

Blind Courage

By

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EXT. PUGET SOUND, SEATTLE - DAY

FROM OVERHEAD,

A large house is situated on the banks of the Puget Sound. Next to the dock that stands over the water, a sea plane is sitting, ready.

From the house, JACOB LOWERY, his wife, SARA and two children, CHARLES (15) AND JESSIE (13) are walking towards the plane. Jacob is being led by a large German Shepherd guide dog named TROJAN. Near the plane, he turns and his wife kisses him good-bye. At the plane, the PILOT is holding the door open. Trojan jumps in followed by Jacob. The pilot climbs in and closes the door. The plane taxis across the water and takes to the air.

MOVING

The plane flies over the ocean towards Seattle. As it goes over the city, we

ANGLE ON

Forested mountains with Mt. Rainer in the background. The day is clear and sunny. We continue over the city until we finally rest on a large executive building near the top floor.

INT. JACOB'S OFFICE - DAY

It is a typical executive office one wall of glass overlooking Seattle and the bay.

The door opens and Jacob walks in holding Trojan's harness. Jacob is 42, a self-made billionaire. He is a man who is comfortable with himself though a little frustrated with his disability. Likable, and well respected.

Behind him enters DAVID COTES, Jacob's newly appointed head of security. He has the look and demeanor of a professional until you look into his eyes. They are calculating, shifting and accessing every move his boss makes.

Trojan guides Jacob around the furniture to his chair. Jacob reaches out to feel the large executive chair, spins it towards him and sits down. Trojan lies at his side. David takes one of the chairs facing the desk.

JACOB

So, how long do you think it's been going on?

(CONTINUED)

David shrugs. Realizing his boss can't see the movement, he clears his throat.

DAVID

My best guess is several years.

JACOB

That long?

(PAUSE)

JACOB

I trusted him. I gave him almost exclusive access to everything.

DAVID

Trust is good, but it can also be dangerous. In security, the first thing you learn is to be stingy with it. How long was Larry with you?

JACOB

Nearly fifteen years. Long before the accident.

DAVID

My guess is that he saw an opportunity and he couldn't resist. Or, he could have fallen onto hard times. He saw your accident as a weakening of your hold on the company and took advantage. As head of security, he had unrestrained access to every part of the company.

Jacob interrupts with a hand gesture.

JACOB

But what I don't get is Larry is not a numbers guy. He knew security, but he couldn't balance a checkbook if his life depended upon it. Ask Debra in bookkeeping. He was always asking her to help him figure out how much he had in the bank.

DAVID

People aren't always who you think they are.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

But how can a man like that embezzle millions? Shucks, you've seen how sophisticated our systems are. We have state-of-the-art security in our bookkeeping systems. Even someone who knew computers would have a hard time diverting money without setting off alarms.

DAVID

Then it's obvious. He had help.

Jacob thinks for a moment. He leans back and twirls in his chair - an old habit. Trojan scoots out of the way.

JACOB

It's times like this that frustrates me the most about my sight. I feel helpless. I hate having to depend on other people for things I should be able to do myself.

David is curious about the accident. He scans the room and sees pictures scattered about. One has Jacob in front of a speedboat another shows Jacob and his family in front of the building they were in. Next to them is the sign saying Westmarlow Enterprises.

JACOB

It was the speed boat.

David jumps. How did he know?

JACOB (CONT.)

Every time someone gets quiet on me I know they're looking at the pictures trying to figure things out.

DAVID

That boat?

JACOB

Yeah. I was running flat out when I hit something I didn't see and flipped. When the boat hit the water, I was ejected. My helmet tore off so that my eyes were exposed. Doctor said, "Next time, lead with your butt." Anyway, I'll never see again.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

You started in gaming software,
didn't you?

JACOB

Me and my buddies were there when
games first started coming out. We
created that silly game of the frog
jumping around the pond escaping
things and eating bugs.

DAVID

I remember. It went viral.

JACOB

Who knew? We sure didn't. Next
thing we know we were being offered
millions for the rights. We took
the money and divided it up. I
purchased a small cargo ship with
mine and created a shipping empire.

DAVID

What happened to your buddies?

JACOB

George West went into oil and I
don't know what happened to
Marley. I think he stayed in
gaming software, but I'm not
sure. We lost contact with each
other after a while.

DAVID

West, Marley and Lowery:
Westmarlow.

Jacob nods. He twirls again. Trojan gets up and moves over
several feet.

DAVID

Okay, back to the present.

Jacob leans forward with his elbows on his desk.

DAVID (CONT.)

You've got the copies of the files?

JACOB

Yeah. They show what was taken and
where. Basically, a digital paper
trail. With it we should be able
to back-track and find out who and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (cont'd)

how. Then we can confirm it with the security video that is also there.

Jacob stands and confidently walks over to a bookshelf on the wall. Pulling a volume out, he reaches in and pushes a button. To his right, a panel slides to the side displaying a digital lock. Punching in the pass code, Jacob opens the wall safe and pulls out a small, round disk. He walks back and sits down, tossing the disc on the desk.

DAVID

Is this the only copy you have?

JACOB

Now that would be trusting you wouldn't it?

David stares at Jacob. There is a gleam to his eyes. Trojan, watching from the side, growls low. Jacob turns his head towards Trojan. David stands up quickly.

DAVID

I'll start on this immediately. Are you leaving tomorrow?

JACOB

Yeah. I'm flying to Vancouver to pick up Matt, then over to Japan for my meeting. I should be gone about four days. No more.

David walks towards the door, watching Trojan as he goes.

DAVID

I'll try to have something for you when you get back.

JACOB

Thanks, David.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTSIDE JACOB'S OFFICE - DAY

David walks away a few feet and pulls out his cell phone. Punching in a number, he places it to his ear.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Do it!

He snaps the phone closed and continues walking.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. FBO AT SEATAC AIRPORT - DAY

A CORPORATE PLANE SITS ON THE TARMAC.

Four people exit from a building nearby and walk towards the plane. The first two men are STAN, the pilot and JIMMY his Co-pilot. The third is Jacob being led by Trojan. Last is a WOMAN in elegant, but casual attire.

INT. PLANE - DAY

The two pilots head towards the cockpit while Trojan turns Jacob towards the seating area. The woman, STACY, Jacob's personal flight attendant/secretary, stows her luggage away.

JACOB

Stacy, would you please take the harness off Trojan so he can be comfortable during the flight?

STACY

Of course, I'd love to.

Stacy and Trojan are old friends. She takes the shepherd's head between her hands and ruffles him gently.

STACY

If he's ever mean to you or treats you like anything but the prince you are, you come and live with me, okay?

JACOB

Trojan?

Trojan looks up, anticipating a command.

JACOB (CONT.)

Don't be telling her lies so that you can go and live a life of ease.

Trojan pants, happy with his world. Stacy removes his harness. Free, he does a small roll on the carpet.

(CONTINUED)

Jimmy pops his head out of the cockpit.

JIMMY

Sir, we've got clearance for take off and will be taxiing out in a few minutes.

JACOB

Thank you, Jimmy.

To Stacy

JACOB (CONT.)

Remember when you had that much respect for me?

Stacy has started a pre-flight inspection of everything in the fridge, wet-bar and cabinets. She answers without stopping.

STACY

Ah, but then I came to know the real you.

JACOB

It's the dog isn't it? You stay with me just for the dog.

STACY

That and the unbelievable salary you pay.

JACOB

Never loved for myself.

Stacy chuckles.

STACY

I'll leave that to your wife. Would you like something to drink or eat?

JACOB

No, I'm good. Thanks anyway.

EXT. SEATAC AIRPORT - DAY

The plane taxis onto the runway and takes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOCAL FBO, VANCOUVER - DAY

The plane lands on the runway.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE MAIN BUILDING

The plane taxis over and stops.

INT. PLANE - MOMENTS LATER

The plane comes to a stop. Trojan stands, stretches and shakes himself. He sits and watches Jacob to see if he'll be needed. Stan, the pilot steps out of the cockpit.

