELY ROAD W/ TUNNELS - CONTINUOUS

They are BARRELING DOWN THIS NARROW ROAD NOW! They ALMOST CRASH INTO THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE! They SCRAPE against the TUNNEL WALL!

Kate's face goes RED from lack of oxygen. Everything through the windshield is becoming BLURRY...

Kate's hand randomly feels around...finds the RECLINING HANDLE.

Kate PULLS THE HANDLE. Her SEAT FALLS BACK to a HORIZONTAL POSITION. Her neck is FREED.

Instantly, the Woman CLIMBS OVER TOP of Kate and GRABS THE WHEEL.

Kate LASHES OUT AT HER, ANIMALISTIC. She sees the Woman's VERICOSE-VEINED THIGH in front of her face. Kate BITES HER TEETH INTO IT. The Woman HOWLS!!!

Stumbling in blind pain, the Woman falls against the door with all her weight. Kate thinks fast. She grabs the DOOR HANDLE and yanks it.

The DOOR OPENS. The Woman FALLS into the DOOR, and then RIGHT OUT OF THE VAN!!!

Kate SITS UP and REGAINS CONTROL of the wheel. She checks her sideview mirror in DISBELIEF!

The Woman ROLLS on the ground for a moment. Even as she gets smaller and smaller, Kate sees her GET TO HER FEET and CHASE AFTER THE VAN. Screaming obscenities while she runs at top speed.

KATE
(can't believe it)
Huhh...huhh.. HAAAH... HAAAAHH!!!

Kate lets out a brief CHEER despite herself. She stomps on the gas, leaving the Woman in the dust. TURNS LEFT, goes through one last tunnel, and... STOPS!

Up ahead at the Highway Entrance, the HATCHBACK is waiting. It is stopped, facing towards a HIGHWAY ENTRANCE, engine running, blinkers on, next to a BLUE EMERGENCY PHONE on the side of the highway. WAITING.

Kate's mind races. She grabs the Woman's FLANNEL SHIRT and PULLS IT ON over her arms. She rolls down her window. WAVES her FLANNEL-COVERED ARM out the window -- "O.K."

God, please let him buy this...

Kate looks in her sideview mirror -- OH SHIT!

Behind her, the Woman is RUNNING TOWARDS THEM! The Woman is still safely in the tunnel, out of the Hatchback's view, but she's coming FAST! SCREAMING!

Up ahead, the Hatchback's BRAKE LIGHTS go out. It EASES up to the Highway, waiting for a clear moment to get on. He's BUYING it!

KATE
Come on, come on!

Kate NUDGES the Hatchback along. She checks behind her.

The Woman is ALMOST OUT OF THE TUNNEL! WAVING HER HANDS AND SCREAMING!

Then the Hatchback turns, going onto the Highway. He didn't SEE her! Kate FOLLOWS him fast, trying to get them the hell out of there.

Kate shoots one last look at the Woman RUNNING OUT IN THE ROAD behind them, CLEAR AS DAY.

And then she's out of sight.

I/E. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kate CATCHES HER BREATH...

...and it DAWNS ON HER that for the first time today...

...she has the UPPER HAND. The Driver thinks she's the WOMAN!

She passes a SIGN: **STATE LINE**. Unbelievable...they've gone so far...

She passes another SIGN:

**REST STOP
1 MILE**

A REST STOP? She nods. Okay, here goes...

Kate MOVES the Minivan left, and ZOOMS PAST THE HATCHBACK. She PULLS IN FRONT of the Hatchback.

Kate flips on her TURN SIGNAL for the REST STOP. She adjusts her rearview to see the Hatchback behind her...

The Hatchback turns on its TURN SIGNAL as well.

OH MY GOD! It's WORKING! Kate SITS UP in her seat, licking her lips-

Suddenly, the Hatchback's TURN SIGNAL goes OFF.

The Hatchback moves over and ZOOMS UP BESIDE the VAN.

Kate DUCKS DOWN LOW and BRAKES. The Hatchback tries to DRIVE BESIDE HER. Kate BRAKES until she is able to PULL BEHIND the Hatchback.

The Rest Stop COMES and GOES.

Kate SWEATS BULLETS in her seat. The Hatchback SLOWS DOWN in front of her. Kate nervously PULLS DOWN her SUN VISOR to block her face...

They drive for a moment...does he KNOW?????

The Hatchback suddenly BLASTS FORWARD AWAY FROM HER.

NO! She HITS THE GAS and CHASES IT.

Kate is FULLY PANICKING NOW. If the Driver thinks she's done something to the Woman, what if he goes crazy? What if he takes it out on Frank???

They ZOOM down the highway...

Then the Hatchback SLOWS. Kate catches up, practically TAILGATING THEM. The DRIVER leans his head out his window - LOOKS AT HER.

DRIVER

STOP! STOP THE CAR!

Kate can't help but shake her head "no".

DRIVER (CONT'D)

STOP! YOUR! CAR!

KATE

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING! Oh God!

The Driver sees she's not listening. His head goes back in. Then his foot pushes his DOOR OPEN, holds it open.

What the hell----

FRANK's head appears in the door. SCREAMING!

Then his TORSO and ARMS---

THE DRIVER'S GOING TO PUSH HIM OUT OF THE CAR!!!!!!!!!!

A terrified Frank SCREAMS for Kate to "STTOOPPP!!!"

Kate's HEART STOPS. That's it. She THROWS UP HER HANDS in submission and SLAMS ON THE BRAKES.

The Minivan SMOKES ITS TIRES, SQUEALING across the road. The Driver pulls Frank back inside as the Hatchback gets further away.

Kate finally comes to a STOP in the middle of the road. She YANKS out her keys and holds them up for him to see...

The Hatchback VANISHES down the highway, the Driver's door closing back up.

Kate sits in the car, both hands up, trying to breathe air that just isn't there. Finally, it comes.

TOTAL SILENCE. She looks down the empty road in an UNBROKEN DAZE.

The Hatchback is GONE.

Kate opens her door and STEPS OUT of the Van. She STAGGERS onto the highway, as if she's lost.

An SUV BLARES ITS HORN as it ZOOMS RIGHT BY HER. She barely even registers it.

She gets back into the van. SITS THERE. Her eyes well up with tears.

On the floor is a crumpled CRAYON DRAWING Frank gave her earlier today -- "HAPPY MUTHER'S DAY MOMMY".

She lets out a sick GURGLE, and then HUNCHES OVER and BAWLS. She CRIES SO LOUD, alone in the Van. Everything she's felt all day EXPLODES out of her.

She wipes her eyes and STARTS THE VAN again. Her SHAKING fingers try to pull up the GPS screen, and accidentally turn on the DVD player as well. Frank's "The Little Engine That Could" DVD starts up.

She drives the Minivan across the GRASS MEDIAN and sadly heads the other direction down the highway.

Kate passes a sign:

**REST STOP
1 MILE**

She proceeds into the exit lane.

EXT. REST STOP - CONTINUOUS

Kate pulls down the long wide road into the REST STOP.

DVD NARRATOR (OS)
"I thought I could! I thought I
could!"

She SHUDDERS. Approaches the rest stop...

She sees a few other FAMILY CARS and VANS parked down there. One has its back gate open, where a DAD is loading a CHILD'S CARSEAT into the van. A few CHILDREN are walking around.

Kate looks back at Frank's EMPTY CARSEAT.

Something CLICKS OVER in her head.

KATE

NOOOO!!! NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

She ZOOMS through the parking lot. Bystanders JUMP to the sidewalk.

Kate ACCELERATES back onto the Interstate and BLASTS across the median. She gets back on the other side and TEARS DOWN THE ROAD after her son.

She CUTS off the DVD. Passes by the spot where she stopped earlier; keeps going...

She glances at her GPS SCREEN. Up ahead, the highway FORKS IN TWO. OH NO. OH NO.

I/E. FORK IN HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kate slows down as she approaches the FORK...what does she do? She COASTS forward in indecision...

Slowing to about 15 mph, until she's rolling straight towards the V-shaped GUARD RAIL...

Finally, she chooses. RIGHT. She PICKS UP SPEED, praying.

Empty, empty, highway. She looks down at that GPS screen, watching her ONSCREEN ICON moves away from the FORK. God, please let this be the right way.

A SIGN AHEAD: "**EXIT - 1/4 mile**". Should she take it? Did they exit, or keep going?

The EXIT gets closer... Make a decision...

She bites the bullet and EXITS.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS

The Minivan pulls up to a dirty CONSTRUCTION SITE at the bottom of the exit. A WORK CREW mills around.

KATE

Hey! HEY! HELP!!!!

A couple of MEXICAN LABORERS hear her and jog over.

KATE (CONT'D)

Did a...

(catches her breath)

Did a brown Hatchback pass by here?

They look at her, not comprehending.

KATE (CONT'D)

A CAR? Did a brown car pass by
here??

They speak to her in SPANISH. She starts looking over
their shoulders...

KATE (CONT'D)

Auto? Auto?
(yells)
Did anyone see a car come by here?

The Laborers motion for her to wait. They jog back over to
the site. Kate waits in the Van, feeling every precious
second tick by. The Laborers are conversing, looking over
at her.

Finally, the one guy SHAKES HIS HEAD and SHRUGS to her.

Kate quickly REVERSES, turns around, and HEADS BACK TO THE
HIGHWAY. She drives the WRONG WAY up the exit she just
came off of; FUCK IT. No time. No time.

I/E. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The Minivan pulls back onto the highway, DOUBLE-TIMING.

Kate wipes her eyes, feeling it all coming back again. TWO
CARS PASS HER on the left, FLYING BY. We haven't seen the
Hatchback for minutes and minutes.

She looks down at her GAS GAUGE: less than 1/8 of a tank
left. This charade will be over soon whether she likes it
or not.

