

Production Company:  
Dead Zone Production Corp.

## THE DEAD ZONE

"DESCENT"

Production #2003

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THE DEAD ZONE

"DESCENT"

CAST

JOHNNY SMITH	MR. HIRSCH *
SARAH BANNERMAN	MRS. MAGGIE TYNER *
WALT BANNERMAN	BLACK MINER'S VOICE
DANA BRIGHT	STENGEL *
REV PURDY	ELI
ROSCOE	EMT
EDGAR	MINER'S VOICE
COLLIER	MINER'S VOICES
TOM HIRSCH *	
DOUG	
ERIN	
KATE	

NON-SPEAKING

A line of dirty-faced miners	Reporters
Distraught families and friends (of the lost teens)	Photographers
Marie Hirsch *	Cameramen
Paul Salkowe	Miners
Erin Salkowe	Dirty-Faced Miner
Two Rescue Team Members	Black Miner
Rescue Workers	EMT
Paramedics	

THE DEAD ZONE

"VALLEY OF THE SHADOW"

SETS

INTERIORS

JOHNNY'S BASEMENT

INTERIOR MINE TUNNEL

FLOODED CHAMBER

FLOODED MINE TUNNELS

MINE SHAFT

KATE'S WATER-FLOODED CHAMBER

MINE CHAMBER

MINE TUNNELS

MINE TUNNEL - RUBBLE PILE

CAVE ENTRANCE

WATER FLOODED TUNNEL

EXTERIORS

EXTERIOR MINE (50 YEARS AGO)

CLEARING IN THE WOODS

HIGHSMITH MINE (ESTABLISHING)

HIGHSMITH MINE ENTRANCE

RESCUE STAGING AREA

WOODS

ROADSIDE CLEARING

MINE ENTRANCE

MINE PARKING LOT

CLEAVES MILLS STREET -NIGHT

VEHICLES

ABANDONED SUV (Tom Henderson's

WALT'S CRUISER

SEVERAL OTHER SQUAD CARS

YELLOW "COUNTY EMT TRUCK"

METAL ORE CART (in mine)

AMBULANCES

EMERGENCY VEHICLE

THE DEAD ZONE

"DESCENT"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CLEAVES MILLS - NIGHT

1

WALT and SARAH walk home after seeing a movie. It's a rainy, romantic evening. Both seem bound and determined to enjoy a rare date night.

SARAH  
(not at all convincing)  
That was good.

WALT  
(not convinced)  
O-kay.

SARAH  
What? I liked it. It won't be winning Oscars, but it was a diverting hour and a half.

WALT  
We could've seen that Italian film.

SARAH  
Oh no. Two hours of trying to read dark subtitles on a dark background? I hate that.

WALT  
Actually, I'm the one who hates that.

SARAH  
Fine. Next time, it's an Ingmar Bergman double feature for you.

They walk along in silence for a moment, but there's tension. Walt senses something's wrong but he can't put his finger on it... but it's been out there for a few weeks now, that feeling... he's embarrassed, even afraid to bring it up but he has to...

WALT  
You gonna tell me what's going on?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

SARAH

Nothing's going on.

WALT

You pick a movie starring The Rock for us to go to and you don't think something's going on...

He stops and looks at her and then away... studying lights of the village... this isn't easy for him...

WALT

Or the dozens of other little things. Like the surprise lunch dates in the middle of the week. And watching an entire football game with me and J-J...

SARAH

Well, I'm sorry. I'll try to make more time to ignore you both.

WALT

...At the same time, the evening phone calls with Johnny Smith suddenly end...

SARAH

I had to marry a cop.

She takes a beat to frame an explanation, an honest dishonest one she can live with.

SARAH

We're taking time. Trying to figure out how we fit into each other's lives... or if we even do.

WALT

Funny cause right now, it seems to me you're trying awfully hard to figure out how you fit into our life.

And this is an achingly low moment. Walt studies her... and a dozen responses rush through her mind in a fraction of a second... including telling him the whole truth... but it's moot anyway because before she can answer, the familiar buzz of his cell phone breaks the spell...

WALT

(into cell phone)  
Bannerman. Yeah? Yeah.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

WALT (CONT'D)

I'll be there.

Walt hangs up his cell phone. He really didn't need an interruption right now. But he has a job to do.

WALT

You had to marry a cop.

Walt gives Sarah a kiss. It's a bit of an awkward moment for both of them.

WALT

We're not done.

SARAH

(smiles)

You've got a conversation raincheck.

Walt gives Sarah the umbrella, puts the collar up on his coat and runs into the rain. Sarah's light-hearted smile fades.

2 INT. JOHNNY'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

2

Johnny is at work in his "Armageddon Command Center." He has the computer on to a search engine about Sonny Elliman... we can see his picture displayed...

JOHNNY

(reading)

'...became an aide to Greg Stillson following a career in the military...' The military, what branch of the military...?

Johnny catches himself.

JOHNNY

Okay... talking to myself. That's bad. Monologues. Visions of Armageddon. Obsessive internet searches. The trifecta of mental health warning signs.

Johnny self-consciously closes a half dozen windows on his computer...

JOHNNY

Sleep would be good.

Johnny turns off his computer. His phone RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

He glances at the clock and frowns. It's two in the morning.

JOHNNY

(answering with his  
caller i-d)

You're up late, Walt.

(listens for a beat)

I know exactly where it is. I'm  
on my way.

(hangs up)

Johnny pulls a cloth cover over his bulletin board, covering it from prying eyes. Again, he can't help but see the humor in the way he's acting.

JOHNNY

And there's the paranoia.

Exiting...

JOHNNY

And I'm still talking to myself.

3 EXT. CLEARING IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

3

The rain has stopped, but the ominous dark clouds promise more to come.

Walt's cruiser is parked next to an abandoned SUV on the side of a rural road. Johnny joins Walt, using his cane to balance on the loose gravel surface. An older local man in a filthy quilted jacket, EDGAR, searches the area with two baying bloodhounds.

Several other squad cars are nearby and we can hear the voices of people scouring the woods.

JOHNNY

(to Walt)

So when the dogs fail, you call  
me?

EDGAR

It's not their fault. They got  
skunked the other day.

Walt's not in a joking mood. And we may notice he's not friendly good-old-boy Walt toward Johnny as he carries the memory of his interrupted conversation with Sarah during the early going here... until the job at hand takes priority...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

WALT

This is Tom Hirsch's SUV. He left the house this morning with his brother Doug and their girlfriends.

Johnny touches the driver's door handle of the SUV, gets nothing... moves back to the rear door and as he reaches in and touches the latch... RAMP TO HIS FACE and...