STAN

We'll be topping off the tanks to make sure we have enough fuel to reach Japan. If you would like to stretch yourselves, now would be a good time.

JACOB

Stan, are you kicking us off your plane?

STAN

Never, sir. I'm kicking you off YOUR plane.

JACOB

In that case, very well.

Jacob is a well-loved, yet respected employer. Stacy walks over to stand beside him.

STACY

Would you like me to put Trojan's halter back on?

JACOB

Is there much traffic around?

Stacy gazes out several windows.

STACY

No, sir. We seem to be the only ones around.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

Then if you and Stan will lend me
your arms, we'll leave it off and
let him run.

Stacy smiles. She picks up his hand and places it on her wrist. Jimmy has come out and is opening the fuselage door. Trojan, realizing he's getting a moment of free time, dances around. The steps are barely in place before he's running out the door.

JACOB

Damn, I wish I could see him.

Stacy leads him forward and off the plane.

CUT TO

INT. EXECUTIVE LOUNGE - DAY

It's a typical lounge area. Jacob is sitting comfortably nursing a small drink. You sense his thoughts are far away.

A door opens and MATTHEW HARRIS, Jacob's CEO of Vancouver operations walks in. Jacob twirls his chair, head back. Matt looks around.

MATT

Where is the Deutch hund?

JACOB

That dog get's more respect than I
do.

MATT

That's because he puts up with
more. And, by the way, hello.

JACOB

Sit down, we need to talk.

MATT

Let me get something to drink.

Matt goes to the wet-bar and gets a 7-up on ice. Outside a dog is heard barking. Matt looks out the window.

MATT'S POV

Outside on the blacktop Stacy is playing tug-of-war with Trojan using an old towel. The dog is running around, barking in excitement.

(CONTINUED)

ON MATT

He walks over and takes a seat next to Jacob.

MATT
She does love that dog.

Jacob dramatizes suffrage then leans forward. Back to business.

JACOB
We've got a problem.

MATT
What kind?

JACOB
Of the financial kind. It looks like several million have been embezzled and everything is pointing to Larry Hinsley.

Matt barks a laugh.

MATT
The man couldn't embezzle a postage stamp. Who thought up that one?

JACOB
David Cotes, the new head of security.

MATT
Convenient.

JACOB
My thoughts exactly. I may not be able to read faces, but I've gotten good at hearing nuances in voices. His was very tight. He was way too eager to place the blame on his old boss.

MATT
Where's Larry now, in jail?

JACOB
For the moment, but its more for his protection than my belief in his guilt. I've known the man too long. He just doesn't have the personality or the ability to pull off something this sophisticated.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

What evidence do we have?

JACOB

We wouldn't have any if it wasn't for a really slick junior bookkeeper. I still don't know how she did it, but she started catching discrepancies and brought them to Johnson's attention.

MATT

She deserves a raise.

JACOB

Already done. Anyway, we've copied everything. I gave the original to David and kept a copy for myself. With these, we hope to find out how it was done and how much was taken. Hopefully, this will lead us to who.

MATT

If you suspect David, I know you are not letting him investigate himself.

JACOB

No, I'm letting him prove his innocence. The second disc I'm having examined by a numbers guru in Japan. I'm hoping we can find where a transfer had taken place then cross-reference it with the security cameras, which are also on the disc, and see just who did it.

MATT

You're sure giving him a lot of warning.

JACOB

If David comes up with the same thing we do, then well and good. If not. . .

Jacob spreads out his arms to finish the sentence.

MATT

Does David know you have the other disc?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

He suspects, but he doesn't know for sure. Your voice has a hesitancy to it.

MATT

Because this seems bigger than just one person. You could be dealing with several. And, if David thinks there is any possibility you have a second disc, he'll do anything to get it or destroy it. I wish you'd called me or the FBI before you talked to him.

JACOB

That's been keeping me awake long past my bedtime.

The side door opens and Stacy takes a step inside.

STACY

The plane is ready, gentlemen.

JACOB

Thank you, Stacy, we'll be right there.

The men continue talking as they rise and head for the door.

JACOB (CONT.)

I'm trusting you to watch my back and, if anything does happen, to watch over my family, and that includes the dog.

MATT

Already done, my friend, already done.

Jacob and Matt leave.

CUT TO

EXT. TARMAC - DAY

Under Jacob's airplane, a MECHANIC has a panel open and is working on something inside. ANOTHER MECHANIC walks by and stops.

(CONTINUED)

SECOND MECHANIC

What are you doing?

FIRST MECHANIC

I was told to check the lines.

SECOND MECHANIC

Well, hurry up, this plane is about to leave.

FIRST MECHANIC

Sure thing.

The mechanic closes up the hatch and secures it. He picks up his tool box and leaves, his cold eyes scanning everyone around him.

FADE OUT

EXT. PLANE - DAY

MOVING

The plane is flying over the Alaskan wilderness. It is summer.

INT. PLANE - DAY

Jacob and Matt are sitting facing each other. Matt is working on his laptop while Jacob seems to be dozing. Trojan is lying next to Jacob.

CLOSE ON:

Trojan is sleeping lightly. The steady drone of the plane HICCUPS slightly and the dog raises its head. Uncertain, he whines then lowers his head again.

RESUME:

Stacy walks in and hands Matt a drink which he thanks her for. He takes a sip and sets it down on a table beside his chair. Jacob doesn't stir.

Suddenly, the plane LURCHES and the sound of the engines begin to SPUTTER. Jacob sits up quickly. His hand automatically reaches down to touch Trojan's head. Trojan sits up and places his muzzle on his leg.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
(Soothing the dog)
It's okay, Trojan.
(To Matt)
Matt, any idea what's happening?

Matt looks over his shoulder and catches Stacy's eye. She nods and enters the captain's cabin, closing the door behind her. Matt turns back around.

MATT
We'll find out in a minute.

Now, the engines are SPATTERING CONTINUALLY and the plane begins to BUCK. Matt closes his laptop and puts it to the side.

CLOSE UP:

Matt's drink bounces off the table and CRASHES to the floor.

RESUME:

Trojan stands up and Jacob pulls him close between his legs.

JACOB
Doesn't sound good does it?

The door of the captain's cabin opens and Stacy emerges. Just as she walks out, the plane LURCHES sending her against a counter. She leaves the door open and crab-walks the walls and seats. She has a hard time staying on her feet until she reaches the two men.

STACY
Stan says we're losing oil pressure which doesn't make sense because the plane was fully serviced before we left. If we don't land quickly, the engines will freeze up.

JACOB
Where are we?

STACY
We've been over Alaska for a while. We should be just east of Anchorage.

Matt gazes out the window.

MATT'S POV

Through the window the mountains are getting closer. There is nothing but rugged peaks - no place to land.

RESUME:

MATT

It looks like nothing but mountains and trees down there.

STACY

If Stan can't find an open space, he'll try to find a lake or something to break our fall. We need to get into crash position just in case.

JACOB

Go and buckle yourself in, Stacy.

Stacy glances to Matt who nods his head. She staggers over to her seat, sits down and buckles her seat belt.

JACOB

Matt, when we go down, will you watch out for Trojan. Make sure he's all right.

MATT

No, Jacob. I'm watching out for you. The dog will be fine.

JACOB

(Frustration)

I can watch out for my. . .

MATT

Bull! The dog can see - you can't. You spent a fortune having him bred and trained. He'll stay right by your side. When I get you out of here, he'll follow.

Jacob's angry. What is he not saying? He rubs Trojan's ear and leans back.

JACOB

You're right. It's just that he's become like an extension of me.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

I understand. When we hit, we'll
have to move quickly to get us all
out of here.

Jacob nods.

EXT. PLANE - DAY

MOVING

The plane's engines finally GO OUT. Below and all around there is nothing but forest and sheer mountain walls. As the plane banks through a mountain pass, a lake appears ahead of them.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - DAY

Stan turns back to yell through the door behind him.