Oh God, she's lost him for good. She goes up a hill, comes
around a CURVE...

...AND SEES THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING SHE'S EVER SEEN.

I/E. HIGHWAY TRAFFIC JAM - CONTINUOUS

Ahead of her, glistening in the sun, is a BACKED-UP TRAFFIC
JAM.

Kate's eyes catch ABLAZE with HOPE! She RUSHES the Traffic
Jam. She comes up on the cars at the end of the line...the
TWO CARS that just passed her.

She STEERS off of the road, and starts DRIVING IN THE
GRASSY MEDIAN. LOOKS OUT HER WINDOW, slowly passing by the
traffic and TRYING TO FIND THE HATCHBACK amongst the
stopped cars. It's gotta be here! It's gotta be!

She gets further along, and still, no HATCHBACK. How can this be? It HAS to be here!

UP AHEAD, a POLICE CAR pulls into the median. The OFFICER jumps out, waving his hands for her to STOP. She STOPS THE VAN and JUMPS OUT.

EXT. HIGHWAY GRASS MEDIAN - CONTINUOUS

Kate RUNS up to the Officer.

OFFICER

Get back in your car! Ma'am, get back in your vehicle!

KATE

HELP ME!!!

OFFICER

Ma'am--

KATE

My son's been-

Kate STOPS MID-SENTENCE.

And lets out a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM.

In front of her on the highway, is what caused the TRAFFIC JAM: AN ACCIDENT. With a Blue Truck...and a SMOKING BROWN HATCHBACK.

KATE (CONT'D)

FRANKLIN!

She RUNS to the wreck. Kate looks inside the Hatchback. NO ONE. No Frank, no Driver. She checks the road around her...no bodies...

WHERE ARE THEY?

OFFICER

Ma'am! Get back in your vehicle! I won't tell you again!

KATE

My SON was in this car! He was kidnapped!

OFFICER

What?

KATE

They kidnapped my son and had him in this car! What happened to him?

The Officer looks in the car, as confused as she is.

KATE (CONT'D)
 There's nobody in it! What
 happened to them?

Kate checks the road past them -- there's debris scattered
 for quite a ways; could he have been THROWN? Oh, Jesus!

MOTORIST
 Officer! This lady's hurt!

The Officer RUSHES over to the Blue Truck.

KATE
 Wait! Did an ambulance come
 already? Where are they?

The Officer ignores her. HORNS HONK! Kate HOUNDS him.

KATE (CONT'D)
 Wait -- you have to find my son!

The Officer directs his attention to the injured LADY.

MOTORIST
 (to Officer)
 Hey, the guy who crashed, in the
 brown car, he took off! I pulled
 up right when it happened and-

KATE
 Did you see a little boy?

MOTORIST
 Yeah, I helped him and his kid get
 out of the car, and they just took
 off down there!
 (points down the
 grass embankment)
 That's hit and run, Officer! This
 lady is seriously hurt!

OFFICER
 (to Injured Lady)
 Ma'am, can you hear me? What's
 your name?

Kate looks at the INJURED LADY. GLASS all over her face.
 BLEEDING. MOANING. It could so easily happen to Kate...

---She SNAPS out of it.

KATE
 Took off where?

MOTORIST

Right down there through those trees! Right into town! Like nothing even happened!

KATE

Where did they go?

MOTORIST

I don't know, they went *right down there!* Not five minutes ago!

KATE

Are they HURT? Did he look hurt?

MOTORIST

Here comes the ambulance...

(taps Officer)

HEY! Officer! Ambulance is here!

An AMBULANCE is approaching fast. Kate won't have anyone's attention for much longer. She GRABS the Officer--

KATE

My SON's down there! Come on, we've gotta go! The ambulance can take care of her!

OFFICER

Let go of me, ma'am! It is against the law to touch a police officer! Now I told you three times, step back to the median!

KATE

LISTEN! You have to help me!

OFFICER

Step back to the median!

KATE

My SON is down there! He KIDNAPPED him and he's walking around with my SON!

OFFICER

I hear you! I have an injured woman here and I can't do ten things at once, so I need you to-

KATE

THEN CALL THE FUCKING POLICE!!!

ENOUGH OF THIS! Kate RUNS TO HER VAN and LEAPS IN. The Officer doesn't try to stop her, just stands there STUNNED, and finally grabs his RADIO from his belt.

Kate TEARS UP THE GRASS, passing the FLASHING AMBULANCE. She takes the next EXIT and RACES down into the TOWN.

I/E. TOWN STREETS - DAY

Kate CRUISES down the street, window open, YELLING.

KATE
Frank! FRAAAANK!!!

A COP CAR rolls up near her. The Officer rolls his window down.

KATE (CONT'D)
HEY! HEEY! My son's been-

OFFICER #2
The kidnapped boy with the man?

KATE
YES!

OFFICER #2
Just went up on the radio. We're looking for him. Look, the station is right around the corner.

KATE
But they're right out here somewhere! They're on foot!

OFFICER #2
I understand. Go to the station, start giving them whatever information you have so you can help us from there. Okay?
(beat)
Here, I'll lead you there, it's close. Follow me, okay?

KATE
Thank you! Thank you so much!

OFFICER #2
(points to van damage)
Is your vehicle okay to drive?

KATE
What? Yeah, I just hit some stuff.

Officer #2 looks at her strange. Kate doesn't even notice.

The Cop Car U-TURNS and leads Kate into town. He throws his SIREN on, his lights flashing. Kate watches the street traffic pull over for them as she follows him to a small POLICE STATION.

Excited. Relieved. Finally she has HELP.

EXT. POLICE STATION - SUNSET

Kate PARKS, the Cop Car CONTINUES ON. Kate GRABS the Vocoder and rushes inside the Police Station.

INT. POLICE STATION

A SHOCKINGLY NORMAL office, notable only for how SMALL and EMPTY it is. Not the typical, hundreds-of-crowded-desks-with-plainclothes-cops-working-the-books -- this feels more like a quiet, sanitized FED EX dropoff. Sterile. White.

Kate sees a LONE, SINGLE POLICEWOMAN sitting at a desk.

POLICEWOMAN

Can I help you?

KATE

My...my son was kidnapped...

(it sounds so weird
coming out of her
mouth)

Have they contacted you?

POLICEWOMAN

Oh my God, yes, sweetheart, come here. Sit right down here.

KATE

They're somewhere right around here, on foot...

POLICEWOMAN

It's okay, just have a seat and we will find them. What's your name?

Kate pulls up a chair next to the woman's desk. Sets down the VOCODER.

KATE

Kate McCoy. I have a Woman's voice on this tape while she's kidnapping him. You can hear her. This is evidence. And there's a man with him now...

POLICEWOMAN

Okay, just calm down and let me get your information. Can you describe the suspect?

KATE

Yeah, he's--

GASP! She sees someone RUNNING OUTSIDE! Just a JOGGER. She gets up and stands by the window, her eyes SCANNING the streets for Frank.

POLICEWOMAN

Ma'am?

KATE

The man is tall and skinny, maybe 40's or 50's? He has on a blue hat and a red flannel shirt, um....jeans. Or khakis, maybe. His pants are muddy, they have mud-stains on them. And then Frank...

POLICEWOMAN

One second.

(types)

Okay, and the boy?

KATE

Frank. Frank's four and he has blond hair that's really curly, little tight curls like a pig's tail. And he's wearing...

(long beat)

She draws a blank.

POLICEWOMAN

How tall is he?

KATE

43 inches. But I can't remember what he's... he's wearing...

POLICEWOMAN

It's okay. Did they abduct him in a vehicle?

KATE

A brown Datsun hatchback. But the-

POLICEWOMAN

Did you get the license plates?

KATE

There's no license plates. That was the car in the accident. They're not in it anymore. They're right out there, on FOOT--

POLICEWOMAN

(into phone)

Hey, this is Chester County PD. Could you check and see if anyone has been admitted in the past ten minutes matching this description?

KATE

Who's that?

POLICEWOMAN

Hospital.

Kate's mind runs a mile a minute. She's still operating at high-speed, and everything around her is moving TOO SLOW. We feel her losing momentum with every second she's here.

KATE

They're not at a hospital.

(beat)

I think they have my cellphone. Can we trace it with GPS or something and find them?

POLICEWOMAN

We can trace it to the tower that picks up the call and triangulate it between the three nearest-

KATE

Can we do that?

POLICEWOMAN

-but we're going to wait for the detective, he is on his way right now.

KATE

Why? Do you know how to do it? Can you do it?

POLICEWOMAN

Because we have to call the phone to establish a trace, and we may only get one chance to make this call. So we need to record it, we need to have the detective on the line, we need to make sure we do it right. Do you understand?

(MORE)

POLICEWOMAN (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Yes? No, I'm still holding.

Kate nods. It all makes sense, but... God...

EXT. POLICE STATION (CONTINUOUS)

From outside, we see Kate through the window, desperately staring out. The hanging vertical venetian blinds almost look like JAIL BARS, effectively IMPRISONING her inside.

INT. POLICE STATION (CONTINUOUS)

Kate sits down, fidgety. Gets up. Paces.

KATE

Are you the only person here?

POLICEWOMAN

Yes, ma'am, every other officer is out patrolling right now for your son with the descriptions you just gave me. Okay? Have a seat. You need some water?

KATE

(realizes she's becoming a problem)

Okay. Sorry. No, I'm fine.

(beat...can't help herself)

So how many cars is that?

POLICEWOMAN

Four.

KATE

There's just four cars out looking for him?

POLICEWOMAN

One of them's at the accident site. As soon as he's through up there, it'll be four.

KATE

So there's only three?