4 A VISION - SAME LOCATION - DAY

4

*Johnny stands observing as the four teens unload gear from the rear of the vehicle. TOM HIRSCH (18), a jock in a Cleaves Mills letterman jacket; DOUG (16), Tom's younger brother, fresh-faced and likeable; ERIN (17), Tom's girlfriend, a cheerleader type; and KATE (16), Doug's girlfriend, cute, smart, a serious student.*

TOM

*I used to come out here years ago when I was little... you're not going to believe this place...*

*Laughing, Tom exits the SUV. Johnny spins just in time to let him pass.*

*Johnny turns to watch the four teens head off into the woods, with Tom and Erin the ringleaders and Doug and Kate more cautious. They're carrying a couple of six packs, blankets, and flashlights.*

5 EXT. ROADSIDE CLEARING - NIGHT

5

Johnny heads into the woods.

JOHNNY

This way.

Walt and Edgar follow him.

6 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

6

Johnny pauses to get his bearings... reaches down to touch the ground... and in

A SPLIT REALITY VISION

*... the "ghosts" of the kids walk by in the woods...*

6A RESUME JOHNNY

6A

Johnny leads the way for the others...

And then, slowly appearing through a break in the trees...

7 ESTABLISH THE HIGHSMITH MINE

7

A looming rock ridge with a black gaping entrance.  
Discarded machinery, faded metal trespassing signs and a  
broken chain fence ineffectually bar the entrance.

An appropriate music cue suggests strange and eerie things  
lie ahead.

Johnny pauses as he considers the ominous sight. And we  
don't have to see what he sees as he stares at it and  
says --

JOHNNY

They went in. They haven't left.

Walt has never been here before...

WALT

This a coal mine?

JOHNNY

Highsmith Copper Mine.

WALT

You know this place?

Johnny looks grim.

JOHNNY

You could say that.

(beat)

I own it.

And on this, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT 8

As they move up the hill toward the entrance...

JOHNNY

My grandfather owned it, ran it.  
Copper pennies were still a staple  
in the thirties.

WALT

Did the vein run out?

JOHNNY

I guess. There were accidents.  
(still checking walls)  
I got into a lot of trouble when  
my dad caught me up here with a  
girl once...

Johnny regrets saying it as soon as it comes out of his mouth because that girl was Sarah and Walt is no fool, he can figure it out. The both decide to ignore the obvious. Edgar moves to enter the mine, but his dogs refuse to go, kicking up a loud fuss. They seem scared.

EDGAR

Now they're spooked.

WALT

(to Edgar)  
Head back and tell Roscoe to call  
Terry Collier at County Search &  
Rescue.

Edgar heads back the way they came. Johnny and Walt tentatively enter the abandoned mine, Walt shining a high powered flashlight. A DRAFT OF WIND from the depths of the mine ruffles Johnny's hair. A WHISPER seems to drift past. It's almost as though the mine is BREATHING.

WALT

Tom Hirsch! Anyone here?

Walt's voice echoes -- "Anybody here... here... here." -- but there's no human response. Walt frowns, looks to Johnny as they move inside...

9 INT. MINE 9

As they move in deeper, Johnny walks around the entrance, touching the walls and support beams, trying to pick up

(CONTINUED)

- 9 CONTINUED: 9  
something on the kids.  
Johnny touches a beam and...
- 9A AGAIN IN A SPLIT REALITY VISION 9A  
*the ghostly four teens walk by him. One of the girls, Kate, balances herself on the same beam Johnny just touched.*
- DOUG  
*Oh man. This is just like the Indiana Jones ride at Disney Land.*
- Tom puts his arm around Erin, trying to cop a feel. They kiss. And their images disappear...*
- 10 JOHNNY 10  
moves in the direction the kids were going... Walt follows... but as they take a few steps... Johnny suddenly hears something odd... heavy, trudging FOOTSTEPS coming toward them... a lot of them, dozens maybe... he reacts...
- JOHNNY  
You hear that?
- WALT  
Hear what?
- Johnny grabs the flashlight and shines it down the left branch of a Y intersection of tunnels...
- POV
- Nothing there... and the light seems to halt the sound of the trudging army briefly...
- RESUME
- ...but as he shines the light away from that tunnel, the footsteps begin again... and now Johnny looks over to the dark space in the tunnel without shining the light back there... and reacts as he sees --
- 11 P.O.V. - THE DARKNESS SEEMS TO BE MOVING 11  
*Something is materializing. Johnny stares.*

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

*ANGLE ON LEFT BRANCH: THE DARKNESS HAS EYES.*

*PAIRS OF DISEMBOodied EYES seem to be drifting towards Johnny. It's eery as hell.*

*And then ancient worklights strung along the shaft wall GLOW into life, revealing:*

*A LINE OF MINERS trudging out of the left fork. Bone-weary. Dirty-faced. And, somehow, silently accusing.*

*ANGLE ON RIGHT BRANCH: Simultaneously, the TEENS go down the right fork with a flashlight leading the way. Their LAUGHTER is in stark contrast to the miners' grim silence.*

*ANGLE ON FORK: These two lines criss-cross each other in an eery Busby Berkeley-esque cascade of people entering and exiting the mine shaft. Johnny stands stock-still in the middle.*

*To Johnny's surprise, a grim-faced MINER with bright blue eyes looks right at him. This is ELI. And from his expression, he doesn't like what he sees.*

*ELI  
(nodding)  
Mister Smith.*

*Eli walks by. A second young miner, about 20, (STENGEL) with a distinctive scar under his right eye glares at Johnny as do the rest of the miners as they file past, anger smoldering in their eyes.*

12 RESUME SCENE

12

Johnny looks off balance for a second.

JOHNNY  
This mine seems to know me by  
name.

WALT  
What's that supposed to mean?

JOHNNY  
Wish I knew.

Johnny motions for Walt to follow him down the right fork, the path the kids took.

13 INT. MINE TUNNEL - RUBBLE PILE - NIGHT 13

Johnny and Walt walk until a huge pile of rubble blocks their way.

WALT

This cave-in looks recent.

Johnny looks up at the ceiling then bends down to touch the rubble --

14 *SMASH VISION:* 14

*reverse motion as all the rocks rain upwards to the ceiling, as the kids scream, scatter to cover, followed by a flash of gas exploding, Johnny's vision speeding him to the cause of the flash... Tom about to light a joint...*

15 RESUME SCENE 15

Johnny reacts.

JOHNNY

Natural gas explosion. The kids're alive but they're separated.

Walt takes that in, realizing their job is only getting more difficult.

A sudden RUMBLE sends more dirt and rocks raining down from the ceiling. Johnny and Walt scramble to get out of the way.

WALT

That explosion probably destabilized this whole place.

Johnny looks around the mine. He feels it looking back. Again, it seems to BREATHE...

JOHNNY

Yeah. It's awake alright.

WALT

We gotta get Search and Rescue in here.

Walt tries his walkie-talkie, it's useless underground. The two men reluctantly head out of the mine. Johnny pauses as he sees seventy-five year old message carved into a wood beam. It says: **DEATH TO JOHN SMITH.** Off Walt's reaction...

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: 15

JOHNNY  
My grandfather's name was John  
Smith.