STAN

There's a lake up ahead. I'm going
to try and put it down on the
water. Hold on, this is going to
be rough.

INT. PLANE - DAY

Everyone prepares for the crash. Jacob throws his arms around Trojan and pulls him close. Trojan licks him once and puts his head on Jacob's shoulder.

EXT. PLANE - DAY

The plane comes down and STRIKES the water.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - DAY

The plane crashes on the lake. A log appears floating in the water ahead of them. The plane hits it and FLIPS sideways.

EXT. PLANE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The plane FLIPS to the right. The tip of the wing is sheared off and CRASHES into the side of the plane. Windows BREAK and a large gash opens in the fuselage.

INT. PASSENGER CABIN - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

The side of the plane EXPLODES. Stacy SCREAMS. Daylight brightens the cabin just before the water starts RUSHING IN.

As the plane is LURCHING sideways, everyone is thrown forward. Trojan is propelled from Jacob's grasp and CRASHES against Matt. He's then thrown to the right and out of the gap in the fuselage.

EXT. LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

Trojan's head pops to the surface and he begins swimming towards shore. Behind him you can see the plane has come to a stop and is SINKING. No humans are seen.

He swims to shore where he shakes himself, turns and looks out over the lake. The plane is not in sight. He WHINES and sits down shivering with fear and cold. After a few moments, he turns and walks into the woods.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. ROAD IN ALASKA - DAY

MOVING

A jeep is winding through a sharp mountain pass.

MOMENTS LATER

We follow the jeep as it travels through a forested part of the road.

The jeep turns into a driveway. It passes a sign which reads:

HOLD SHOT ON

PENTON DISABILITY REHABILITATION CENTER

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The jeep pulls into a reserved spot and SHARON PETERS gets out. She is young, early 30's slight, but athletic. She jogs more than walks up the sidewalk and into the building.

INT. REHABILITATION CENTER - DAY

Sharon comes through the doors and directly into her small office. The sign on the door reads "Director, Physical Therapy".

INT. SHARON'S OFFICE

Her office is sparsely furnished. She's away from it more than she works there. There are no personal pictures anywhere to be seen.

Sharon walks to her desk where she finds a file. She flips it open and scans it.

SHARON

Jan!

JAN SUMMERS pops her head in the door. She's the center's secretary. She's the type that always knows what you want before you even ask it.

JAN

He showed up an hour ago.

SHARON

Why wasn't I told?

JAN

No one was told. He just showed up.

Jan says it as though that explains everything. Unfortunately, it does. Sharon groans/growls in resignation.

SHARON

Where is he?

JAN

He's been placed in room 28. I guess he's unpacking.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Okay, I'll read through the file
and find out what's
happening. Thanks.

JAN

No problem.

Jan goes out and Sharon begins scanning the file. After a few seconds, she begins reading more intently.

SHARON

Oh, dear God!

She closes the file and, placing her chin on her hand, gazes out the window. A few seconds later, she wipes a tear from her eye.

INT. WORK ROOM - DAY

The room is a large recreation hall. Placed around it are various pieces of equipment used for physical therapy. Several people can be seen; CLIENTS and THERAPISTS using the equipment.

FOCUS ON

Sharon is helping a YOUNG WOMAN walk between waist high parallel bars. The woman has prosthetic limbs on both legs from the knees down. A movement catches Sharon's eye. She turns and sees KENDRICK LOGAN, 32, walking into the room from a large hallway. Kendrick is ex-military, special ops, handsome and well-built. He is holding onto a handrail. He turns his head to listen to a YOUNG MAN standing beside him. He carefully walks forward feeling the wall, then the chair that stands just inside the room. He takes a seat.

Sharon puts her focus back on her patient until the woman comes to the end. She helps her over to a waiting wheelchair, then signals the man who helped Kendrick. The man steps forward.

SHARON

Help Pamela to the cafeteria. She
deserves a good lunch.

When they leave, Sharon walks over to Kendrick.

SHARON

Good morning. I'm Sharon

Kendrick looks in her direction. He seems reluctant to answer.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

Yes, Maam.

Sharon watches him for a few seconds. He's closed up, but from what, fear or anger? Both? She's seen this before. She sits next to him.

SHARON

Do you want the full package pep talk or the basic overview?

She's rewarded with a tiny smile.

KENDRICK

The basic overview will be fine, Maam.

SHARON

Please, no Maam's. They make me feel ancient. Just call me Sharon.

KENDRICK

Fine, Sharon, so what is the overview?

SHARON

Overview is, we get to spend time together helping you learn how to navigate through life without the use of your sight. During this time, you will learn how to walk and get around obstacles, basic hygiene and eating and the fundamentals of reading and writing.

KENDRICK

Reading and writing?

SHARON

There are many devices today that allow you to read and write even when you can't see. You'll learn how to do some of them and we'll see which works best for you.

KENDRICK

So, I have to be taught everything again just like a child.

SHARON

No, you already know how to do it, but in a way that is no longer

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHARON (cont'd)
working. Now, we have to retrain
you to do these things using your
other senses.

KENDRICK
What a nice, sterile way of saying
the blind guy is helpless.

SHARON
Look, if you want pity, go find
your mother. If you want to go
forward with your life, I'm here to
help.

KENDRICK
My mother is in a drunken stupor
back in Portland.

Sharon stands up. She needs to force him to decide to go
past his self-pity.

SHARON
I'm sorry to hear it, but my offer
still applies. When you're ready
to get started, let me know.

FOCUS ON

Kendrick bends his head to think as Sharon walks away from
him. He makes a decision.

REVERSE ANGLE

KENDRICK
Sharon, wait!

Sharon stops to look back.

SHARON
Yes?

WIDER ANGLE

KENDRICK
Your right. I'm sorry. I don't
want to spend the rest of my life
groping around in the dark. Please
help me?

Those three words hit Sharon like a brick. She swallows.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Okay then, let's get started.

FADE OUT

INT. SHARON'S CABIN - DAY

Sharon lives in a small log cabin with a loft bedroom. It is a mixture of modern and cozy contemporary.

Sharon is sitting on her couch going through a stack of folders. A large bowl of M&M's are sitting in the middle of the table.

NEW ANGLE

The door opens and DEREK HOLLAND, Sharon's boyfriend strides in like he owns the place. He's a large man, a logger, confident in his ability to handle anything or any one, yet a bit of a dim bulb. He walks over and plops himself into the chair across from Sharon. He's agitated and angry. Sharon barely looks up.

DEREK

You didn't answer my phone calls.

SHARON

Which one?

DEREK

Any of them!

SHARON

I was busy.

DEREK

When I call you it's important. I want you to answer the phone.

SHARON

How can I know it's important when you call me at least seven times a day, every day? They can't all be important. I have a job that requires my complete attention. I don't have time to stop every few minutes to answer the phone.

Derek realizes she's digging in her heels. He tries a different tactic.

(CONTINUED)

DEREK

I wanted to invite you to dinner.

SHARON

Fine, Derek, but all you had to do was leave a message. I would have called you back.

DEREK

I did, five times.

Sharon sighs in frustration.

SHARON

I was busy!

Derek reaches over and grabs a handful of M&M's and pops them in his mouth.

DEREK

So, do you want to go?

Sharon is reluctant to stop reading. She answers without looking up.

SHARON

Sure, just give me a minute.

DEREK

(between M&M's)
So, what's so important?

SHARON

(Still reading file)
He's a new patient I have. Came in yesterday.

DEREK

He?

SHARON

Yeah, that's the strange thing about my job, some of them are men.

Derek is jealous - and it's just a file.

DEREK

So what's so special about this one?

Sharon snaps the file closed.

SHARON

Sorry, I never talk about clients
with anyone except my boss. So
where are we going?

DEREK

The Goosed Moose Bar and Grill
where else?