POLICEWOMAN

Yes, ma'am, but if you can just be patient and let me make my calls, we can have a hundred cars looking for them in an hour, okay? I just need you to be patient.

KATE

An hour? He could be dead by then!

POLICEWOMAN

Ma'am, we will not allow that to happen.

KATE

How do you know?

POLICEWOMAN

Trust us, ma'am. I just need you to be patient.

KATE

Why? Why should I be patient when my son's out there? I should be out there!

POLICEWOMAN

(talks to dispatch)

Chester County Police Department.
Is this Highway Patrol for
Jefferson?

KATE

Tell them three cars is not enough!

Kate paces around. Checks the TV on the ceiling -- 24 HOUR NEWS CHANNEL. Nothing about her anywhere.

KATE (CONT'D)

(turns around)

Do you have a cell phone or something you can give me so I can go look for them and still stay in contact with you?

POLICEWOMAN

Hold on.

(covers mouthpiece)

No, ma'am, but you're welcome to use that phone right there on the desk if you need to call anyone.

KATE

You don't have a cell pho-

POLICEWOMAN

Do you have anyone you need to call? A husband?

Kate stops in her tracks. Her HUSBAND. He doesn't know.

Her knees turn to JELLY. She inches over to the desk and picks up the phone reluctantly.

POLICEWOMAN (CONT'D)
9 and the area code.

Kate gulps as she dials the numbers with a shaky finger.

She takes a deep breath, trying to hold back a FULL-ON CRYING FIT.

RIIIIIIIIIING. RIIIIIIIIING.

HUSBAND (OS)
"Hi, you've reached David McCoy at Citigroup, I'm away from my desk right now, but if you leave a message and your callback number I'll get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you, and have a great day."
(beat)
-BEEP!-

Kate holds the phone, unable to SPEAK. She gasps...

KATE
Hi honey, it's me. I'm at a police station. In Chester. About an hour away? Umm...
(here goes)
Honey, Frank's been kidnapped. It happened at the mall. I just made him wait for me for a second... while I was in the dressing room...
(falling apart)
I'm sorry... I'm so sorry! I lost him! I lost Frank!

Kate looks over her shoulder at the Policewoman. Pulls her composure together. Wipes her face on her sleeve.

KATE (CONT'D)
(sniff...SUCK IT UP)
Ummm... but the police are going to find him now, so we just have to sit tight and wait and have faith in them, and they'll bring him back to us. So um, can you call me here? The number's...

Kate looks for the number, and notices that the wall in front of her is covered with MISSING KIDS FLYERS.

BEEP! The answering machine message ENDS. Kate redials. Her eyes scan over the faces, the dates. "MISSING SINCE 1996". AGE-ENHANCED PHOTOS. All unsolved. All hopeless. All the cops in the world couldn't find them.

HUSBAND (OS)

"Hi, you've reached David McCoy..."

She looks at that Policewoman, typing on her computer, talking on the phone. Sitting at a damn DESK.

She looks out that window, past the Venetian-blind bars, to her MINIVAN. The streets behind it, going UNSEARCHED.

HUSBAND (OS) (CONT'D)

"...and have a great day."

(beat)

-BEEP!

Kate holds the phone, silent. Staring out that window.

FLASH: *The Driver drags Frank behind him, running through the streets.*

KATE

(whispers into phone)

David, I have to go look for him.

(nods)

I'm gonna go look for him.

(beat)

I love you.

She hangs up. She gets up and walks right past the Policewoman and out the door.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go look for them.

POLICEWOMAN

(into phone)

Hold on.

(to Kate)

Ma'am?

EXT. POLICE STATION

Kate ignores the Policewoman as she presses her keys. The Minivan BARKS excitedly as it unlocks. Kate climbs back into her trusty STEED. Throws it in REVERSE.

The Policewoman leaves her desk and comes outside--

POLICEWOMAN

Ma'am! Where are you going? You have to stay here! Ma'am, you need-

KATE
GET BACK TO WORK!!!

Kate pulls out of the parking lot and SLAMS THE GAS.

I/E. TOWN STREETS -DAY

Kate cruises town in the Minivan, YELLING out her window.

KATE
FRANK?
(beat)
FRAAA-AAAANK!

MEDIUM-SIZED TOWN. Little "Mom-and-Pop" shops, a few HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS over a ways. Dilapidated. So many places to hide...how far could they have gotten?

She navigates on her GPS...finding the HIGHWAY... THERE.

She COMES TO A STOP right where they must have walked down from the highway. At the top of the tree-covered embankment, she can see LIGHTS FLASHING up at the accident.

KATE (CONT'D)
(gets out of van)
FRAAAANK!!!

She sees FOOTPRINTS in the grass where they must have walked down. Then a couple wet SHOE PRINTS leading onto the street... and then they end.

She follows their hypothetical path across the street -- to a sidewalk with STOREFRONTS...

INT. STORE - CONTINUOUS

Kate pushes open the glass doors.

KATE
Did a man come in here with a
little boy?

EMPLOYEE
No...

We PASS THROUGH the walls into the next store as Kate tries that door. CLOSED. We PASS THROUGH to a third store.

KATE
(opens door)
Did a man and boy come in here?

EMPLOYEE #2
Beg your pard-

KATE

Did a little boy come in here?

EMPLOYEE #2

No...

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Kate runs her hand through her hair. She looks up to the accident. Looks down the street in the other direction.

KATE

You're not going to hide here. Too close to the accident. Cops'll be coming up there.

(beat)

So what did you do?

INT. MINIVAN (MOVING)

Kate puts her Minivan in DRIVE. Drives along those storefronts to the first CORNER.

KATE

You'd turn the corner the first chance you got. Get out of sight. Get a row of buildings between you and the highway.

She pulls to the intersection. Looks both ways. Which way? She looks back at the footprint trail. It's about square-even with the sidewalk on her left.

So she turns LEFT.

She passes a BANK, a couple JEWELRY STORES.

KATE (CONT'D)

There's no point in even hiding in a store, 'cause this whole area will be crawling with cops soon. You have to get out of this town. Fast. How do you do that? A bus? A bus station? Steal a car?

She hits her GPS. Presses a "BUS" icon. "SEARCHING..."

On her right, the buildings end and there's a GRASSY PARK area. Lots of trees, lots of shade.

KATE (CONT'D)

You're too noticeable on the sidewalks. Dragging a little kid. But in a park...

She turns RIGHT and drives along the perimeter of the park...staring hard. There's a few KIDS playing, too far away to YELL to... And no Frank. No Driver.

Another stop sign. She looks LEFT.

KATE (CONT'D)
And then you'd...you'd...

She looks RIGHT. There, down the road, is the POLICE STATION.

KATE (CONT'D)
...head AWAY from the police station!

She turns LEFT. Driving past more buildings now, PAWN SHOPS, etc.

KATE (CONT'D)
And you'd turn off this street as soon as you can, to get out of the line of sight of the police station...

Flips on her turn signal. Tik tok tik tok...

KATE (CONT'D)
And you'd want to keep heading away from the highway...

She turns RIGHT.

The GPS BLINKS. The map reappears, revealing a DOZEN BUS STATIONS. ALL OVER TOWN.

KATE (CONT'D)
(gulps)
Oh no. Oh no.

Then she sees, over on the left-hand sidewalk: The Driver's BASEBALL CAP sticking out of a TRASH CAN.

KATE (CONT'D)
Is that your hat? That's your HAT, isn't it!

She pulls to that corner. Looks LEFT--

Down the street is a PARKING GARAGE COMPLEX. Multiple stories. Tons of cars. Enclosed. Right next to it is a HIGHWAY ONRAMP.

Kate's mouth goes DRY with anticipation. She GUNS down the street towards it.

She pulls up to the PARKING GARAGE and then gets out of her van, leaving it parked horizontally out front so that it blocks the entire ENTRANCE/EXIT. No one can get in or out.

Kate runs inside, past an incredulous TICKET BOOTH LADY.

KATE (CONT'D)

Did a man come through here with a little boy?

TICKET BOOTH LADY

You can't leave your vehicle like that, ma'am!

(Kate ignores her)

I'm gonna call security!

Kate crosses the first level to the STAIRS, which run up along the outside corner of the parking garage. UP THE STAIRS.

She peeks in as she comes to each floor. Nothing...nothing out of the ordinary. On the third floor, she sees a DARK FIGURE down the way, opening his trunk... Nope, not him.

She goes up another level and she's on the roof. Barely any cars up here. Could she be wrong?

KATE

But...

You can see for blocks from here. Kate stands on the corner and looks down, scanning desperately. She was WRONG??!? Then WHERE DID THEY GO????

KATE (CONT'D)

(insanely loud)

FRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANNKKK!!!!

Nothing. The skyline doesn't answer her. Her confidence is PLUMMETING. She jogs across the roof diagonally...maybe she can spot them from the opposite corner...

BEEEEOOOOWWW-BOOOOOOOP-WONK WONK WONK WONK--

From BENEATH HER. A CAR ALARM.

KATE (CONT'D)

FRAANKK!

Kate SCREAMS his name as she RACES to the nearest stairwell. TRAMPLES down, looks in on the third floor.

The CAR ALARM cuts off. She runs down another flight. SOME CARS on floor two; too many to check individually...

KATE (CONT'D)

FRANK!

She runs down another flight and finds herself stuck outside now. This staircase becomes external-only on the ground level! She's stuck outside on the sidewalk.

She hesitates for a split-second (go back up a flight and then in? Nah, fuck it), then RUNS at top speed around the outside of the building. We can hear CARS moving inside.

Kate comes around the corner. Her MINIVAN is still where she left it, waaay down the sidewalk. She slows down, out of breath. Is she wrong? Was it just somebody's alarm?

Then the Minivan BUMPS outward.