16 EXT. RESCUE STAGING AREA - DAWN 16

Johnny and Walt emerge from the woods. The gravel parking lot is now swarming with activity. The SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM is unloading their gear from a yellow County EMT truck.

COLLIER  
Sheriff?

TERRY COLLIER, head of the Search & Rescue team, is mid-forties, lean and hard... he's been in some tough scrapes... (think Robert Shaw in "Jaws")...

WALT  
Four teenagers. Two male, two female.

COLLIER  
And a six pack I'd bet.

WALT  
John Smith. Terry Collier, Search and Rescue.

COLLIER  
(studies him curiously)  
John Smith, yeah, heard about you. The old man John Smith closed this mine after the big cave-in of '49.

JOHNNY  
I was named for him.

With an import --

COLLIER  
You know, they wrote songs about that day.  
(off Johnny's curious reaction)  
Don't suppose they ever sang them at your house.  
(to Walt)  
I knew some of the kids who lost fathers down in there.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

WALT

You got gas pockets down there...  
unstable ceilings...

COLLIER

They've been blasting the east  
face for Sunbird's new ski trails  
and this rain's probably made the  
whole place unstable.

(to his men)

Let's put up some temp supports.  
We're gonna need helmets, climbing  
harnesses, lights and a portable  
gas monitor.

Collier's men get busy collecting their gear. GENE PURDY  
moves over.

PURDY

There are some very worried parents  
waiting for any kind of news at  
all...

WALT

(to Johnny)

You mind talking to them? I'll  
give Collier a hand...

Johnny acknowledges and moves off with Purdy...

MOVING WITH JOHNNY AND PURDY

PURDY

I've arranged to bring portable  
heaters, food and coffee for  
everyone... when the reporters  
get here, I'll have our people  
give them regular briefings so  
you and Walt don't have to worry  
about them...

This is a lot of time, money and effort Purdy is putting  
together... and it surprises Johnny a little...

JOHNNY

The Faith Heritage Alliance in  
action...

PURDY

I promised you my support, didn't  
I?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2) 16

PURDY (CONT'D)  
The truth is when anything like  
this hits our community, we're  
often the first relief on the  
scene... I've known a lot of these  
folks for years...

They reach the distraught families and friends of the  
lost teens... who look with desperate eyes... hoping  
against hope for good news...

PURDY  
Johnny, this is Sam and Marie  
Hirsch... Tom and Doug's parents...

And this happens very fast: as Sam shake hands with Johnny,  
Johnny gets a --

17 *FLASH - OF DOUG HIRSCH (YOUNGER BROTHER) - TRAPPED IN THE MINE* 17

*lost and wandering in the darkness, hungry, cold, and  
completely disoriented from the lack of light...*

18 RESUME 18

PURDY (CONT'D)  
Paul and Dorothy Salkowe, Erin's  
mom and dad..

He shakes hands with Paul Salkowe and gets a --

19 *FLASH - OF ERIN AND TOM HIRSCH* 19

*huddled close together in the dark cavern... she's tending  
to his wounded arm with a makeshift bandage...*

20 RESUME 20

PURDY (CONT'D)  
...and Maggie Tyner, Kate's mom...

She shakes Johnny's hand and we see --

21 *FLASH - KATE* 21

*Kate, not wearing a heavy jacket, is in a tunnel filling  
up with water and she's shivering and cold...*

22 RESUME

22

PURDY (CONT'D)

I think you've all heard of Johnny Smith. He has some very encouraging news to report.

JOHNNY

There was a cave-in and they're trapped but I don't believe any of them were seriously injured.

Relief sweeps across the faces...

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

We don't know exactly where they are yet...

PURDY

The rescue team is preparing to go in now.

MR. HIRSCH

But if they don't know where they are...

JOHNNY

I think I can help the search teams find them.

MRS. TYNER

My Kate, she didn't want to take her winter jacket. She was mad I wouldn't buy her a new one. We had a big fight when she was leaving...

She begins to cry and this could be a long story. Purdy taking charge, to free Johnny, comforts her...

PURDY

Maggie, I'm sure the Sheriff and Mr. Smith are doing everything in their power to find her. But if they're going to have success, we need to let them go about their business now. Thank-you, Johnny.

(leading the parents  
away)

I've got some volunteers setting up a tent where you can stay warm and dry while...

But he's interrupted as one parent turns back to Johnny...

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

MR. HIRSCH

Mr. Smith. Just tell us that our children are going to get out okay.

Johnny doesn't know, hasn't seen that future, at least not yet. All he can say is:

JOHNNY

We'll try to reach them as soon as possible.

The families move away with Purdy as Johnny considers their pain for a beat...

DANA (O.S.)

Amazing what a decent guy he can be sometimes.

He turns to see her... (and for the actors: Johnny hasn't been calling Dana for dates for a couple of weeks now so there's a vague subtext here but it's not something they would address under these circumstances.)

JOHNNY

Yeah, I was just thinking the same thing...

DANA

I almost believe it has nothing to do with those personal liability lawyers - all six of them - meeting at Alliance Headquarters right now.

(off his reaction)

This mine was part of the Vera Smith Trust willed to Faith Heritage.

JOHNNY

He's worried about being sued.

DANA

The airline company is always your best friend after the plane goes down.

Dana sees how exhausted Johnny is.

DANA (CONT'D)

You okay?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

JOHNNY

Yeah. I just saw some things ...  
in the mine.

DANA

(concerned)

About the kids...?

JOHNNY

No. From a long time ago.

(beat)

The mine was one of those things  
we never mentioned around the  
table when my grandfather came to  
Sunday night dinners. I knew  
some miners died in there... but  
somehow I knew not to ask  
questions...

DANA

What'd you'd see in there...?

JOHNNY

(beat)

Just think maybe it's time I asked  
some of those questions I never  
asked at supper.

DANA

I'll check out the history. County  
records. See what I can find.

JOHNNY

Thanks.

DANA

Anything for a friend.

And that's not just a throwaway, it's a reminder. He  
gets the message, nods.

23 NEW ANGLE WITH WALT - EXT. MINE ENTRANCE

23

who is toting cables and what-not toward the opening of  
the mine. He is already dirty and sweaty but dedicated  
as he turns to see Sarah moving beside him...

SARAH

Hey... I thought you might like  
some hot coffee. Of course that  
was before I came and saw Reverend  
Purdy had moved the county fair  
up here...

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

WALT

Thanks, I'll take your coffee  
over his any day.

She pours it for him...

SARAH

It's scary in there, huh?  
(Walt grins, shrugs)  
I was up here once when I was  
these kids' age...

Which echoes back for Walt to Johnny's line about his dad  
catching him up here with a girl....

WALT

(covering)  
Yeah?

Johnny moves over... thin layer of tension between them  
all...

JOHNNY

Hey, Sarah.

SARAH

Johnny.  
(beat to fill dead  
air)  
Want some coffee?

JOHNNY

Thanks anyway. The caffeine makes  
the visions run at fast forward.