Sharon's lips turn up, but she isn't smiling.

SHARON

Where else?

Sharon gets up and takes down a jacket from the peg on the
wall. She slips it on and they head out the door.

FADE OUT

INT. SHARON'S OFFICE - DAY

Sharon is busy at her desk filling out paperwork when her
door bursts open and Jan steps in.

JAN

We need you now in the
cafeteria. It's Mr. Logan.

Sharon jumps to her feet and runs for the door.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Sharon runs through the door and immediately dodges sideways
as a chair SKIDS by her.

WIDER ANGLE

In the room, several tables have been overturned and chairs
are scattered everywhere. A small group of people are
huddled to the side. In the midst of the chaos stands
Kendrick Logan. He is extremely agitated. Sharon has to
get control quickly.

SHARON

Enough!

Kendrick turns in her direction.

KENDRICK

What?

Sharon takes a few steps towards him.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

I said enough. Stand down Logan.

KENDRICK

I'm not in the military any more.

She brings her voice back to normal as she advances.

SHARON

No, but it got your attention. Look, if you want to go Incredible Hulk on me there are other places here I can take you where you can cause less damage.

FAVORING

Kendrick tries to step forward but runs into a chair. He kicks his foot out sending it HURLING away.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Sharon watches it as it flies by.

SHARON

Stop it, we need those chairs. Now, here's what we're going to do. You will remain perfectly still while we get this place back to the way it belongs - understood?

KENDRICK

Yes, Maam.

WIDER ANGLE

Sharon gestures to several people who come forward to clean up the mess. During the work, Kendrick stands like the Statue of Liberty in the midst of the bay.

When the work is finished, everyone leaves except Sharon and Kendrick.

SHARON

Tell me what happened.

Kendrick has more control of himself.

KENDRICK

I couldn't eat.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON
What did they give you?

KENDRICK
Chicken and rice with peas.

Sharon's mouth drops open. Enraged, she approaches the COOK who is behind the food counter watching.

SHARON
You gave a new resident who is unable to see rice and peas?

COOK
It's what was on the menu.

Sharon is mad, but she will not reprimand an employee in front of a resident.

SHARON
We'll discuss this later.

She turns back to Kendrick.

SHARON (CONT.)
How about we go for walk outside?

She tries to take his arm but he resists.

SHARON
What?

KENDRICK
I'm hungry.

SHARON
Of course, sorry.

She yells at the cook.

SHARON (CONT.)
Bert, make him a hamburger and fries.

SHARON
(To Kendrick)
What do you want on it?

KENDRICK
The works.

SHARON
(To Cook)
Make it the works and to go.

COOK
But the menu.

SHARON
I don't give a mouse's tail about
the menu. Just make it.

She turns back to Kendrick.

FAVORING

Kendrick has a smile on his face. He is so handsome when he smiles.

WIDER ANGLE

SHARON
What?

KENDRICK
Mouse's tail?

SHARON
That's as good as it gets around
here, deal with it. Now, what do
you want to drink?

CUT TO

EXT. REHAB CENTER - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Sharon and Kendrick are walking the grounds outside the rehab building. It's a beautiful day. Sharon has Kendrick's elbow in her right hand while holding his lunch in her left. They find a quiet bench and sit. Kendrick puts his drink down then Sharon places the lunch sack in his hand. There is silence while Kendrick takes out his food and begins eating.

SHARON
I love Alaskan summers. It's the
one time the temperature is
tolerable and you can enjoy being
outside.

KENDRICK
Are you from here?

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Actually, I'm from Montana. I came here for the job. Penton lost their rehab director and was advertising for the position. I happened to spot it and applied. The pay is good and I love the country.

KENDRICK

And the people?

SHARON

It's Mayberry meets Grizzly Adams. Everyone knows what everyone else is doing and the ones you don't love you want to strangle.

KENDRICK

Typical small town.

SHARON

And what brought you to Alaska?

Kendrick hesitates. The memory is painful.

KENDRICK

My girlfriend.

There is a flash of disappointment on Sharon's face.

SHARON

That's nice. Will she be coming to see you?

Kendrick wads up some paper and throws it. It's not just the paper he is throwing away.

KENDRICK

No.

Sharon gets up and retrieves the paper. She puts it in the lunch sack and dumps it into a near-by trash container. She returns to her seat.

SHARON

I can see that this is painful. I'm sorry. Do you want to talk it out?

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

No.

He hesitates for a full five seconds.

KENDRICK (CONT.)

We were supposed to get married. When I was wounded, she said she would be waiting for me, that we would work this out. But when I came off the plane, all I heard was, "Oh my God, Ken, you're blind." She told me she couldn't deal living with a handicapped person. Then she walked away. I know because I heard the click of her heels as she left.

SHARON

She had good intentions, but couldn't handle the reality.

KENDRICK

Nice way to say she dumped me.

Kendrick lifts his face to the sky. You see tears starting to form. He's breaking and he's unable to stop it.

KENDRICK

I wanted to be military my whole life. It's all I wanted to do. When that mine exploded in front of me, the last image I have to remember is my best friend being blown to pieces.

SHARON

So you not only lost two people you loved, but everything you had worked and dreamed for.

The tears are starting to fall. Kendrick lowers his head onto one hand. Sharon doesn't try to touch him. She allows him to cry it out.

SHARON

At some point, you're going to have to forgive her.

Kendrick looks up sharply. He's angry.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

Never! She tore my heart out when I was at my lowest point. I hate her for that. She left me because I was no longer perfect and she didn't want to be bothered with a cripple. Tell me, why should I forgive her?

SHARON

Because if you don't it will destroy you.

Kendrick barks a cynical laugh.

KENDRICK

Getting a little dramatic aren't we? A lot of guys I know hold grudges, and they're doing just fine.

SHARON

Are they? You can honestly say they are at peace inside themselves.

KENDRICK

No one is totally at peace inside themselves.

SHARON

Actually, you're wrong, but we'll leave that for later. Let me ask you a question. If your life is consumed with unforgiveness and hatred towards a person, then who is in control of how you feel?

KENDRICK

I don't get it.

SHARON

Yes you do, you just don't want to go there. If all your thoughts are about wanting to hate and get back at her, then who is in control of your life?

Kendrick hesitates. You can see he is struggling to be honest with himself.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

When you put it that way, I am forced to say she is.

SHARON

Is that what you really want? Do you actually believe she is somehow grieving because you are holding a grudge? Forgive me for being honest, but I don't think so. She can care less. The only person you are hurting is yourself. It's like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die from it.

KENDRICK

Then what am I supposed to do? I can't just forget it ever happened. There's so much anger inside, it's hard to hold it in.

SHARON

I know, I've seen it. No, you don't forget, but you can let it go.

KENDRICK

What are you talking about?

Sharon bends over and picks up a small rock. Taking Kendrick's right hand, she places it inside then closes his fingers over it.

SHARON

Hold this rock tight. Hold it so tight it hurts.

Kendrick does as he's instructed.

SHARON (CONT.)

Now open your hand and let it go.

The rock falls to the ground.

SHARON (CONT.)

Do you still feel the pain?

Kendrick nods.

SHARON (CONT.)

Forgiving doesn't mean pretending it never happened. It means refusing to allow it to control you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHARON (CONT.) (cont'd)
or how you feel. It's a conscious
decision you make every single day
until it becomes a part of your
past and no longer has the power to
hurt.

KENDRICK
I'm not sure I'm that strong.

SHARON
Sure you are. Anyone who can go
through what you have and remain
sane is strong. I have a feeling
you've just begun to tap into your
full potential.

KENDRICK
Sharon?

SHARON
Yes?

KENDRICK
A mouse's tail?

Sharon laughs out loud.

FADE OUT

ACT TWO

EXT. FLASH BACK, AFGHANISTAN - DAY

KENDRICK'S POV

The scene is a little fuzzy. We are in the midst of a
battle between American and Taliban troops. Beside Kendrick
is a MAN who turns around and smiles at him. He says
something we cannot hear, then reaches out and pats Kendrick
on the shoulder. Bullets are flying and bombs are exploding
everywhere.