Kate's eyes widen. She RUNS again. The Minivan JOLTS outward again and finally a BLACK VOLVO pushes through and gets onto the street.

KATE (CONT'D)

FRAAAAAAAAAAANNNKKK!!!!

Kate JUMPS into the Minivan. She SMASHES another VEHICLE out of her way as she chases after the Volvo.

Kate jumps into her Minivan and FLOORS IT! She SMASHES another VEHICLE out of her way as she chases after the Volvo.

KATE (CONT'D)

I FOUND YOU!!

Her minivan SHOOTS down the street after them!

KATE (CONT'D)

I FOUND YOU, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

She SHOVES her horn down, and flips on every switch she has-

Hazards

Windshield wipers

Brights

Washing fluid

The van looks CRAZY as it TEARS down the road after them, the horn WAILING, washer fluid spitting off the sides.

KATE (CONT'D)

AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHAAAAAAAA!!!!

Up ahead, the Volvo FORCES ITSELF in-between STOPPED CARS, trying to SQUEEZE THROUGH TRAFFIC. Its side view mirrors CRUSH INWARD.

Kate FOLLOWS RIGHT IN THEIR PATH. METAL SQUEALS along the sides of her Minivan as she PUSHES her way through the stopped cars.

OH MY GOD! She can see FRANK in the back window, pressing his hands against the GLASS!!!! SCREAMING!!!

The Volvo finds an OPENING, and suddenly goes up onto the SIDEWALK. Kate follows after it, barreling down the sidewalk...headed towards a CROSSWALK crowded with PEDESTRIANS...

The Volvo CLIPS a PEDESTRIAN! A GIRL! She bounces into the air like a rag doll and lands in the center of the INTERSECTION, clutching her leg in pain!

Kate covers her mouth in horror. The Volvo shoots across the intersection without a shred of guilt.

A TRUCK is coming from the left, about to hit the Girl -- it screeches its brakes!!!---

Kate has a split-second choice: FRANK or the GIRL.

Kate STOMPS her gas and YANKS her wheel LEFT. VROOM---

She HITS the Truck square in its front right tire, knocking it OFF-COURSE at the last possible second. The Truck MISSES the Girl by mere FEET.

A SEDAN SCREECHES and then HITS against Kate's left side. Kate yanks her parking brake. Other cars hit each other, piling up against the PROTECTIVE WALL Kate is forming with her MINIVAN.

Finally, everything stops. The injured Girl moans on the ground. She locks eyes with Kate -- they share a moment.

Across the way, the Volvo gets on an interstate onramp.

The SEDAN MOTORIST curses Kate out through his windshield.

Ignoring him, Kate MANEUVERS out of this pileup, revealing the INJURED GIRL on the ground. The Sedan Motorist kindly shuts up.

Kate's Minivan is now in terrible condition, severely battle-damaged. The gears are WRENCHING underneath her carriage. Why is she going so SLOW? Is the Minivan too damaged to drive now? Oh NO! What is she going to--

Oh. Parking brake's on. -CLOP-.

There we go. She ZOOMS up the ramp.

EXT. INTERSTATE - CONTINUOUS

The highway goes over a giant LAKE in a MOUNTAINOUS, RURAL AREA.

Kate hits the ground running. 80 mph. 90 mph. WEAVING through traffic. WHOOSH! Near-miss! VRRROOMMM!!!

She SQUINTS to see, driving directly towards the sunset... THERE'S THE VOLVO! Up ahead! She goes even FASTER!

Up ahead, an electronic readout sign BLINKS. An AMBER ALERT sign!!!!

Wait... Kate squints...

**** CHILD ABDUCTION ****
**** BROWN HATCHBACK ****
**** NO LICENSE PLATE ****

KATE

No! NO, you IDIOTS! God DAMNIT!!!

Kate SMACKS the wheel, ENRAGED. She's right behind the Volvo now... Wait, is this it? She gets up alongside it -- it's SOMEONE ELSE! WRONG VOLVO!

BING-BING-BING! Huh? Her GAS GAUGE red light comes on: it's NEAR-EMPTY.

N-no! NO! Concentrate. Look for them... look for them...

Just then, way up ahead, a BLACK VOLVO SCREECHES across two lanes to an EXIT LANE.

THERE THEY ARE!!! Kate makes a daring, IMPRESSIVE maneuver through traffic and gets over to the exit lane--

I/E. 2-LANE ROAD UP MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Kate follows them off the exit onto a 2-lane road going up into the woods. She's on his ASS! They FLY past a BUG FUMIGATION TRUCK with a big fiberglass INSECT straddling the roof.

Once they're past him, and ALONE, the door of the Volvo OPENS UP.

He's going to push Frank out all over again.

Kate's foot instinctively moves to the brake...

Hesitates. Looks at her gas gauge. It's BELOW EMPTY.

If she lets them go this time, that's it. It'll be over.

KATE

No..

She puts her foot back on the accelerator.

That door is wide open, THREATENING IT.

KATE (CONT'D)

No way!!!

She keeps on the gas.

FRANK'S HEAD leans out the door again.

KATE (CONT'D)

FUCK YOU!!!!

She STOMPS on the GAS. Her minivan REVS up at them.

She BUMPS into the back of the Volvo HARD.

The door SLAMS SHUT. The Volvo SKITTERS AROUND, trying to regain control.

He opens the door again...

KATE (CONT'D)

rrrrrrRRRREEEEAAAAGGHH!!!!

She HITS THEM again. The Volvo BOUNCES forward, the door flailing back and forth.

KATE (CONT'D)

DO IT!!!!

She JERKS into the left lane and pulls up BESIDE THEM.

KATE (CONT'D)

(out her window)

Do it! Try it, you son of a bitch!

The Driver looks over at her, DUMBFOUNDED.

KATE (CONT'D)

You wanna play games?

She GASSES it ahead and then gets in FRONT of them. She hits her BRAKE and the Volvo KUUNNK!!'s against the back of the van!

The Volvo slows down. Kate DROPS BACK past them and gets behind them again! She PRESSES her bumper up against theirs and PUSHES THEM.

KATE (CONT'D)
You understand???

The door OPENS again...cautiously...

KATE (CONT'D)
NO!

She pulls up NEXT to them again and moves her van over, pushing in on the door.

KATE (CONT'D)
I said NO!!!

He keeps trying to open it as she swerves against it. Finally, she pulls ahead. She lines herself up with the open door. She hits the BRAKES.

Her minivan SMACKS the door and it SLAMS SHUT!!!

Kate falls back into position behind them. She checks her work. The door is all CRUNCHED IN now. It is never opening again.

The Volvo drives on at a stunned 45mph.

Kate's breathing is rapid-fire. She gets ahold of herself, coming down from the rush. She checks her speed.

FFTTT-KA-FT-KA-KAAA-kaka... Oh God.

Her minivan's engine is CROAKING underneath her. She can actually HEAR how little gasoline is left in it -- she can hear it sloshing around as they head UPHILL.

I/E. RURAL ROAD UP MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

The terrain is becoming HILLY. The Volvo zooms up over a little hill, down the slope, up over a little hill, down the slope. The minivan is close behind.

Kate checks the gauge again. It hasn't moved. It can't move, it is literally at rock bottom. Fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck ---

More HILLS on the horizon as this two-car convoy goes down the road.

Kate SHOVES the gear shift into NEUTRAL. She COASTS down a slope. At the bottom, she SHOVES it into 2nd. She PUSHES up the hill.

She looks ahead. The Volvo is GAINING DISTANCE on her, fast. She panics. She continues the gear shifting.

The Volvo coasts over a BIG hill and then drops out of her sight. SHE'S LOSING THEM!

The Minivan comes over the same hill, on its last legs. This hill is too STEEP... The van is just...barely... making...it...up...

She's near the crest when all the lights on the dashboard LIGHT UP.

The engine cuts off. BING! BING! BING! BING!

KATE

No...

Kate turns the steering wheel- it's LOCKED UP.

KATE (CONT'D)

Pleeeeeeease...

The Minivan slows to a complete STOP. Then it begins to SLIDE BACKWARD down the steep slope...

Kate puts it in PARK. The minivan grunts, and finally grinds to an oily, whimpering HALT.

EXT. HILLY ROAD

Kate opens her door, JUMPS OUT and chases the Volvo on foot.

The Volvo crests over one last hill in the distance and then it's out of sight.

Kate keeps RUNNING in that direction out of sheer stubbornness. She gets to the bottom of a hill and starts up the next incline. Halfway up, her legs start to give way.

The hopelessness of her efforts begins to dawn on her. Her legs cramp up, and she falls to her knees.

Near the top of the hill, she can see the road ahead. No sign of the Volvo. Of course there isn't. It's long gone.

She SCREAMS into the sky! After all this time, after all she's been through, she's LOST them?!?! RRRrrgh... Kate buries her head in the pavement, refusing to accept it!

Behind her, coming over a hill... PT-pT-PT-pptt-TT-ppt...

The BUG FUMIGATION TRUCK they passed earlier! Kate jumps to her feet and WAVES HER ARMS.

KATE
HELP! HEEEELLLLLLLPP!!!

The Bug Truck pulls up next to her. Kate tries the door...

KATE (CONT'D)
(locked)
Lemme in!

The concerned BUGMAN (overweight, uniformed) unbuckles his seatbelt, reaches over and lets her in.

BUGMAN
You alright?

KATE
Do you have a phone?

BUGMAN
(duhh)
I got a radio...

Kate climbs in, buckles her seat belt.

KATE
Call 911!

BUGMAN
Is everything alright?

KATE
(grabs the radio)
CALL 911!!!

BUGMAN
Okay...
(starts to turn
around)

KATE
What are you doing?

BUGMAN
I don't get reception on the
mountain. We have to go down to
the lake to get a signal...