Moving over --

COLLIER

We're about ready, Walt.

Walt acknowledges. Kisses Sarah on the cheek... Johnny  
and Walt move toward the opening...

SARAH

Hey.

They both stop and turn...

SARAH

Be careful in there.

The two men in her life nod an acknowledgement and

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

disappear into the darkness...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

24 INT. MINE TUNNELS - DAY 24

Johnny, Walt, Collier, and the two RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS search the mines. They're deeper in, following the rails of an old mining cart track. Flashlights, lanterns, and helmet lights are the only source of illumination. A *VISION* voice yells in his ear, scaring the shit out of him...

25 RAMP TO HIS FACE... 25

Sound only:

MINER'S VOICE  
*Fire in the hole!*

*Johnny hears a huge explosion that seems to ROCK the mine for him. Johnny struggles to keep his balance...*

26 RESUME 26

WALT  
You okay?

JOHNNY  
Yeah. Just walking on some old  
footsteps in here...

COLLIER  
(casual throwaway,  
not even looking at  
Johnny)  
More like walking on a graveyard.

Johnny takes off his helmet and wipes off his forehead. They've been at this a while.

COLLIER  
(to his team)  
I need this post reinforced before  
we go any further.

Collier taps the helmet in Johnny's hand.

COLLIER  
Wear it. I don't intend to let  
this mine take any more souls.

As Collier's men put on protective headgear, working quickly to reinforce the beam, the others take a break.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 26

Johnny sits down on the rail... and as he does, he hears a SQUEAK. It sounds like fingernails on a blackboard. He turns his flashlight up the rail toward the sound...

27 ANGLE 27

*Suddenly, out of the darkness an ore cart comes BARRELLING down the rail straight for them...*

Johnny stands...

JOHNNY

Look out!

*He's a dead man. But the ore cart runs right through him and flickers away... it was only a vision...*

28 ANGLE - WALT, COLLIER AND THE RESCUE TEAM 28

stare at Johnny... who's embarrassed... tries to explain...

JOHNNY

A vision. From the past. Old ore cart coming down the...

Johnny glances up at Collier's men who are still working to stabilize the beams... reacts as he sees --

29 JOHNNY'S POV - COLLIER'S MEN - SLOW MOTION 29

Their faces are covered with protective gear. *But their EYES ARE UNMISTAKABLY THE EYES OF THE MINERS (One should be Stengel, with the distinctive scar below the eye).* Accusing. Hating.

30 RESUME NORMAL SPEED 30

JOHNNY

...tracks.

...as Collier's men go back to work...

WALT

Maybe you'd be better off up top, this time. You've already done more than enough...

30 CONTINUED:

30

COLLIER

(re: the cane)

The terrain's gonna get tougher  
on that leg too.

JOHNNY

I'm here 'til we find them.

COLLIER

Suit yourself.

(to his men)

We about ready to move on?

We hear the familiar SQUEAK -- as of fingernails on a  
blackboard... Johnny reacts, another vision... but this  
time Collier and Walt hear it too...

COLLIER

What's that?

JOHNNY

You hear that?

WALT

A squeak like...

JOHNNY

It wasn't the past...

COLLIER

What...?

JOHNNY

It wasn't the past! Get out of  
the way...!

ANGLE

Over the last line, A METAL ORE CART barrels at Johnny  
just as before. Ceiling-high SPARKS fly from its wheels.

The workers barely clear the tracks as the cart ZOOMS  
past and SMASHES into the dead end wall.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

(beat, finishing the  
thought)

It was the future.

WALT

Must not have been secured.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

JOHNNY

(curious)

And it just happened to fall  
today... after fifty years...?

COLLIER

All our hammering must've shaken  
it loose is all.

(glances at Johnny)

Or maybe the mine just doesn't  
like you, son!

He laughs deep in his chest... trudges forward... Johnny  
glances at Walt...

31 INT. LADDER IN ELEVATOR SHAFT

31

As they climb down... (note: remember Quint's monologue  
about the USS Indianapolis and the shark attack in Jaws?  
This is Collier's version.)

JOHNNY

How many died here, Collier?  
Before they shut down the mine?

COLLIER

One here, one there... over the  
years... union had been after  
John Smith on safety protocols  
for years...

(beat)

But then, in March of forty-nine...  
well, they were trying for a new  
production record... Thirty-one  
miners - over twice the usual  
crew number - were in the Four  
Cross Cut North section. At about  
eight that night, fire broke out.  
In a matter of minutes, smoke and  
lethal gases had filled the whole  
section.

(beat)

The miners tried to break through  
a wall but water flooded the  
haulageway. They were trapped.  
Only one choice for each man:  
death by drowning or poison gas.  
Twenty-one went under the water.  
Nine died from burning lungs.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 31

COLLIER

The mine let one go to tell the story. Met him once or twice. Named Stengel. Like the baseball manager. Used to live over in Trimbull.

ANGLE

Suddenly, A HUGE COLONY OF BATS EXPLODES AT THEM from a hidden hole, disturbed by the light. Johnny and Walt, along with the other rescue workers, are literally pelted with bats and in the fracas, Johnny drops and loses his cane (as the show continues, his leg will show fatigue) The men SHOUT and wave the bats away.

But in the flurry, Johnny waves off a bat and gets...

32 AN EERIE COLORLESS BAT POV VISION: 32

*A lightning-fast bat's aerial P.O.V. zips deeper into the tunnels...*

*We SWOOP through the tunnels in a dizzyingly fast continuous shot, winding down through a hole, whooshing through a tunnel, diving down a shaft, and finally coming to...*

33 INT. MINE SHAFT (VISION) - DAY 33

*Tom and Erin are huddled close together, exhausted and afraid as they wait for rescue. As the bat P.O.V. heads straight for them, they start frantically swatting at the bats. The vision ends as...*

34 RESUME JOHNNY - BACK WHERE THE BAT CAM STARTED 34

reacts...

JOHNNY

This way.

35 INT. MINE SHAFT - DAY 35

The kids are in exactly the same position as they were in Johnny's vision. But, now we see that they're at the bottom of a crevice. Tom has his shirt wrapped around his burnt arm.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

WALT (O.S.)  
(calling)  
Tom? Erin? Can you hear us?

The kids look up and see Walt and Johnny at the lip of the crevice.

ERIN  
We're down here!

They move to her and immediately tend to their immediate physical needs, wrapping her in a blanket, checking Tom's burns.

ERIN  
We ran from the cave-in and then we were falling.

TOM  
(looking around)  
Did you find Doug and Kate?

JOHNNY  
Not yet.

ERIN  
It's our fault. They didn't wanna come.

COLLIER  
(to his men)  
Okay, get these two to the surface... maybe the others aren't too far away...

As the men help the two kids climb out...

36 COLLIER, WALT AND JOHNNY

36

move deeper into the mine... turn into --

A NEW COMPARTMENT

that seems to BREATHE again...