WIDER ANGLE

The man beside Kendrick hunches down, preparing to make a
dash. He runs and Kendrick follows. Everything goes into
slow motion as the man runs through an open area firing his
weapon as he goes. Suddenly, the world in front of Kendrick
explodes as his friend steps on a mine. Kendrick is blown
backwards and falls to the ground.

CLOSE UP

(CONTINUED)

Kendrick is on the ground. His face is burned and bloody. He raises his head briefly, and then falls into unconsciousness.

CUT TO

INT. KENDRICK'S ROOM - DAY

CLOSE UP

Kendrick wakes up in a cold sweat, panting hard. He's disorientated and scared. He reaches out and KNOCKS the lamp off his nightstand.

WIDER ANGLE

It is a sparsely furnished room. The CRASH of the lamp causes Kendrick to jump out of bed. He looks around, but can't see anything. Near panic! Slowly, he gains control of his fear replacing it with anger. He steps forward and hits the overturned lamp. With a swift kick, he sends it CRASHING across the room.

INT. REHABILITATION CENTER - DAY

OBSTACLE ROOM

A room designed by the center to teach clients how to maneuver with a cane or other device. Furniture is strategically placed to resemble rooms in a house.

Sharon is watching as Kendrick navigates using a cane. He successfully makes it around a chair only to run into a table that was higher than his can tip. With a few words, he SHOVES the table over. An ATTENDANT standing to the side walks over and picks up the table. Sharon's boss, MILES CONROY walks up and watches with her.

MILES

He still has a lot of anger.

Sharon nods, not taking her eyes off Kendrick who's pushing a floor lamp out of the way.

MILES (CONT.)

Will we have a building left when he graduates?

Sharon looks over to him and smiles. She really likes this man who genuinely cares about his clients.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

That is still up in the air. Believe it or not, he's improving.

MILES

We are serving him on the paper plates aren't we?

Sharon laughs, then covers her mouth when Kendrick pauses and turns towards them. When he starts again, he runs into another chair.

SHARON

He doesn't have the patience to use the cane. He always wants to go faster than he's able.

MILES

He's a man of action - not patience. His mind is still on military time, but his eyes are forcing him into civilian time.

SHARON

Do you think it's too early to try and retrain him? With his raw emotions, I'm afraid of what would happen to him if he has to wait.

MILES

No, No, you're right. If he doesn't learn how to handle his handicap, then he'll be a grenade ready to explode. We just have to be patient and keep the glass plates away from him for a while.

A small trash container FLIES by them.

SHARON

And a few other things as well. I just wish there was something else we can have him use besides the cane. It doesn't seem to be working for him. As you said, he's too impatient.

As Miles turns to walk away, he pats Sharon on the shoulder.

MILES

I'll pray about it with you.

(CONTINUED)

When Miles walks away, Sharon continues to watch Kendrick until he CRASHES into a small desk. She decides it's time to intervene when he starts to pick it up.

FADE OUT

EXT. DIRT ROAD IN ALASKA - DAY

Sharon is walking slowly down the road, praying. Her head is down and she is barely noticing where she is going.

SHARON

Father, what is the answer for Kendrick? He has so much pain and anger. I can tell he doesn't want to be like this. Can You give him something or someone who can help him?

REVERSE ANGLE

A RUSTLE in the bushes ahead.

WIDER ANGLE

Sharon stops in her tracks. The bushes RUSTLE again and she takes a step back. It could be a bear, a wolf or anything and she is unarmed.

FOCUS ON

The bushes part and a large German Shepherd limps out. His head is down. He is holding one paw off the ground. He looks at her with frightened, yet pleading eyes.

WIDER ANGLE

Sharon kneels where she is and talks to him.

SHARON

Hello there. What are you doing out here? It's okay, I won't hurt you.

Encouraged, the dog limps a few feet forward. He WHINES. Sharon stands up and walks slowly forward. The dog lies down where he is. Sharon kneels beside him and pets his head.

SHARON

Did you get separated from your family? You look like you haven't eaten in days.

(CONTINUED)

The dog starts licking his paw. Sharon takes it and gently turns it over.

FOCUS ON

One of the pads is CUT and BLEEDING.

WIDER ANGLE

SHARON

You've cut your foot pretty bad. You're lost, aren't you? Well, my cabin is just around the corner. You're too big to carry, so you'll have to follow me.

Sharon stands up and pats her leg.

SHARON (CONT.)

Come on, big guy.

She starts to walk away. The dog gets up and slowly limps after her.

CUT TO

INT. SHARON'S CABIN - DAY

The door opens and Sharon walks in holding the door open for the dog. She gets a medical kit while the dog lies down by the fire. Sitting on the floor beside the shepherd, she sees his collar and takes a look at it.

FOCUS ON

It's an expensive tooled leather collar with a brass name plate with the name TROJAN engraved on it.

SHARON

Trojan. Okay, Trojan, how about we put something on your paw?

He licks her hand. She talks to him gently while she cleans and bandages his paw. Then she checks his others. Satisfied, she gets up and goes to the kitchen returning a few minutes later with a bowl of food.

SHARON

Everyone keeps telling me I need to get a dog, but my life is so crazy with work, I'd have to leave it alone too much. What's the point

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHARON (cont'd)
of having a dog if it just spends
its life on the end of a chain?

She puts the bowl down and watches the food disappear within a few seconds.

SHARON
Wow! That was fast.

Trojan looks at her wanting more.

SHARON
I don't think so. Let's wait for a
while before we give you more.

Trojan curls up by the fire and goes to sleep. Sharon pulls out her cell phone and punches in a number.

SHARON
Hey Mike, it's Sharon. Have you
heard of anyone who's lost a large
German Shepherd. Yeah, he showed
up at my place. His feet are
pretty bad. It looks as though
he's been walking for quite some
time. Okay, if you hear anything,
let me know. Thanks. Bye.

SHARON
(To Trojan)
Looks like I get to take care of
you for a little while. I hope
you're house trained.

FADE OUT

INT. HOSPITAL IN ANCHORAGE - DAY

A DOCTOR stands at a nurse's station reading a chart. After a few moments, he turns and walks down a hallway. Half way down, he opens a door to his right and enters.

HOSPITAL ROOM

In the bed is Jacob Lowery, sitting up. Sara is standing to the side holding his hand. Next to her is their son and daughter. They look up in expectation when the doctor walks in.

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR

From everything I can see, you're good to go. The main thing we were watching for was hypothermia, but your vitals are good and your core temperature is back to normal. Blood work shows your organs are working normally. All-in-all, I wish I was in as good a shape.

The doctor snaps the folder shut and smiles.

DOCTOR (CONT.)

I'll start the paperwork for your release and we should have you out of here within the hour.

SARA

Thank you, doctor, we're grateful for everything.

The doctor leaves.

JESSIE

Dad, is everything going to be okay?

JACOB

Sure. Everything will be back to normal soon.

JESSIE

Except that Trojan is gone.

CHARLES

And Jimmy.

JACOB

We don't know what happened to Trojan. He could be running with a pack of wolves playing Call of the Wild for all we know.

JESSIE

Dad, those things don't happen in real life.

JACOB

Maybe not, but we do know that there was no body found anywhere. That tells me he's alive and I give you my word, I'll not

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (cont'd)
stop searching for him until I find
him.

Jessie is openly crying.

JESSIE
Dad, I miss him.

Jacob leans forward, his arms open. Jessie walks into
his embrace.

JACOB
I know, hon, we all do. We'll find
him. I promise.

He lets her go.

JACOB (CONT.)
Kids, I need to get dressed. Would
you mind going down to the
cafeteria for a few minutes.

CHARLES
Dad, I'm a guy too, you know.