KATE
(points up the road)
NO, we have to go THAT way! They
went THAT way!

BUGMAN
That way's a dead end, though--

Kate looks out the windshield... OH FUCK--

BASHH! THE VOLVO SMASHES HEAD-ON INTO THEM. The whole world JOLTS BACKWARDS. GLASS SPRAYS EVERYWHERE.

- - - - -

I/E: HILLY ROAD - DUSK

Kate comes to...gets her bearings...

The Bug Truck is WRECKED. The BugMan is dead. Kate stares at him in macabre awe for a moment.

Kate has a mean cut on her temple, but she's able to climb out of her seat and up through the shattered windshield.

KATE
Frank... Franklin!

She crawls across the hood of the Truck like Jackie Kennedy and finally drops down on the passenger side of the Volvo, checking inside for Frank.

KATE (CONT'D)
Frank?

He's not inside. But that's impossible...where would he b-

The Driver suddenly climbs out the window on the other side of the car. He slings a SHOTGUN over the roof and aims at Kate.

ULP! Kate ducks down and covers her head, only a few feet away from him. She jerks around unpredictably, waiting to be dead any second...

He FIRES. Road asphalt peppers Kate's face. That means...

HE MISSED. RUN. Kate INHALES SHARPLY. She RUNS/STUMBLES back towards her van, FLIGHT MODE taking over all impulses.

Driver wiggles out of the window and falls to the ground. He opens his SHOTGUN. RELOADING.

KATE (CONT'D)
(looks over her
shoulder)
DON'T!

Kate TRIPS on a HIGH HEEL and FALLS right in front of the Minivan. She hears the Shotgun COCK.

Kate CRAWLS UNDER the VAN. BLAST! Her FRONT GRILL EXPLODES behind her, scattering TWISTED ALUMINUM around her.

She CRAWLS OUT from under the BACK of the van. Reaches up, OPENS the Minivan's rear LIFTGATE, JUMPS INSIDE-

-and YANKS the liftgate SHUT.

THROUGH WINDSHIELD: The Driver HOBBLER towards the van...

Kate THROWS HERSELF forwards, over the seats...REACHES OUT--

She presses the LOCK BUTTON just as the Driver tries the HANDLE.

Kate ducks down under the middle seat, GRINDING HER TEETH in TERROR.

DRIVER (OS)
(muffled)
OPEN THE DOOR!

He checks the road. ADRENALIZED. Kate doesn't move.

The Driver comes around to the SLIDING SIDE-DOOR of the Van and then goes out of her range of sight.

What can she do...what can she do? She looks around...sees her keys in the ignition...

The gear shift in PARK...hmmm...

BLAST!

The SLIDING DOOR WINDOW BUCKLES INWARD, turning into a KALEIDOSCOPIC SPIDER WEB of tiny bits of glass held together by a thin layer of film.

Kate can see the Driver coming toward the van in the SIDE VIEW MIRROR.

Gotta act fast! She STRETCHES her arm across the door, and GRIPS the HANDLE.

The Driver REACHES HIS ARM through the hole in the window, trying for the handle...

Kate YANKS the sliding door OPEN, which TRAPS the Driver's ARM between the door and its frame. CRUNCH!

DRIVER (CONT'D)
ARRRRGGGHH!!!

He sticks the SHOTGUN into the van and fires blind. BLAST!

LITTLE PIECES OF FOAM explode out of the middle seat cushion, floating down like snow.

Kate grabs the barrel of the shotgun and leverages it against the door until she is able to JERK the gun into the Van. The Driver CLIMBS halfway into the Van and GRABS it, trying to WRESTLE it back.

Kate SCREAMS, KICKING. The Driver, stronger, PULLS THE GUN OUT OF KATE'S HANDS.

Shit! Kate lunges forward, grabs the DOOR HANDLE...

...and SLIDES THE DOOR INTO the Driver with all her strength. The Door CRUSHES into the Driver's RIBS.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
YEEEEARRRRGGHH!!!

Kate KICKS the Driver in the face, KICKS him again, AGAIN!!!

Kate grabs the gear shift and SHIFTS the Van into NEUTRAL.

EXT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

The Minivan begins to ROLL BACKWARDS down the hill. The Driver is pinned in the sliding door, so that his waist and legs are hanging out the side of the van as it rolls.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

The Driver GRABS at her. Kate unbuckles Frank's CAR SEAT, raises it over her head, and SLAMS it down on the Driver. BATTERING him with it! Keeping him at bay!

The Van is ROLLING FAST now. It rolls off the road, onto the grass... headed towards the trees...

The passenger-side of the Minivan scrapes up against a THICK OAK TREE... and the Minivan abruptly STOPS as the oak tree CRUNCHES against the sliding door. CRRUUNNNCHH!!!

Inside the van, the Driver's upper body suddenly goes LIMP. His arms drop to the floor. His head hangs.

Kate raises the Car Seat over her head again, preparing to attack... and then hesitates.

The Driver is not moving. Silent.

A piece of bark falls in through the window onto the floor of the van. Kate realizes that the tree CRUSHED the Driver's legs and waist. He is PARALYZED.

He's still breathing. Labored, wheezy breathing.

KATE

Where's my son!

(beat)

Where is he?

She lifts the Driver's head to interrogate him, but quickly realizes it is futile. Though conscious and still breathing, the Driver cannot speak. Every muscle is paralyzed. His facial expression is horrifically frozen.

She lets go of his hair and his head slumps down again.

Kate thinks. She looks up at that tree.

EXT. MINIVAN - DUSK

Kate comes around to the TREE-SIDE of the Minivan -- UGH. The Driver's WAIST and LEGS are mangled, crushed between the Van and the THICK OAK TREE. His feet stick out awkwardly at her.

Yuuuckk... she moves one of the legs over... UUGGHH. She turns her head away as she reaches into the tangled mess of limbs... digs into the Driver's pants pocket...

...and pulls out the Driver's WALLET.

INT. MINIVAN - DUSK

Kate crawls in. Sets his wallet open on the dashboard.

KATE

Terence Fickey? 125 Route 77? Is that where you live, Terence?

The Driver of course doesn't move, but his breathing suddenly becomes LOUDER. FASTER.

Kate types the address into her GPS screen. "SEARCHING..."

GPS (VO)

125 Route 77.

(beat)

Continue on. Route 77. For. One quarter-mile. End at. 125 Route 77.

The ADDRESS ICON blinks. Kate can't believe it.

KATE

Is your house right up this road, Terence?

Kate opens the Driver's SHOTGUN. Looks down the BARREL. It's EMPTY. She searches the Driver's pocket for shells.

KATE (CONT'D)

Huh? Is my son up there? Blink if he is. Is he?

Can't make out a response...

KATE (CONT'D)

Is anybody else up there? Is that bitch wife of yours up there?

FASTER breathing. HEAVIER. The Driver's eyes widen.

KATE (CONT'D)

She is? Who else?

The mute Driver is visibly TERRIFIED. He WHEEZES loud, in panic. Then the breath stops altogether. His eyes FREEZE.

He's DEAD.

Okay. Okay. Kate looks around for shells. Picks one up off the floor -- SPENT.

She looks down the EMPTY BARREL of her shotgun. Without ammo, it's useless! She can't go up there with this!

She hits her GPS screen. "POLICE". The GPS map zooms out. God, the closest police station is waaaay back at that town she just came from!

She looks down the road the way she came. Should she go get the police? Risk the chance that the Woman might kill Frank in the meantime?

She looks back up the road. That Volvo's engine is still running. Deep breath.

EXT. HILLY ROAD - DUSK

K-k-kKKUCHA-KUCHA-KUCHA... The Black Volvo is in bad shape, but it's working enough to drive. Kate turns it around and drives it UP THE ROAD as fast as it will go.

INT. VOLVO (MOVING)

Kate drives, mouth firmed. The Shotgun sits OPEN and EMPTY in her lap. She digs in deep to summon COURAGE.

The road DEAD-ENDS at a MAILBOX, marking a skinny dirt driveway leading up into the woods. #125. "FICKEY".

Jesus, she's at their house.

She leaves the engine running and gets out. Just stares at the mailbox for a moment -- so surreal. She picks up her empty shotgun. Ready? CLOSES IT UP. Here goes.

EXT. DIRT ROAD DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Kate sneaks up the HEAVILY-WOODED driveway, SHOTGUN-first as if it were loaded. Up ahead, the trees clear for a TWO-STORY SOUTHERN-STYLE HOUSE. Somewhat in disrepair. A junky PICKUP TRUCK in the yard.

Kate PAUSES at the TREE-LINED PERIMETER of the yard. DUCKS DOWN. She watches for any movement, any reaction to her arrival. Nothing.

She SNEAKS out of the woods and up to the house. Up onto the porch. A screen door in front. She can see inside into a kitchen... where there is a wall-mounted PORTABLE PHONE!

Kate grabs the door handle, about to go in...

BRRRRIIIIINNGG! BRRRIIIIIINNGG!!

The Phone RINGS. And instantly, THE WOMAN comes out of a room and goes to the phone, her back to Kate the whole time.

SHIT! Kate DARTS away from the screen door before she can be spotted.

WOMAN (OS)

(into phone)

Hello?

(beat)

It's Nancy. Where are your guys?

(beat)

He's here. He just went down the road for a minute.

Kate finds a hiding place down low in the bushes beside the porch. Listens. The Woman's tone is strangely meek and cautious, as if she's speaking to a superior.

WOMAN (OS) (CONT'D)

Three. We promised you three, and we have three. Are they on their way now?

(beat)

And they have enough for all three?

(beat)

Okay. We'll be here waiting, just... if you can have them hurry. I want these kids-

(catches herself)

(MORE)

WOMAN (OS) (CONT'D)

I'd just like them outta here.
Okay?