WALT  
(to Johnny)  
Anything?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

ANGLE ON JOHNNY

Johnny touches the walls... Ramp to his face as Voices WHISPER to him, easing from conversational to accusatory.

*MINER'S VOICES*

*Morning, Mr. Smith... Die John  
Smith... Blood for blood, Mr.  
Smith...*

A dark heavy drop DRIPS down on his face from the ceiling. Johnny wipes it away and looks at his hand...

37 CLOSE ON JOHNNY'S HAND: IT'S SMEARED WITH BLOOD.

37

*More blood drips down onto his face from the ceiling. Johnny looks around. There's blood trickling down from several cracks in the ceiling.*

38 RESUME JOHNNY AS BEFORE

38

He snaps out of the vision.

And a DROP DRIPS on his face.

With a horrifying sense of premonition, he wipes his face.

CLOSE ON JOHNNY'S HAND --

His hand is wet and, although it's reddish, the liquid is just water. Dirty water.

JOHNNY

Water...

Johnny looks up and sees the ceiling dripping.

JOHNNY

(softly)

We need to get out of here.

Walt and Collier spot the new leaks from the ceiling. There is a soft ominous CRACK.

They start to run...

38A ANGLE - SLO MO - DOWN THE TUNNEL

38A

as the ceiling collapses behind them... water filling the

(CONTINUED)

- 38A CONTINUED: 38A  
tunnel, a thunderous WALL OF WATER sweeping toward them...
- 38B RESUME NORMAL SPEED 38B
- COLLIER  
Clip onto something and hang on!  
Wait for it to drain!
- He clips his harness to a pipe...
- 38C JOHNNY AND WALT 38C  
try to do the same but they're not quite as expert...
- JOHNNY'S CLIP  
attaches to something just as...
- THE WATER  
reaches them... sweeping Walt away who hasn't locked in yet... Johnny grabs his hand and holds on for dear life as the water cascades over them...
- 39 ANGLE ON: FARTHER DOWN THE TUNNEL. 39  
The water rushes into an old mine shaft turning the end of the tunnel into a deadly waterfall. And this all happens very fast:
- 39A UNDERWATER - AS THE RAGING TORRENT OF WATER 39A  
pulls at them...
- 39B UNDERWATER - WALT HOLDS ON TO JOHNNY 39B  
Their eyes meet as they hold their breath...
- 39C UNDERWATER - COLLIER 39C  
steels himself trying to hold on... but... reacts as he sees...

39D UNDERWATER - COLLIER'S CLIP 39D

The pipe is coming apart at a seam from the water pressure...

39E UNDERWATER - COLLIER' EYES 39E

react, look to...

39F UNDERWATER - JOHNNY 39F

who watches in horror as...

39G UNDERWATER - JOHNNY'S POV 39G

as he hangs on to Walt, Collier is swept away, sucked down into the water into the darkness...

39H INT. TUNNEL 39H

as the water finally drains... they gasp for air... Walt is able to hold onto a rock now... looks behind him...

WALT

Where's Collier?

JOHNNY

He's gone.

Johnny exchanges a look with Walt.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

40 EXT. STAGING AREA/MINE ENTRANCE - DAY 40

The other rescue workers have returned with Tom and Erin who are reuniting with their parents as they're moved into ambulances... there are more reporters now, Dana among them, photographers and cameramen taking pictures... asking questions like 'did you see the other two?', 'what was it like down there?', 'were you scared?'... as the ambulances close and drive off... move to find --

40A SARAH 40A

cupping a warm cup of coffee in her hands staring at the entrance to the mine, worried, and hoping to see some sign of Walt and Johnny... but there's nothing... Dana studies her a beat, moves over...

DANA  
(a greeting)  
Mrs. Bannerman.

SARAH  
(evenly)  
Dana.

DANA  
The wife of a Sheriff must spend a lot of nights worried about her husband's safety.

SARAH  
(savvy)  
Does that compassionate tone in your voice come naturally or do they teach it in journalism school?

DANA  
(shrugs)  
People are interested.

SARAH  
(not about to allow an interview)  
Sorry but I like to keep my private life private...

DANA  
(measured)  
Yes. We know.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

40A CONTINUED:

40A

DANA (CONT'D)

(beat, Sarah gives  
her a look)

So, off the record, whose face do  
you see first when you imagine  
them coming out of the mine --  
Johnny or Walt?

(CONTINUED)

40A CONTINUED: (2)

40A

SARAH

Go to hell.

Sarah moves away... Dana studies her a beat...

DANA

(to herself)

I'm sorry I said that. No, you're not. Yes, I am. No, you're not.

Then as she senses movement at the mine entrance...

AND SO DOES SARAH

They turn to see --

41 POV ON THE MINE ENTRANCE

41

And Johnny is the first one out, walking slowly... soaking wet and exhausted...

SARAH

reacts...

RESUME MINE ENTRANCE

and a fraction of a beat later, here comes Walt...

VARIOUS REACTIONS

as the parents look for some sign of their children... Purdy... Sarah... Dana...

DANA

Jesus, where's Collier?

A pall is cast over the site...

CLOSE ON WALT AND JOHNNY

WALT

I better go call Terry's wife. I don't want her turning on WPOV and finding out her husband's dead.

Johnny acknowledges... Walt moves away toward the rescue

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

team to tell them about Collier... his tired eyes meet Sarah's... she smiles with relief... he takes her arm as they walk... and he tells her what happened. (Most of the reporters follow Walt for information.) Purdy moves to Johnny... handing Johnny a mug of soup which he drinks with appreciation... Purdy was close enough to overhear Walt's speech and is stunned by the news...

PURDY

Terry Collier... with the search team?

JOHNNY

(shakes his head)  
Ceiling collapsed. He's not coming back.

Purdy sighs deeply. He is sincerely saddened by this news, he nods slowly...

PURDY

The other children?

JOHNNY

Still not sure where they are. I couldn't pick up any traces...

Purdy acknowledges, moves to the opening of the mine to say a silent prayer... by now, Dana has moved over...

DANA

I don't know if this will help but I found an old map of the mine at the County Assessors Office...

She pulls it out of her large tote bag... as Johnny takes it from her, unfolding it... we do a 180 degree turn and find...

42 A VISION - EXT. MINE - FIFTY YEARS AGO - DAY

42

*At the entrance to the mine, Johnny, standing in for his own grandfather, age 50, refers to the exact same map as he confers with Eli, with dubious miners around them... again, notable among them is Stengel, the man with the distinctive scar below his eye...*

ELI

*Four Cross Cut North, Mr. Smith?*

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

JOHNNY/GRANDPA  
*That's where my geologists say  
the copper is.*

ELI  
*Give us another week to shore it  
up before we start blasting.*

JOHNNY/GRANDPA  
*And miss the production record?  
It'll be fine, Eli. Four Cross  
Cut North. We start tonight.*

MRS. TYNER  
*Mr. Smith...*

*Incongruously, Kate's mother appears in the vision...  
Grandpa John turns to her but it's just a momentary  
transition of split reality to take us back to...*

43 RESUME JOHNNY

43

as he reacts to

MRS. TYNER'S HAND ON HIS ARM

MRS. TYNER  
*My daughter...?*

JOHNNY

turns to see --

44 INT. WATER-FLOODED TUNNEL - DAY (VISION)

44

*Johnny in the foreground, still holding the map, sees  
Kate in a compartment with water rising. Incongruously,  
Eli, anger in his eyes, is standing beside him as he was  
in the other vision. Johnny watches Kate shiver as she  
watches the many steady trickles of water filling the  
mine. She's only got a pocket of air. It's terrifying.*

KATE  
*Help me! Somebody help me!*

And all visions end...