JACOB
Okay, let me say this plain. Can I
have a little time with my wife?

It takes a few minutes, but Charles figures it out.

CHARLES
Oh, gotcha. We'll just be. . .
going.

The kids leave the room. Sara reaches down and kisses her
husband. It is a solemn, telling moment.

SARA
Thank you.

JACOB
For what?

SARA
For being safe. For being alive.

JACOB
For that you can thank my staff and
crew. The plane was literally
underwater by the time we were all
able to get out, but they never

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (cont'd)
left me. I'm just sorry Jimmy was
killed. But, there's something
else I need to tell you.

PAUSE

JACOB (CONT.)
The crash was not an accident.

SARA
What?

JACOB
I mean it. It wasn't an
accident. The plane had been
serviced before we left. There
should not have been anything wrong
with it.

SARA
But, but why?

JACOB
We found out that someone in the
company has been pulling funds for
themselves. It's in the
millions. David Cotes wants me to
believe that Larry did it. I gave
him a computer disc which contained
all the files he needed to prove
it.

SARA
Larry? I'll never believe
that. The man couldn't add
change. But you said, "wants you
to believe". Do you think David
did it?

JACOB
That's where my first suspicions
lie. He asked me if there was a
second disc and I didn't tell him.

SARA
So you're still in danger.

JACOB
Yes, and I want you to take the
kids away for a while. I want to
know they're far away from anything
that might happen. What Cotes

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (cont'd)
doesn't know is that I've already
been in contact with the FBI. He
moved faster than we figured, but
we have to set up a way to catch
him.

SARA
What about the second disc? Won't
that convict him?

JACOB
If we can find it. Right now I
don't have it.

SARA
It was on the plane?

Jacob hesitates.

JACOB
You could say that.

Sara is no one's fool. Her eyes light up as the answer
comes to her.

SARA
Trojan!

Jacob winces visibly.

JACOB
Please, Sara, just take the kids
someplace safe. Watch over our
children.

SARA
Okay, Jacob. I'll take them to my
parents' place and tell them you'll
join us there later. But who's
going to take care of you?

JACOB
I've already talked to Matt. He
got out yesterday. After we talk
things over with the FBI, our first
priority is going to be finding
Trojan.

SARA
Shouldn't be too hard. Didn't you
say you had a GPS placed on him?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

Actually, I haven't done it yet. I was waiting for his next physical.

SARA

The Lone Procrastinator strikes again.

JACOB

Funny. Now help me get dressed so that I can get out of here.

FADE OUT

EXT. OUTSIDE SHARON'S CABIN - DAY

Trojan is having a blast running around and chasing things. He hears a WHISTLE and stops, listening. The WHISTLE is repeated and he runs back to the cabin.

NEW ANGLE

Sharon is standing outside, waiting for him. He runs right up to her and sits, awaiting a command. Sharon shakes her head in amazement.

SHARON

Someone has trained you and did a good job of it.

She pauses, considering an idea that had just come.

SHARON (CONT.)

I'm going to take a chance on you. How would you like to come to work with me?

Trojan BARKS.

SHARON (CONT.)

That settles it, then. Maybe you can help me get a few people out of their shells. You know, pet therapy.

Trojan is eager, but stays in sit position. It's obvious he's doing better. His feet are healed and he is in high spirits.

SHARON

Heel, Trojan.

(CONTINUED)

The dog falls into step at her side as she leads him to her Jeep. She opens the back door and he jumps in. Her phone RINGS.

SHARON

(Answering phone)

Hello, Derek. Nothing, just getting ready to go to the center. I don't know if I'll be working with him today. Derek, it's none of your business. No, I don't want lunch, I have to work. Okay, tonight then. Goosed Moose, gotcha. Bye Derek.

She snaps it shut with a growl.

SHARON

(To Trojan)

You start bugging me all hours of the day and I'm putting you back where I found you.

EXT. PENTON REHAB CENTER - DAY

Sharon's Jeep pulls into the driveway and parks in her designated spot. She gets out and opens the back door allowing Trojan to jump down. He goes into heel position following Sharon into the facility.

INT. REHABILITATION CENTER - DAY

Sharon walks in the front door, holding it open for Trojan. She barely gets five feet before she starts getting looks and comments about the dog. One STAFF MEMBER comes directly up to Trojan and begins petting him.

STAFF MEMBER

He's beautiful. Is he yours? I didn't know you owned a dog.

SHARON

Actually, he found me. I think he got lost from his owners and found his way to my cabin.

STAFF MEMBER

He's sure well trained.

Sharon walks on, answering comments as she goes. She sees Jan who points a pencil at the dog.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Long story.

JAN

He's in the obstacle room.

Sharon shakes her head.

SHARON

You're a find.

JAN

Just remember that next pay raise.

SHARON

How's he been doing?

JAN

Still impatient. We've lost two chairs and several sets of dishes. I think he was going for the discus.

SHARON

I instructed paper plates, plastic at best.

Jan shrugs. Sharon continues on.

HALLWAY

Sharon walks down the hall to a door on the left. Opening it, she steps inside.

OBSTACLE ROOM - SHARON'S POV

Kendrick is working his way between a large sofa and a chair using his cane. He does well, but there is a table that he doesn't feel until he hits it. He POUNDS his fist on it, but at least he doesn't throw it. Turning, he takes another direction. A STAFF MEMBER watching to the right begins to give instructions, but stops when he looks her way.

WIDER ANGLE

As Sharon watches, Trojan begins to WHINE. Kendrick stops and listens. Breaking heel command, Trojan walks over and stands to Kendrick's right. Feeling the dog, the ex-soldier reaches down to touch his head. Gently, Trojan pushes Kendrick a little to the side and away from the coffee table he was about to hit.

CLOSE UP

(CONTINUED)

Sharon is astonished.

WIDER SHOT

Kendrick reaches down and holds onto Trojan's collar. Trojan guides him through the obstacles and up to Sharon.

SHARON

Oh, my God.

KENDRICK

Sharon?

SHARON

Yes, I'm sorry. I was watching to see how you were doing when. . . I didn't know he could do that.

KENDRICK

Who is he?

SHARON

His name is Trojan. He's a German Shepherd that literally showed up at my place. I knew he was well trained, but I didn't have a clue he was a guide dog.

KENDRICK

You mean he's trained to help people like me?

SHARON

Yeah. They go through extensive training to learn how to help people who are blind.

Kendrick kneels down and is petting Trojan's head.

KENDRICK

You said you didn't know who he belonged to?

SHARON

Kendrick, a dog like this has to have an owner somewhere. It would be like finding a brand new Mercedes in a vacant lot. There's no way it was left there on purpose.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

Then, can he stay with me until you find his owner? I've always had dogs growing up. I know how to take care of them.

SHARON

Okay, until then. I'll tell the rest of the staff. In fact, I'll go one better. I'll see if maintenance can make a halter and you can let Trojan teach you how to get around. In the meantime, if this works, I'll see if I can't get you your own dog.

Kendrick smiles that devastating smile again.

FADE OUT

INT. WESTMARLOW BUILDING - NIGHT

UNDERGROUND CORRIDORS

David Cotes is striding purposely through the corridors of the building's underground center. This is the heart of maintenance and security. He turns right into an alcove dead-ended by a steel door. He takes out a pass card.

ANGLE ON

He swipes the card on a pad situated to the right then places his hand on a scanner. The scanner READS his prints and the door opens.

MAIN SECURITY ROOM

A room filled with hi-tech equipment. A MAN sits at a semi-circular desk surrounded by security screens. His fingers are furiously punching buttons on a computer keyboard.

CLOSER SHOT

On a screen, you see bookkeeping files come up one-by-one.

WIDER ANGLE

DAVID

Is it there?

(CONTINUED)

MAN

Oh, yeah. Everything the Feds would need to send us both away for the rest of our lives. The embedded codes that correspond with the security cameras nailed every time a transaction happened and just who did it.