(beat)

Do you wanna give me a number where
I can call you if they haven't
shown up by- ... Hello?

The Woman HANGS UP the phone angrily. Then the SCREEN DOOR OPENS and the Woman comes outside. Kate HOLDS HER BREATH-

The Woman heads around the other side of the house into the backyard. Kate peers around the corner and sees her go inside a CABIN out back.

INT. MAIN HOUSE - EVENING

Kate OPENS THE DOOR and comes inside the house. Normal, kinda 70's. Wood-paneled walls. No one else in sight.

Kate picks up that PORTABLE PHONE. DIALS 911.

It's ringing. She waits, looking out a window at that backyard Cabin.

FROM THE CEILING: **SCRATCH-SCRATCH-SCRATCH.**

Oh shit. SOMEONE'S STILL IN THE HOUSE WITH HER.

Could it be Frank? She lifts up her SHOTGUN and cautiously TAPS the ceiling with it, in the place where the noise came from. **TAP-TAP.** Waits for a response.

SCRATCH-SCRATCH.

Kate looks around...sets the SHOTGUN on the counter and pulls a STEAK KNIFE out of its holder. New weapon in hand, she CREEPS up the STAIRWELL. Phone to ear. SWEATING profusely. Waiting for someone to JUMP OUT at any moment.

ON THE WALL ALONG THE STAIRS, there are multiple FRAMED PICTURES of the Driver and the Woman. They've been together for years. They're even SMILING in a few pictures, sending shivers up Kate's spine.

INT. UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Kate creeps into a dimly lit narrow HALLWAY. There's TWO DOORS up here. She holds the knife out in a SHAKING HAND, opening the first door where she heard the noise from...

It's a BATHROOM. DARK. She can hear someone BREATHING! She flips on the light.

A GIANT MEAN-LOOKING DOG is curled up on a rug beside the toilet, sleeping. It WAKES UP.

911 OPERATOR (OS)
 (in phone)
 911, state your emergency.

Kate FLICKS off the light as fast as she flicked it on.
 She backs away, waiting to see if she's about to be mauled.

911 OPERATOR (OS) (CONT'D)
 Hello?

SHIT! Kate smushes the phone against her buttock, trying
 to mute the sound. Waiting for the Dog to ATTACK--

The Dog seems to go back to sleep. She hears it SCRATCHING
 the floor for a moment -- that was the SOUND she heard from
 downstairs.

911 OPERATOR (OS) (CONT'D)
 Hello?

She turns, opens up DOOR #2... KNIFE extended...

A BEDROOM. EMPTY.

Kate jerks the phone to her ear--

KATE
 (into phone)
 --Don't hang up!

911 OPERATOR
 Hello?

KATE
 Oh God! Um...my...
 (deep breath)
 My son has been kidnapped and I
 think I'm at the house where
 they're holding him?

Kate throws open the closet doors and digs through the
 hanging clothes... no Frank. Just a big steel SAFE.

911 OPERATOR (OS)
 (beat, typing)
 Alright, ma'am, do you know the
 address of your location?

KATE
 Yes, it's #125 Route 77. Zip code
 27127.

911 OPERATOR (OS)
 Is there anyone in the house with
 you?

KATE

I don't think so.

There is a long pause. Kate can hear the Operator TYPING.

911 OPERATOR (OS)

Hold please.
((click))

KATE

What?

She's on HOLD...? Jesus... Kate bites her nail viciously, drawing blood. She looks out the window, checking on that Cabin again.

911 OPERATOR (OS)

Alright, ma'am, we're going to get officers on the way. Is there a safe place you can wait until they arrive?

KATE

How long until they get here?

911 OPERATOR (OS)

They'll be there very soon. I just need you to stay on the line with me, okay?

KATE

How soon? Five minutes?

911 OPERATOR (OS)

(typing)
I can tell you it won't be more than 15 minutes...

KATE

Fifteen minutes??

911 OPERATOR (OS)

It's okay, just stay on the line...

There's a **-KSKSHH-** as SOMEONE PICKS UP ON ANOTHER PHONE.

Kate hears a NUMBER BEING DIALED -- **BOOP-BOOP-BOOP-BOOP-**

KATE

Hang up.

SOUTHERN OPERATOR (OS)

Ma'am?

KATE

Hang up!

Kate presses "END". -Beep-

Oh shit oh shit oh shit oh shit oh shit-

She hears a voice outside the house.

WOMAN (OS)

Terry?

Out the window, The Woman comes out of the Cabin. Heads this way.

CHING-A-LING! Kate hears the SCREEN DOOR open downstairs in the kitchen. OH MY GOD.

WOMAN (OS) (CONT'D)

Terry? Are you back?

Kate is PARALYZED with fear... NO. This might be your only chance. She forces herself into the hallway...

CLUTCHING HER KNIFE out in front of her... SWEATING...

WOMAN (OS) (CONT'D)

Terry?

Kate gets to the STAIRCASE. She cautiously goes down, waiting for the Woman to appear at the bottom ANY SECOND NOW. OH FUCK THIS IS INTENSE--

Kate's down far enough that her FOOT must be visible on the staircase from the kitchen! SHIT!!! HERE GOES!!!

CHING-A-LING! The Screen Door opens and closes again.

Did she just leave? Kate comes down the steps, into the kitchen. No Woman.

An ENGINE starts outside. Through the screen door, Kate sees the Woman heading down the road in that Pickup Truck. She's LEAVING!

Kate notices that her SHOTGUN is no longer on the counter.

EXT. MAIN HOUSE - EVENING

PHONE TO EAR AGAIN, Kate eases down the porch steps, afraid she's about to be picked off by sniper at any moment. She sets off a MOTION DETECTOR LIGHT. **KLIK!** -GASP!- JUMPY. PARANOID.

She JOGS towards the CABIN, passing by an old covered SWIMMING POOL. The cover is sunken down under the weight of leaves and fallen branches. This pool hasn't been used in years.

The phone's reception is all static out here. Tosses it.

Kate approaches the Cabin... hears TALKING inside...

INT. CABIN - EVENING

Kate OPENS the CABIN DOOR. KNIFE out.

It's just one room, a GARAGE/TOOL SHED/STORAGE-kind of place. In the center of the room, a CYLINDER-SHAPED ALUMINUM PIPE comes up from a wood-burning stove, and goes straight up into a hole in the ceiling.

An old ZENITH TV is on -- that was the "talking". Some old children's show: "SLIM GOODBODY".

There's the PHONE LINE the Woman must have picked up on.

Now where is:

KATE

Frank?

(no answer)

Marco?

FRANK (OS)

(whispers)

Mommy?

OH GOD!!!! He's in the ceiling-

KATE

FRANK! FRANK!

FRANK (OS)

Mommy!

Kate rushes to the ALUMINUM PIPE and LOOKS UP.

A CIRCULAR HOLE is cut in the ceiling for the pipe to run up into. The hole's a little bit bigger than the pipe, leaving a thin sliver of OPEN SPACE around the pipe.

Frank APPEARS in that sliver of space.

KATE

Oh Franklin!

His little fingers reach down and she squeezes his hand.

KATE (CONT'D)
Honey, are you okay?

FRANK
Where have you been!!!

KATE
Oh God, I love you, baby!

FRANK
I'm scared!!

KATE
Stay right there!

CHILD'S VOICE (OS)
Are you the police?

Kate FREEZES. Who was that? She listens. She hears ANOTHER CHILD crying up there.

KATE
Hello?

CHILD'S VOICE (OS)
Hello?

KATE
Who's up there?

FRANK (OS)
Mommy! Get me down!

THERE ARE OTHER KIDS UP THERE. The horror dawns on Kate. She sees the PULL-DOWN ATTIC ENTRANCE up on the ceiling. It is PADLOCKED shut. Shiiiiit...

KATE
Frank, can you guys fit down that hole?

FRANK
Come up the ladder!

KATE
The ladder's locked, honey. Try and squeeze down through here, okay?

FRANK
Mommeee...

KATE

(smiles)

Mommy's right here, I'll help you,
okay? Come on, we have to go fast!

Frank disappears from the hole. Then his little SHOES poke out of the hole.

Kate tucks her knife into the back of her pants and PUSHES the ALUMINUM PIPE with all her strength, trying to create more space for him to slip down through. The Pipe is pretty lightweight, but it's not BENDING. Frank gets his LEGS through.

FRANK

Grab me!

KATE

I'm pushing the pipe, Frank, just drop through, I'll catch you!

Frank tries to SQUEEZE his butt through. God, the space is so NARROW.

FRANK

I can't fit!

Kate GRABS HIS LEGS and PULLS. Frank comes down more, his STOMACH pinned between the pipe and the edge of the ceiling.

KATE

Come on, honey, scoot!

FRANK

OWWW!

KATE

I know it hurts, baby, it'll just be another minute!

Kate LOOKS OVER HER SHOULDER, checking the window.

She PULLS DOWN on Frank's legs. He SQUEEZES a little more, but his ribcage still won't fit through.

FRANK

OWW! OWWWWWWW!!!!

KATE

I'm sorry, baby! Come on!

Kate's eyes go TEARY as she PULLS on her son's legs. Frank's body, from the stomach down, is HANGING FROM THE CEILING. It's a NIGHTMARISH SIGHT.

FRANK
STOP!!! LET GO, Mommy!!!

KATE
(crying)
Frank...Oh God, please...

She hates to do this to him...

She puts her foot on the PIPE and PUSHES against it...trying to win just one or two more inches of space between the pipe and the edge of the hole... NO GOOD.

Kate grabs a SHOVEL that's leaning against the wall and starts SMACKING the PADLOCK on the attic entrance. It's no use, that thing's sturdy.