45 RESUME JOHNNY 45

as he reacts... understanding --

JOHNNY  
Four Cross Cut North. She's  
trapped in Four Cross Cut North.

46 EXT. RESCUE STAGING AREA - DAY 46

Walt is hanging up the mobile phone on an emergency  
vehicle... Sarah is with him...

SARAH  
How's Erika?

WALT  
She said Terry was on the night  
shift. She didn't even know he'd  
been called to a scene.

SARAH  
Oh god.

WALT  
She made me talk about nothing  
while she could get it under  
control. Her kids were right  
there.

SARAH  
Promise me I'll never get that  
phone call.

Johnny arrives...

JOHNNY  
We've got to go back in, Walt.

WALT  
(shakes his head)  
I called in an experienced mine  
rescue team. Same guys who saved  
those miners in Pennsylvania.  
They can be here in three hours.

JOHNNY  
We can't wait that long.

WALT  
Let me guess - you had a vision.  
Well, this time so did I. I saw  
a good man killed down there.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

WALT (CONT'D)

Terry's crew wasn't trained for this. It was my call to go in... and now I'm making another one. We wait.

JOHNNY

Kate Tyner is in the Four Cross Cut North section. It's filling up with water. She's not going to last three hours... or even two.

Walt glances over at Maggie at the warming tent. She's watching them both with wide, hopeful eyes.

JOHNNY

There's still time.

Walt sees the map clutched in Johnny's hands.

WALT

Is that a map of the mine?

JOHNNY

I think it shows a way around the collapsed area.

WALT

Let me see.

Johnny hands Walt the map. As they touch... RAMP TO JOHNNY'S FACE AS...

47 *FLASH - INT. MINE TUNNEL - DAY*

47

*Johnny and Walt feeling their way through a half-collapsed shaft. Every surface is water-slicked and slippery. There is something distinctive about this particular shaft: an abandoned ore cart, number 47... {something that Johnny and Walt can recognize later}*

*There's a RUMBLE; it sounds like thunder.*

48 RESUME JOHNNY - EXT. PARKING LOT

48

as he reacts...

49 *ANOTHER FLASH - INT. MINE TUNNEL*

49

*Johnny's view of Walt is blotted out by a rain of boulders.*

50 RESUME JOHNNY - CLOSER 50  
reaction.

51 ANOTHER FLASH - INT. MINE TUNNEL 51  
*Johnny himself is struck in the head... and he goes down.  
And the CEILING COLLAPSES completely by a falling beam.*

52 EXT. RESCUE STAGING AREA - DAY 52  
Johnny snaps out of his vision. Sarah sees his face and  
already knows it's bad.

SARAH  
What?

JOHNNY  
We were buried in a cave-in.

WALT  
You sure you're not seeing some  
cave-in from the past...?

JOHNNY  
(certain)  
This one's the future. Our future.

SARAH  
Then you can't go back in there.

A beat. Johnny knows how dangerous it is going to be...  
but this is now a matter of lives in the balance: theirs,  
the girl's.

JOHNNY  
The chamber I saw has an abandoned  
ore cart, number 47...if we see  
that cart in time, we have a chance  
to avoid the cave-in...  
(beat)  
But if we don't go, Kate dies for  
sure.

There's a silent moment between the three of them. Sarah  
looks at Johnny and Walt both. She knows what they're  
going to do. It's the kind of men they are.

Walt makes his decision; the one a man like him always  
has to make.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

WALT  
You better get some dry clothes  
on.

A tear runs down Sarah's cheek. She hugs Walt tightly. He holds her. Johnny stands there a beat. Then walks away alone back up the hill toward the mine.

53 INT. MINE - DAY

53

Johnny and Walt work their way through the tunnels, using the old map as a guide, always cautious about each turn. Walt's mind lingering back with Sarah and the hug...

WALT  
( 'That sure is..' )  
Something, huh...?

JOHNNY  
What.

WALT  
Today, she's got one guy too many.  
Tomorrow, maybe none at all.

JOHNNY  
Doesn't help to think like that,  
Walt.

WALT  
Got to think like that. A husband  
and a father has to. I'm asking  
myself here - is the insurance  
paid, will it cover the mortgage...

JOHNNY  
Yeah... I understand...

WALT  
And don't think I'm not asking  
myself what happens if you make  
it and I don't... and I'm not at  
all happy about that possibility,  
you know?

JOHNNY  
Walt, this is going to turn out  
okay.

WALT  
You've had another vision?

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

JOHNNY

No. Just your basic empty promise.

WALT

(beat)

You afraid of dying, John?

JOHNNY

Me? Me, I think I'm on bonus time as it is.

Some dust shifts down from the ceiling... they flash their lights around looking for the familiar signature that threatens... it isn't this chamber... they look to the map again...

JOHNNY

This way.

They turn a corner.

WALT

I'm not afraid of dying. I'm afraid of not being there though. For them. To help, you know, in the tough times. To tell J-J what he needs to know about girls. To fix the TV set when she can't figure out how to make the remotes work.

JOHNNY

You do that? Can you come over to my house when this is over?

WALT

The truth is you were always a better match for Sarah...

JOHNNY

Walt, she loves you.

WALT

And she loves you. And I'm just trying to figure out how John Wayne would deal with Randolph Scott in this situation.

JOHNNY

(puzzled)

We obviously like different kinds of movies.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

WALT

There. See? That's another thing you have going for you with her.

JOHNNY

You underestimate yourself, Walt.

WALT

(laughs)

She tells me the same thing all the time.

JOHNNY

See?

WALT

It's one of my best qualities, she says. Modesty.

JOHNNY

I agree with her.

WALT

It makes me feel like a pussy.

JOHNNY

Hey, if it works for the lady...

WALT

She seems distracted lately, you know? I noticed she hasn't been calling you as much.

JOHNNY

Yeah, well...

WALT

That scares the hell out of me.

JOHNNY

Walt...

WALT

Sometimes I think I'm smothering her, you know, there's such a thing as loving someone too much... driving them away... so I try to tune it down... but I don't want to be too distant. This may surprise you... but before Sarah... I really didn't have luck with the girls, you know. Why the hell am I telling you all this?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (3)

53

WALT (CONT'D)

You're the guy who's causing me  
all this grief.