DAVID

I can deal with the cameras. Can you handle the tapes?

MAN

Sure, I can erase or tweek anything I want, but it won't do any good if there was a back-up made.

DAVID

The ol' man isn't stupid. You can bet there was a back-up

MAN

I heard he survived the plane.

DAVID

They all did except for one pilot. The first thing Jacob will do is make sure the back-up is safe. All we have to do is watch and see where he goes first.

MAN

What if he had it on him?

DAVID

That's why I'm leaving tonight for Anchorage. I have two guys watching him now. If the disc is on him, he'll go straight to the Feds, and I want to be there to stop him.

MAN

Please do. Life in prison is not my idea of a dream retirement.

FADE OUT

INT. GOOSED MOOSE - DAY

A rustic bar and grill complete with animal heads. Pure Alaska. In the back, a whole booth has been taken out to make room for a full-size moose with a goose pecking its back end.

FOCUS ON

Sharon and Derek sit in a booth. Derek eats but Sharon seems distracted.

BACKGROUND V.O.

I broke through cover right at this large pond. Smack dab in the middle of the water was this monstrous moose.

SHARON

I hate this story.

DEREK

I think its kind of fun.

BACKGROUND V.O.

Then, this goose comes out of nowhere and starts attacking this bull moose right on his butt.

Sharon starts mimicking the voice.

BACKGROUND V.O. (CONT)

I tell you I've never laughed so hard in my life. Right then, I knew I had to call this place the Goosed Moose.

SHARON

Someone please open a McDonalds.

Derek sputters a laugh which throws food a few feet away.

DEREK

See, that's why I love you so much. You can make me laugh.

SHARON

Derek, that's the most romantic thing anyone has ever told me.

Sharon's cell phone goes off. She takes it out and answers it.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

(On phone)

Hello. Yes, Jan. Really, that's great. Okay, but have someone follow at a distance. Don't crowd him. Thanks, bye.

Derek isn't smiling anymore.

DEREK

It's that guy again, isn't it?

Sharon stops trying to eat and pushes the food away.

SHARON

I told you, I can't talk about the people I work with.

DEREK

He looks ex-military.

SHARON

Derek, stop it.

DEREK

Me stop it? You're the one with another man all day when you're supposed to be my girl.

SHARON

He...Is...A...Client!

DEREK

There are other people that can help him. You need to think what this looks like for me. I don't want it said my girl is running around with another guy. If you're going to marry me, then I need to know that I can completely trust you.

SHARON

Marry you? When has that ever been discussed?

DEREK

I thought we had an agreement. We've been dating for four..

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Five.

DEREK

Five years. As soon as we were ready, we were going to be married.

SHARON

And when do you consider ready?

DEREK

Oh, I don't know. When I'm ready to settle down I guess.

SHARON

You guess?

DEREK

In the meantime, I don't want you anywhere around this guy, you hear? Like I said, let someone else lead him around by the hand.

Sharon has had enough. She stands up to leave.

SHARON

Derek, you are NOT my boyfriend, my fiance, or my keeper. This whole thing is over. Tomorrow, I'm changing my phone number so don't even try to call.

DEREK

You'd better think on that. One word from me and there's not a lumber-jack around that would date you.

She stares at him opened-mouthed. Aaargh! She heads towards the door.

MOVING SHOT

Sharon flies past booths towards the door.

BACKGROUND V.O.

Come again to the Goosed Moose

SHARON

Stow it, Kenny.

She runs out the door.

FADE OUT

EXT. OUTSIDE TERMINAL, TED STEVENS AIRPORT - DAY

Busy day. Door opens and David Cotes steps out. He sees DOUG STANSFIELD, a hired gun standing beside a car waving at him. He gets in and they drive away.

INT. CAR - DAY

DAVID

Where's he at?

DOUG

At his hotel room in the Crown Plaza. We were able to get in just before he arrived and place mics in each room. The first thing he did was call the Feds.

DAVID

Of course, I would have been surprised if he didn't. Have they been there yet?

DOUG

Not yet, they're supposed to come this afternoon. You got here just in time. What if he gives the disc to them while they're there?

DAVID

Then we simply take out the Feds. Without witnesses, there's no one to implicate us.

DOUG

Then that would go for Lowery and the others as well.

DAVID

Was there any doubt?

DOUG

No, not really. But from what we've heard so far, its more than likely he doesn't have it on him. I just hope we don't have to swim to find it.

David gives himself a moment of satisfaction. Everything is coming together.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

So, all the chess pieces are in play. It will be interesting to see where the king has hidden his pawn. Where are we located?

DOUG

Not far. At the Fairfield Marriott. Close enough to stay with them, but far enough away to not be seen.

DAVID

Good. And, I assume your man is monitoring?

DOUG

We're on it twenty-four seven.

OVER THE SHOULDER:

David is looking out the window as they drive by the Crown Plaza. He turns forward once again as they turn the corner to their hotel.

FADE OUT

INT. REHABILITATION CENTER - DAY

MOVING SHOT

Sharon is striding down a hallway when she spies Kendrick coming towards her with Trojan. He actually seems happy and capable. Sharon purposely stands in their way and smiles when Trojan brings Kendrick to a stop. Kendrick looks puzzled until he sniffs the air.

KENDRICK

Sharon?

SHARON

Wow, how did you know? I'm impressed.

KENDRICK

Not hard. You wear a certain type of perfume. No one else around here wears it.

He gives her one of those devastating smiles that she can't help but respond to.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

In other words, I smell.

KENDRICK

But in a good way. At least it
isn't
5-day-old-can't-get-a-bath-in-Afghanistan
or wet dog.

SHARON

Wet dog? I take it you gave Trojan
a bath?

KENDRICK

(Big smile)

He took a shower with me this
morning.

SHARON

Oh you are desperate. Did he share
your toothbrush too?

KENDRICK

You wouldn't know where I can get
another one would you?

Sharon laughs out loud. She steps forward and pets Trojan
on the head.

SHARON

I was getting ready to go to
lunch. How would you two like to
join me?

All joking stops.

KENDRICK

I'm not sure I'm ready for..you
know. I still drop things and get
frustrated.

SHARON

You can handle a burger and fries
can't you?

KENDRICK

With my eyes closed.

SHARON

There you go. I know the perfect
place where it's always dark and we
can hide behind high walls. They
serve on plastic plates so if you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHARON (cont'd)
get the urge to throw one, no harm done. It also has the distinction of being pretty much the only place around.

KENDRICK
Sounds charming. What's the name?

SHARON
The Goosed Moose.

KENDRICK
For real?

SHARON
For real - unfortunately. I have just one rule. Don't you dare ask Kenny how he got the name.

KENDRICK
Do we have to leave Trojan here?

SHARON
Nope, guide dogs are legal anywhere. They cannot be denied entrance.

KENDRICK
Okay, I'll give it a shot. But just make sure the dishes are really plastic.

INT. GOUSED MOOSE - DAY

Sharon walks in holding the door for Kendrick and Trojan. Several heads turn to watch as they walk to the back of the restaurant. KENNY, the owner, is standing behind the counter/bar. He turns to watch them as they go by.

KENNY
Hey, Sharon, you know I don't allow dogs in here.

CUSTOMER V.O.
Then half your customers would have to leave.

KENNY
Funny, Fred, funny. Seriously Sharon the dog has go to outside.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

He's a service dog, Kenny. They're allowed to go anywhere, even restaurants.

CUSTOMER V.O.

Then what's he doing in this place?

KENNY

Keep it up, Fred. You won't like what your next burger is made of.

(TO SHARON)

Okay, I'll take your word for it, but just make sure it doesn't pee on anything.

Sharon and Kendrick find a booth in the back. As they sit down the WAITRESS comes and gives them menus.

WAITRESS

What would you like to drink?

SHARON

Coffee for me.

KENDRICK

Same, please.

WAITRESS

How about the dog? He's really a cute thing.