Then she hears it... outside... a TRUCK ENGINE.

THE WOMAN IS COMING BACK.

She looks over at the pipe, shovel in hand. Her only hope.

KATE (CONT'D)
Frank! Are you listening to me?
Cover your face with your arms! Do
it right now!

She brings the shovel backward...

KATE (CONT'D)
Are you covering!

FRANK
Yes!

Kate SWINGS the shovel into the PIPE. *KLANG!* The thin aluminum BUCKLES in some.

FRANK (CONT'D)
OOWWW!!!!

KATE
I'm sorry! Push away from the
pipe!

She HITS it again. Frank SCREAMS in PAIN.

She knows how bad it must be HURTING Frank every time the PIPE gets hit. But she keeps SWINGING, tears filling her eyes! *KLANG!*

FRANK
MOMMMYYYY! STOP!

KATE

I love you baby! We're almost there!

Kate hears the WOMAN outside, BAWLING & WAILING in AGONY! She must've found Terry! She's coming this way...

Kate lifts the heavy shovel with all her might and SWINGS.

KATE (CONT'D)

ARRRRRRRRGGGGHHHHH!!!!

She hits the PIPE. It COLLAPSES, falling out of the ceiling and onto the floor. Frank hangs from the hole for a second and then falls. Kate drops the shovel and CATCHES HIM IN HER ARMS.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh BABY!! OH BABY!!!

Frank HUGS HER NECK, SCREAMING.

The DOOR OPENS behind her. Kate spins around with Frank to see the WOMAN IN THE DOORWAY WITH THE SHOTGUN.

The Woman's tear-streaked face goes from AGONY to SHOCK as the TWO WOMEN stare at each other for one long second.

KATE (CONT'D)

The cops are coming-

The Woman PULLS THE TRIGGER.

-KLIK-

EMPTY. Kate QUICK-DRAWS the KNIFE out of her waistband and holds it out threateningly at the Woman.

The Woman stares down the barrel at Kate. Incredulous.

KATE (CONT'D)

Everyone stay up there! Don't come down no matter what! The police are coming!

(to Woman)

Now turn around, bitch.

The Woman has clearly been crying, her eyes red. She just found her husband's body. And now she takes Kate in -- shirt covered in blood, knife in hand. The Woman begins to SHAKE with RAGE...

KATE (CONT'D)

Turn around!

The WOMAN grabs her shotgun by the barrel and BASHES Kate with it. FURIOUS. Kate drops Frank and throws her arms up in defense.

FRANK

Mommy!

The Woman grabs Kate and HURLS her into a workbench, sending NAILS everywhere on the floor. ABOVE, the children SCREAM.

The Woman GRABS Kate's arm and TWISTS it, forcing the knife out of her hands...

Kate grabs a handful of nails and JABS them into the Woman's shoulder repeatedly. Kate is able to wriggle her arm free. The Woman stumbles over some of the collapsed pipe. Trips.

Kate SCOOPS up Frank and HAULS ASS out of there.

EXT. YARD - NIGHT

POV: Kate RUNS AT TOP SPEED for the PICKUP TRUCK parked in the middle of the yard. A MOTION DETECTOR LIGHT comes on and BATHES HER in WHITE LIGHT.

She gets to the Truck. Hurries Frank inside. She JUMPS in. Reaches for the ignition...

The KEYS aren't in the ignition. Checks the sun visor...

KATE

She has the keys.

Kate looks back at the Cabin. The Woman COMES OUT. Carrying the SHOTGUN. She closes the Cabin door...

...and then that TIMED MOTION DETECTOR LIGHT clicks off. Everything goes back to BLACK. Kate can't see ANYTHING.

She hits the DOOR LOCK button. Frank is whimpering.

KATE (CONT'D)

SHHH!

Silence. Just Kate's BREATHING. Listening for footsteps in the grass... Should they get out and run? To where?

Suddenly, the MOTION DETECTOR LIGHT nearest to the Truck flicks ON! Looks out her window.

The big white circle of light reveals nothing -- no sign of the Woman. But she must have just been there! Kate looks around the Truck... she could be right next to them!

Kate BREATHES faster and faster...

Behind her at the house, the SCREEN DOOR SLAMS. The Woman went inside!

FRANK

Mommy...

KATE

Shhh!

(thinks)

The Volvo...

Kate assesses the situation. They could run down the driveway right now, jump in that Volvo, get the hell out of here.

But those kids... she can't leave those kids.

KATE (CONT'D)

(nods)

Okay, Frank, we have to go back.

FRANK

No! No, Mommy, let's go! I wanna go!

KATE

(whispers)

SHH! Do what I say! Come on!

She PICKS Frank up out of his seat. She gets out of the Truck and RUNS across the yard towards the CABIN.

Frank sees where they're heading.

FRANK

NOOOO!

SHIT! Kate COVERS HIS MOUTH. Keeps running.

Frank jerks his head free and YELLS again. He's FREAKING OUT so much that she nearly drops him.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I don't wanna go in there! NOOO!
Mommy nooo!!!!

She STOPS in the middle of the grass and COVERS his mouth.

KATE

SHH! SHHH!

Wait... as soon as there's silence again, she hears:

BARK! BARK BARK!!!

The DOG. The Woman is getting the DOG.

Kate gathers Frank into her arms. She runs him back to the Cabin.

It's LOCKED. They can't go inside.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh God...we have to hide...

Where? The WOODS... The Dog BARKS just as she looks at the trees. No good. It'll hunt them down easily.

From inside the house, Kate hears the Dog and the Woman BOUNDING down the staircase. She has SECONDS to hide.

Kate looks over at the covered SWIMMING POOL.

INT. COVERED SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

Kate crawls underneath the perimeter lining and lowers herself into the icy water, clutching Frank against her chest.

She reaches up and tucks the pool cover back in over her head, just as we hear the House's SCREEN DOOR OPEN. The Woman and her Dog are outside.

We hear them walking....then a GUNSHOT!!! GLASS SHATTERS! A moment later, we hear the Truck door open...

WOMAN (OS)

Where'd they go? Huh? Where'd they go?

Kate hears the dog approaching. Then it sniffs above her. It POKES ITS NOSE down into the cover, dipping the cover down on top of them a bit. Then it BARKS.

Oh no oh no oh no... BARK!!! BARK BARK!!!! BARK!!!

The POOL LIGHT comes on underneath them. The pool is instantly ILLUMINATED, casting a womb-like light off of the faded pink tiles. Trash and dead leaves float around everywhere.

The Dog's SNARLING JAW digs in through the cover, BITING AT THEM! Kate clutches Frank and they SUBMERGE, swimming away.

When they come up for air, Kate's head PUSHES UP the sunken-in pool cover.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL

FROM THE SURFACE, we can see the shape of Kate's head come up underneath the pool cover. The Woman COCKS the shotgun--

INT. SWIMMING POOL

GUNSHOT!!! A HOLE RIPS through the cover right beside Kate's SHOULDER! JESUS!

Kate takes Frank back underwater. What can they do? She keeps them under as long as she can... out of air...

She raises her chin and pops up just enough to get air, then immediately SUBMERGES again.

A second later, **BUCKSHOT** tears through the cover right where her head just was!

Kate swims with Frank over to the SIDE of the pool. They emerge in an air pocket, against the pool wall.

Suddenly, a SPLASH!!! The DOG slips through the cover and jumps into the pool! He's swimming towards them, BARKING ferociously!

Kate puts Frank's hands on the RIM so he can hold himself above water, and then she turns to face the Dog--

KATE

Huhh...huhhhh....

The Dog CLAWS at her, RABID. She tries to SHOVE him away!

Frank holds onto the side, SCREAMING. Suddenly, the ENTIRE COVER ABOVE THEM BEGINS TO MOVE.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL

The Woman is pulling the cover off of the pool. Every second that passes, Kate and Frank have less and less covered area to hide underneath. In no time, they'll be SITTING DUCKS.

INT. SWIMMING POOL

Kate STRUGGLES with the Dog. Frank tries to move further along the wall as the EDGE OF THE COVER approaches him.

Some cover sinks down between Kate and the Dog. The Dog PAWS at her through the cover, RIPPING it to BITE at her. She wrestles with the Dog until he gets hopelessly TANGLED UP in it. BLIND. Taking his focus off of her.

KATE

(turns)

FRANK!

Kate pushes BUNCHED-UP COVER aside and finally sees Frank clutching onto the SIDE LADDER in the deep end, CRYING. She swims to his side and HUGS HIM.

The Woman has almost pulled the cover completely off! Kate and Frank crowd together under the last remaining corner...

FRANK

MOMMMYYYY!!! MOMMMYYYY!!!!

Through the cover, Kate sees the shape of the Woman's FOOT at the edge of the pool.

Kate hooks her own leg around the LADDER for leverage. She reaches up, GRABS the cover above her head with both hands...

...and YANKS it with ALL HER MIGHT! The Woman SLIPS, thrown off-balance, and FALLS INTO THE POOL.

I/E. SWIMMING POOL

Kate pushes the cover off of her and EMERGES. The Woman is STRUGGLING to get her bearings, surrounded by ripped-up, half-floating, half-sinking POOL COVER.

She starts splashing around, looking for something...
...the SHOTGUN.

Kate starts looking as well, but both women have a difficult time trying to maneuver around in the pool now, atop all of this bunched-up plastic. They move clumsily, off-balance, sinking...

The soggy DOG climbs out of the pool and SHAKES OFF, whimpering. Frank clutches onto the ladder, CRYING.

The Woman FINDS THE SHOTGUN on top of a floating portion of cover. Kate gulps. She grabs the pool cover and YANKS THE WOMAN TOWARDS HER.

The Woman whips around as she floats rapidly towards Kate...aims the shotgun...