JOHNNY

Would John Wayne talk to Randolph  
Scott like this?

WALT

Yeah. Just before one of them  
dies.

JOHNNY

John Wayne never dies.

WALT

Not true. The Cowboys, Reap the  
Wild Wind....

JOHNNY

You've seen every John Wayne movie.

WALT

You betcha. The Duke.

53A INT. MINE - INTERSECTION

53A

Johnny and Walt reach a four-way intersection. For a  
second, they're not sure which way to go, but something  
catches Walt's eye. It's an abandoned flashlight. As  
Johnny picks it up...

54 *FLASH TO SEE DOUG HIRSCH*

54

*cold and scared in the dark...*

55 RESUME JOHNNY

55

who reacts...

JOHNNY

It's Doug Hirsch's flashlight.  
This way.

WALT

(calling out)  
Doug!

The men rush down the corridor...

56 INT. MINE CHAMBER - DAY

56

Doug is lost in the darkness, hungry, cold, and completely disoriented from the lack of light. But he hears Walt calling out to him.

DOUG  
Here! I'm here.

Doug finally sees a sliver of light. It grows brighter as Walt and Johnny approach.

WALT  
You all right?

Doug shields his eyes.

DOUG  
I lost my flashlight in the cave-  
in. I couldn't see where to go.  
(shaky with relief)  
I didn't think anybody was coming.

WALT  
We have your brother and Erin...

JOHNNY  
Have you heard Kate's voice...

He looks at a side tunnel.

DOUG  
I thought I heard her down this  
way... come on, we've got find  
her...

Doug leads them in the direction he thought he heard the voice...

57 INT. NEW TUNNEL

57

Walt with one flashlight leading the way... Doug between them... Then Johnny...

DOUG  
Kate?

The voice echoes without an answer...

CLOSE ON WALT

as he ducks down to get through a low passageway and comes into a new chamber... and as he does, his light flashes

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: 57

ACROSS THE ORE CART #47 THEY'VE BEEN DREADING.

WALT

sees it first, reacts... instantly yells... as the ceiling rumbles...

WALT  
John. Back!

And pushes Johnny and Doug out of the way... just as...

58 ANGLE WITH JOHNNY AND DOUG 58

...the ceiling collapses on Walt...

JOHNNY  
Walt!

Dust everywhere. It's pitch black. As our eyes adjust to the dim light, we see clouds of dust hanging in the air. Johnny moves back into the cavern to find Walt. He's partially pinned under the rubble. He's lost his helmet and his head is bleeding. He does not look good.

WALT  
I ... changed the future.

JOHNNY  
Yeah, you did, man. Stay still.

Johnny tends to Walt as best he can. He takes out his medkit and tries to stop Walt's bleeding head wound.

Doug helps Johnny clear away the debris trapping Walt. Doug finds Walt's smashed walkie-talkie. Johnny tries to get a signal, but it's beyond repair.

JOHNNY  
Damn.  
(to Walt)  
We gotta get you out of here.

WALT  
Go. Find Kate. It's okay.

Walt's in pain... but he forces himself to stay focused.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

WALT  
(re: Kate)  
There's still time.

Johnny decides Walt's right... Johnny finds the flashlight, puts his hardhat back on...

JOHNNY  
(to Doug)  
Keep him awake and talking.

Walt looks to Johnny.

WALT  
Hey, Pilgrim.  
(beat)  
Take care of our family.

JOHNNY  
That's your job ... and you're gonna be doing it for a long, long time.

Johnny moves into the darkness of the mine... as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

59 INT. MINE TUNNELS - DAY 59

Johnny moves alone through the mine. He comes to passageway marked in ancient letters: **4XCN.**

JOHNNY  
Four Cross Cut North.

The old wooden posts CREAK as the earth shifts. Water DRIPS. And the air continues to move through the mine in pulses, like BREATHS...

As he braces his hand against rails along the way, he hears the voices of the men who died here...

*ELI'S VOICE*  
*Company orders. We blast.*

Johnny walks in the darkness... one step, another... then hears (sound only):

*MINER'S VOICE*  
*Fire in the hole!*

*The mine shakes with the sound of an explosion...*

Johnny turns to see --

60 *VISION - MINERS RUNNING AS SMOKE AND POISON GAS ROLLS DOWN THE STOPE* 60

*Johnny in the foreground as the smoke seems to sweep over him and then disappear... the last face he sees before it all fades away is Stengel's... with the distinctive scar below the eye...*

61 RESUME JOHNNY 61

walking... still hearing voices...

*BLACK MINER'S VOICE*  
*Break through the wall... it's our only chance...*

Johnny moving through the darkness... hears the sounds of the men trying to cut through the wall... and now ahead he sees --

62 A VISION - A FLOOD OF WATER RUSHING THROUGH THE WALL ON TOP OF MINERS 62

*Johnny again in the foreground as they yell... and it quickly disappears... leaving him in darkness... but one last voice echoes through...*

*ELI'S VOICE*  
*Die John Smith!*

Johnny's eyes narrow.

63 INT. NEW CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS 63

Johnny turns a corner and sees a frightening sight. The tunnel just disappears into a mirror-still body of water...

Johnny removes his coat. He grabs a glow stick, snaps it on.

JOHNNY  
(psyching himself up)  
You'll find air. This place loves you.  
(beat)  
You're talking to yourself again.

Johnny wades into the water. It's freezing. He takes deep, lung-expanding breaths and then... DIVES IN.

64 INT. FLOODED MINE TUNNELS - UNDERWATER 64

Johnny swims through the murky blackness. It's spooky as hell. There's no light, no sunshine to guide you to the top. In fact, it's hard to tell which way is up.

Johnny feels along one side of the tunnel to keep himself oriented. The glow stick provides only a weak flickering beam of light. He passes through a low passageway that is covered with water...

65 INT. FLOODED CHAMBER 65

And then his head breaks the water's surface. But, it's only a small air pocket at the top of the tunnel.

JOHNNY  
Kate?!

The only sound comes from water lapping against the edges of the cavern. Johnny treads water to stay afloat as his eyes, adjust ...

(CONTINUED)

- 65 CONTINUED: 65
- JOHNNY'S POV: IT'S BLURRY, INDISTINCT. THERE ARE WHITE SPOTS AGAINST A BLACK BACKGROUND.
- Johnny reaches out to the one of the white spots and touches...
- CLOSER - A HUMAN FEMUR
- He gasps in surprise. In fact...
- ANGLE - JOHNNY
- is surrounded by human bones and pieces of skeletons. They float in the water and litter the shelves of rock nearby.
- And he has disturbed their long slumber. They CLACK together, almost as if they're speaking a long-forgotten language. There's a lot of them, they seem to be crowding the water, pushing him back down under the surface. (Think of Marion "attacked" by the skeletons in RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK).
- 66 INT. FLOODED MINE CHAMBER - UNDERWATER 66
- As Johnny struggles to find his way back up, his hands brush the bones and suddenly, he's not alone in the murky water. *His VISIONS come to eery life (Note: Stengel should not be among the dead).*
- 67 OFF A HIP BONE -- 67
- 68 A JOHNNY FLASH 68
- as he sees a DIRTY-FACED MINER eyes wide open in death staring at him underwater... arms floating as though reaching toward Johnny...*
- 69 OFF AN ULNA -- 69
- 70 ANOTHER JOHNNY FLASH 70
- Another dead wide-eyed BLACK MINER seems to be reaching out for him...*

71 OFF A COLLARBONE -- 71

72 *ANOTHER JOHNNY FLASH* 72

Eli, wide-eyed in death, seems to reach for him...