Kate SLAPS it down. The Shotgun BLASTS into the pool, sending a SPRAY of WATER six feet high. Frank SCREAMS!!!

The Woman lets go of the gun and ATTACKS KATE, trying to push her underwater and DROWN her. Kate holds her own, almost unnaturally CALM. FOCUSED. METHODICAL.

The Dog BARKS from the sidelines as they STRUGGLE.

Kate gets TANGLED UP in the cover. The Woman rolls her up in it and then pushes Kate UNDERWATER. HOLDS HER DOWN. Kate is too tangled to swim, or even move.

Kate PANICS, then quickly focuses again. Stay calm. Stick your hands out, touch the cover, feel for a FOLD...THERE. Now spread the fold open...keep digging through it...

Kate finally gets FREE into open water again. She swims to the surface for air. GASP!!!

FRANK

Mommy! Look out!

The Woman GRABS KATE in a HEADLOCK. The Woman takes a deep breath of air, then SUBMERGES.

She uses her heavy weight to DRAG Kate downward. At the bottom of the deep end, there's a bunch of STORM DEBRIS (crate lids, branches, etc.). Kate tries to get free--

The Woman puts her feet on some debris for leverage, then presses her back and shoulders into Kate's chest, pinning Kate against the wall.

WHOA. Kate is STUCK. The Woman PUSHES with her feet, forcing her shoulder deeper into Kate's chest. Kate struggles not to lose her breath.

Kate reaches around the Woman's neck -- tries for a headlock. The hefty Woman easily pulls Kate's arm away and then protects her own neck to keep Kate from trying again.

She's holding her breath. Waiting Kate out.

Kate's arms limply hug around the Woman's stomach. Losing consciousness. Kate looks up and sees Frank's legs dangling by the ladder...

She gets an idea.

Kate feels around on the Woman's stomach. She finds the base of the Woman's ribcage. She clasps her hands together on the Woman's abdomen.

And then Kate gives the Woman the HEIMLICH MANEUVER.

AIR EXPLODES out of the Woman's mouth. A moment of PURE SHOCK-

--and then, just as abruptly, WATER RUSHES IN TO FILL THE VACUUM.

The Woman STRUGGLES, KICKS, SWIMS, FIGHTS DESPERATELY FOR HER LIFE, but Kate keep her arms locked around her, holding her down there.

Finally Kate gets unpinned and swims for the surface, leaving the Woman floating lifelessly in the EERIE POOL LIGHT. Dreamlike.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL

Kate SURFACES! BREATHEES! Huh...huh...

She's trapped under a ton of pool cover. Throws it off of her, trying to dig her way out of it...

She finally gets into open air. The Woman's body floats to the surface. DEAD.

A SPLASH!!!! Kate GASPS-- ...It was just the Dog, jumping back into the pool. It swims over to the Woman's body, whimpering harmlessly.

Kate turns to Frank... Wait, Frank's not at the ladder--

KATE

Frank! FRANK!

Oh God -- there's torn-up pool cover spread all over the pool. Could he be stuck underneath it somewhere? She lifts it up, searching frantically --

FRANK

Mommy, are you okay?

She spins around. Frank is out of the pool.

KATE

FRANKLIN!

She swims towards him. The little tyke struggles to pick up a long POOL HOOK and hold it out to her, trying to help bring his Mommy into shore.

FRANK

Grab it, Mommy! I'll pull you in!

As she watches her four-year-old try and lug this heavy pole, the ADRENALINE begins to drain out of Kate's eyes.

She rests a hand on it and swims herself along to make him think he's really pulling her in.

When she gets to the edge, Frank drops the pole, rushes over, and "helps" her get up onto the concrete.

She EMBRACES him.

KATE

Let me see you, honey. Are you
okay?

Kate yanks a dirty towel off a nearby chair, wrapping Frank
up like a baby, rubbing him to keep him warm.

FRANK

I didn't run away, Mom.

KATE

What?

FRANK

(he sniffles and
snorts through it)

I just wanted to watch the acorn
part and then I was going to come
back before you got out of the
dressing room...

Kate's eyes tear up.

SHE HUGS FRANK INTO HER ARMS AS TIGHT AS SHE CAN.

KATE

Shhh. I know, baby. I know. It's
okay.

The Dog suddenly climbs out of the pool and races down the
driveway, BARKING.

Kate looks up to see a pair of HEADLIGHTS coming into the
yard.

KATE (CONT'D)

The police are here, Frank! We're
okay!

Wait... it's not a cavalry of police cars. It's a LONE
BLACK VAN.

The Black Van comes to a stop in the yard. The headlights
aimed right in Kate's eyes.

The doors open up and TWO MEN get out. Kate squints to see
them. Both dressed in black. One holding a briefcase.

Kate hugs Frank tight against her chest. No, not now. Not
after all this. She prepares for the worst...

But the Men seem as confused as Kate is. The Dog starts
barking again.

WE HEAR SIRENS APPROACHING.

The Men suddenly get back into their van quickly. They throw it in reverse and try to pull out...

They are ILLUMINATED FROM ABOVE in a WHITE SPOTLIGHT.

WHUP-WHUP-WHUP-WHUP-WHUP... Kate looks up and sees a HELICOPTER shining a light down into the yard.

The CALVARY arrives. POLICE CARS vroom up to the house, surrounding the Black Van.

KATE (CONT'D)
(almost a question)
We're okay...

COPS get out, guns drawn. The Men get out of their van, hands up in surrender.

OFFICER #2
(to Kate)
Ma'am! Are you okay?

KATE
We're okay!

Kate embraces Frank tight. RAPTUROUS. BAWLING. CHEERING!

KATE (CONT'D)
We're okay!

She leans her head back and looks up at the helicopter.

KATE (CONT'D)
YEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

INT. POLICE ON THE SCENE IN THE YARD - NIGHT

Cop cars, Ambulances, lights -- everybody working. Cops RAM the Cabin Door open and go inside.

COP (OS)
Everybody okay?

Kate TALKS to her HUSBAND on an OFFICER'S phone. She alternates between SOBBING and ECSTATIC GIGGLING. We can barely make out most of the words she's saying, but the feeling behind them is APPARENT.

KATE
I love you so much... I love you
and Frank... and our family...
(starts to sob)
He's fine. He has a...
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

a knot on his head.

(she laughs, wiping
eyes)

Okay, I have to go, they're taking
him in the ambulance! I love you!
I'm going to call you from the
hospital! I love you so much!

(kisses the Officer's
radio)

I love you David!

She gives the radio back to an officer with a sincere
"thank you!" He smirks -- "She kissed the actual *radio*?"

DEPUTY

(hands her a cell
phone)

I think this is yours, Ms. McCoy...

KATE

Thank you so much!

Her CELL PHONE! She presses the button. "MISSED 49
CALLS". "DAVID" "DAVID" "DAVID" "DAVID" "DAVID" "DAVID"
"DAVID" "DAVID" "DAVID" all the way down.

KATE (CONT'D)

(to Ambulance)

Wait, wait, I'm coming! Thank you!

INT. BACK OF AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Frank looks up at his Mom while a PARAMEDIC puts a plastic
AIR MASK over his mouth. He's laying in a gurney.

KATE

Don't worry, honey, it's just air.
You can relax. You can even fall
asleep if you want.

FRANK

Are you gonna stay right there?

KATE

Mm-hmm. Mommy'll be right here.

Kate looks over at the Cabin. FRIENDLY PARAMEDICS are
carrying the TWO OTHER CHILDREN out. The kids are skinny
and dirty, but they seem to be okay.

One KID with his head on a paramedic's shoulder MEETS EYES
with Kate. Kate recognizes him from one of the flyers she
saw at the Police Station.

The kid seems scared, so Kate smiles at him. He stares at
her awkwardly, then grins back.

She gets a lump in the throat. Each of those kids is Frank to some other mother.

PARAMEDIC
(to the driver)
Let's go.

A Paramedic closes the back doors and the Ambulance pulls off down the road.

Kate pets Frank's head, singing him a LULLABY, neither of them breaking eye contact. Frank's eyes get heavy, and he finally snuggles up a little and closes his eyes.

She leans down and kisses his forehead.

KATE
(whispers in his ear)
I love you, Frank.

He mumbles something UNINTELLIGIBLE in his air mask.

KATE (CONT'D)
What?

She lifts it off his face just a tad.

FRANK
(half-asleep)
Happy Mother's Day Mommy.

Kate puts the mask back down and sits up. She looks over her son's body. He's okay. From his head right down to his...

Kate gulps back tears.

The DOUBLE KNOTS are still there. Still tied tight.

Kate smiles so hard she's shaking.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAWN

The Ambulance ZOOMS BY, with POLICE CARS in tow. They pass by a TOW TRUCK on the side of the road, which turns and follows them.

Hanging off the back of the Tow Truck, facing right back at us... is that good ol', completely beat-up WHITE MINIVAN.

We follow this caravan down the highway as the PRE-DAWN SUN peeks over the hills.

NEWSCASTER (VO)

...an incredible story breaking out of Forsyth County right now: two suspected child abductors are dead and a local woman is reunited with her son tonight after what police called an unprecedented civilian highway pursuit spanning two states and nearly 300 miles...

NEWSCASTER #2 (VO)

...the child, a four-year-old boy, was kidnapped outside the Lynnhaven Mall in Davison County. Instead of calling police, the mother got into her own vehicle and chased the suspects...

NEWSCASTER #3 (VO)

...spokesman would not confirm reports of an alleged child abduction ring, but police say the FBI joint police task force has arrested suspects in four different states...

NEWSCASTER #4 (VO)

...both mother and son are back at home safe this morning and understandably have no statements to make, but News 4 will keep you updated on this amazing, amazing, story...

FADE TO BLACK.