73 RESUME JOHNNY 73

as he bursts above the water... gasping for air, very close to being drowned... grabbing for anything at all... hands slipping on bones... there is no way out above the water line... so his only choice is five back down below...

74 INT. UNDERWATER - JOHNNY 74

swimming below the bones... toward another low passageway completely covered in water... he goes through it...

75 INT. KATE'S WATER-FLOODED CHAMBER - NIGHT 75

Kate is wedged into a corner, looking desperate as the water level rises, higher and higher.

Suddenly, right in front of her, Johnny BREAKS the surface of the water, GASPING for air.

Kate SCREAMS in surprise, but then she reaches out for him.

KATE  
Oh, thank-god...

Johnny comforts her as best he can in the cramped space.

JOHNNY  
Are you hurt?

KATE  
I can't feel my fingers or toes.

JOHNNY  
This water's pretty cold.

Johnny reaches out and rubs her hands briskly with his own.

KATE  
Is Doug okay? We were with his brother--

75 CONTINUED:

75

JOHNNY

They're all fine. Just waiting  
for you a couple of passages  
over...

KATE

Is someone coming for us?

Johnny and Kate both have to tip their heads up to keep  
breathing and talking.

JOHNNY

Kate, we're gonna have to swim  
out.

KATE

(scared to death)  
No, I can't. We'll die.

JOHNNY

I know where to go. It's not  
far...

KATE

No...

JOHNNY

Take my hand...

She does... he smiles... because he sees a better future  
for her now...

KATE

(off his smile)  
What...

JOHNNY

You know who I am, Kate? My name  
is John Smith.

KATE

(beat)  
The guy who sees things?

JOHNNY

Yeah. And I'm telling you it's  
gonna be okay.

She looks at him, curiously.

JOHNNY

It's gonna be okay.

She almost smiles. Not quite.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: (2)

75

JOHNNY

Take some really deep breaths and swim with slow, steady kicks. Got it?

KATE

Okay. Don't let go.

Johnny starts taking deep breaths. Kate follows suit.

JOHNNY

One ... two ... three ... and go.

Johnny and Kate dive down under the black inky water ...

FADE TO BLACK:

AS WE PULL BACK FROM THE BLACKNESS, WE SUDDENLY SEE THAT IT IS NOW THE DARK GAPING ENTRANCE TO THE MINE:

76 EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

76

Johnny emerges from the mine with the kids... they're carrying a plank to which an unconscious Walt is tied with makeshift strips of clothing...

ROSCOE

It's them.

JOHNNY

(exhausted)

We need help here!

The rescue workers rush forward...

76A SARAH

76A

several yards away, starts to smile, then sees Walt... and now panic begins to rise...

SARAH

No...

She drops her coffee and begins to run toward the mine...

WITH JOHNNY

as she runs toward them... rescue workers are wrapping the kids in blankets... moving them toward the ambulances... flurry of activity...

(CONTINUED)

76A CONTINUED:

76A

SARAH

Walt?

But he's not moving, barely breathing... medics tend to him immediately... she's in their way...

SARAH

Please... I need to... Walt...

EMT

Would somebody look after her?

And as Johnny pulls her gently away...

77 A JOHNNY FLASH - HE'S NOW HOLDING SARAH'S ARM

77

*for support in a matching cut at Walt's funeral... looking into his casket...*

78 RESUME JOHNNY AND SARAH

78

EMT

(to his men)

Get me a backboard, a neckbrace and monitoring equipment.

JOHNNY

The cave in. He saw it first. Pushed us out of the way. He couldn't get out in time.

Sarah collapses in tears in Johnny's arms. And then pushes him away in anger as though she knows it's wrong to be in his arms.

DANA

sees this... and so does...

PURDY

but he turns his attention to the happier reunion of the kids and their parents by the ambulances...

79 WITH WALT

79

medics still working on him (on the plank that's now on the ground)... photographers moving in...

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

EMT  
People, I need you to clear this  
area, please!

Johnny follows the orders, moves a few yards out of the way... watching them work furiously on Walt... Sarah refuses to leave Walt's side... watches with unbelieving eyes...

As we watches this, Johnny's eyes are caught by

80 MAGGIE TYNER

80

holding Kate tight... she looks over the girl's shoulder with tears in her eyes. And there's someone else in Johnny's view too... a very OLD MAN in his seventies... standing alone a few yards away... watching the tragic events unfold at the mine entrance...

81 JOHNNY

81

reacts as he begins to recognize something about this guy...

82 CLOSE ON THE OLD MAN'S FACE

82

He has a distinctive scar under his eye...

JOHNNY  
Mr. Stengel?

The old man turns to see Johnny next to him...

STENGEL  
How do you know my name?

JOHNNY  
My name is John Smith. You used  
to work for my grandfather.  
(eyes narrow)  
I wonder if you could help me  
find some of the families of the  
men who worked here.

Stengel looks at him curiously and in time they will talk more, but for us, all we need to understand is that Johnny is going to reach out to these victims of his family's past, that he cares in a way his grandfather never did... there's a wide gap to be bridged between an old miner and the Smith Family and it cannot all happen in this moment. But we sense this is the first step in a long process.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: 82

For now, there's too much going on, primarily --

83 ANGLE AS THEY SECURE WALT TO A BACKBOARD 83

EMT

Let's go, blood pressure's dropping, he's crashing.

In the background Purdy addresses reporters...

PURDY

We intend to permanently seal this mine after our work here is done. This will never happen again.

He stops as he sees the ambulance backing up to the backboard. The EMT is bagging him with an oxygen bag as they move him to the vehicle.

EMT

Get him inside.

The Paramedics load Walt in the ambulance. Sarah running alongside the backboard...

SARAH

I want to come with him.

EMT

I'm sorry. We need the room to work.

SARAH

But I'm his wife.

EMT

Ma'am, we'll meet you at the hospital...

The paramedics close the door and the ambulance ROARS off.

CLOSE ON SARAH

She's helpless to do anything but watch the ambulance disappear in the distance.

CLOSE ON JOHNNY

He's helpless to do anything but watch Sarah as her heart breaks. And on this, we...

SUPER: TO BE CONTINUED

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: DESCENT - ACT FOUR - 10/11/02 PINK

51.

83 CONTINUED:

83

And we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END