SHARON

Thanks, but a service dog that's working isn't given anything. In fact, you're supposed to ignore them.

WAITRESS

Okay, seems a shame though. Poor thing.

The waitress leaves.

KENDRICK

Where do you think he came from?

SHARON

Trojan? I've no idea. I've asked around, but as you may have noticed, news is scarce around here. Most of these people have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHARON (cont'd)
left civilization on purpose and
are content with being isolated
from the rest of the world. If it
doesn't affect their little world,
then it doesn't exist.

KENDRICK
Sounds like the perfect life to me.

SHARON
My guess is that he got separated
from his family while they were
camping. Happens all the time,
though they usually don't
survive. You've been around here
enough to know how many predators
would love mutt stew.

KENDRICK
Are we talking human or animal?

SHARON
Sometimes I wonder. Anyway, I've
already talked with Mike our animal
warden. He'll keep an ear out for
whoever has lost a dog, especially
one as important as this one. As
much as Trojan has helped you,
please be careful not to get too
attached. He'll have to leave
eventually.

WIDER ANGLE

They are interrupted again by the waitress bringing their
drinks and taking their orders.

SHARON
I'll have the lunch size grilled
salmon and rice pilaf. Kendrick,
would you like to try one of their
moose burgers. I've been told
they're pretty good.

KENDRICK
Yeah, that sounds great. With the
works, please.

The waitress leaves.

RESUME ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

It's a good thing I've always drunk my coffee black. It saves me from a lot of hassle. You said before you might be able to get a dog for me?

SHARON

I've already started looking. I've found a couple of places that look promising. If it works out, once you finish here, then we will send you to the guide dog school to train there.

KENDRICK

I have to be trained to? Why can't they just send me a dog.

SHARON

Because what you are doing with Trojan right now is just scratching the surface of what that dog can do. I don't even know it all. They'll assess your personality then give you a breed that best fits you. German Shepherds are rarely used today. They're usually Labradors or Golden Retrievers.

KENDRICK

I like shepherds. The others are too mellow.

SHARON

Which is what makes them perfect guide dogs. Anyway, once they match you to a breed, then you work together until you learn to become a working unit.

KENDRICK

Kind of like the military.

SHARON

What?

KENDRICK

In the military we had to do simulations over and over until we knew what the other guy was going to do even before he did. It made us into a single, fighting unit.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Exactly. Once you and your dog learn how to read one another then the dog basically becomes an extension of yourself.

KENDRICK

It's scary to think I'll have to depend upon something else for my safety.

SHARON

With the progress that I've seen you make with Trojan, I have no doubt what-so-ever that you'll be able to handle this.

The waitress brings their plates and sets them down.

WAITRESS

Anything else you need?

SHARON

A little more coffee when you're able.

The waitress leaves.

SHARON (CONT.)

Burger is directly in front of you. Looks like everything is already on it. Fries are at your three o'clock. Ketchup is above your plate at your one o'clock.

She watches as he easily navigates his plate and starts eating.

KENDRICK

What do you look like?

Sharon almost drops her fork.

SHARON

What?

KENDRICK

From your voice, I would say you are about my age...

SHARON

You would be correct.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

You are about 5'5", slim, but not petite. Your hair is shoulder length. What color is it?

SHARON

Just brown. How did you know?

KENDRICK

Whenever a man brushes against a woman, it's not always by accident.

SHARON

Okay, I don't know whether to feel impressed or violated.

Kendrick smiles wide.

KENDRICK

I love your wit. Now, my original question. Are you pretty?

SHARON

Does it matter?

KENDRICK

Six months ago, I would have said, "Hell yes" without thinking. Now, I honestly don't know. When I talk with you, I find that I like you yet I have no clue what you look like. So, I guess to answer your question, no, it doesn't matter.

It's Sharon's turn to smile

KENNY V.O.

I was tramping through the woods a few miles from here when . . .

SHARON

Oh, Lord, not again.

KENDRICK

So, are you?

SHARON

What?

KENDRICK

Pretty?

SHARON

Don't you want to hear how the
Goosed Moose got its name?

KENDRICK

Not particularly, and you're
avoiding the question. Seems as
though I'm going to have to take
drastic action.

KENDRICK

(Over his shoulder)
Hey, Kenny!

SHARON

Don't you dare!

WIDER ANGLE

Kenny walks up and stands next to their booth.

KENNY

What can I do for you?

KENDRICK

You can tell me if Sharon is pretty
or not.

KENNY

Sharon? Why she has ten
lumberjacks fighting each other to
see who's going to take her out to
lunch every day.

SHARON

Kenny, you liar.

KENNY

They even changed the course of the
Iditarod to come through here
hoping to just get a glimpse of
her.

SHARON

Don't you need to go somewhere
unimportant?

KENNY

Okay, but just make sure Derek
doesn't find out you're here with
his girl. He doesn't take kindly
to other men coming into his
territory.

(CONTINUED)

Kendrick's grin disappears.

KENDRICK

Derek?

(To Sharon)

You have a boyfriend?

SHARON

No..I mean, we run around together,
but we're not TOGETHER if you know
what I mean.

KENNY

Yeah, but did you ever tell Derek
that?

SHARON

Kenny, don't you have someone to
tell your moose story to?

KENNY

Okay, I'm goin, but I'm just saying
be careful. I saw a couple of
loggers leave about a half hour
ago, and they were watching you
when they left.

Kenny walks away.

RESUME SHOT

KENDRICK

He has a point you know.

SHARON

I've never told Derek I was his
girl.

KENDRICK

But have you ever told him you
weren't.

SHARON

Actually, yes. The other day when
he started talking about
marriage. If he's too dense to get
the message then it's not my fault.

Kendrick smiles again.

KENDRICK

Then you're a free agent.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Oh, no. I want at least a week of freedom before I jump into anything else.

KENDRICK

Okay, I can give you a week.

SHARON

Oh, listen, it's the moose story again.

A FEW MINUTES LATER

EXT. GOOSED MOOSE PARKING LOT - DAY

Sharon and Kendrick exit the restaurant. They walk towards Sharon's Jeep. As Sharon is placing the key into the door, a large truck stops behind her vehicle, blocking it. Derek and THREE LUMBERJACKS descend from the truck's king cab like pit bulls spoiling for a fight. Derek walks up to Sharon and grabs her arm.

DEREK

I heard you were here with another man. I told you I didn't like that.

Sharon tries to jerk her arm out, but it's like a vice-grip.

SHARON

And I told you we were not together any more. You don't own me, Derek. Just leave me alone.

DEREK

You think you can lead me on for years then just dump me? I have feelings, Sharon.

KENDRICK

Hey, man, just leave her alone.

DEREK

(To Kendrick)

What?

KENDRICK

Look, we're just having a bit of lunch. Leave us alone and we'll return to the center, end of story. We don't want any trouble.

(CONTINUED)

DEREK

You stay out of this, blind guy,
before I beat your butt. This is
between me and my girl.

SHARON

Derek, leave him alone. He can't
even see to fight you. How are you
going to explain that to the
sheriff?

DEREK

Same way I always do, I buy him a
beer.

Derek tries to force Sharon to the truck. Kendrick is
hesitant and scared to interfere. Trojan starts barking.

DEREK

Come on, get in the truck. I'm
taking you home.

SHARON

No, I'm not going.

Kendrick's protective instincts start to emerge.

KENDRICK

Derek, leave her alone.

DEREK

There's nothing you can do blind
guy. If it wasn't for you, we
wouldn't be having this problem.

FOCUS ON

Trojan begins GROWLING and pulling on his harness.

WIDER ANGLE

Derek watches him closely.

DEREK

Keep hold of that dog or I'll kill
him.

SHARON

That's it, let me go, Derek.

Sharon kicks Derek in the shin. The man howls in pain
allowing Sharon to wrench herself free.

NEW ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

Trojan pulls free and grabs Derek by the arm. Things happen quickly.

SIMULTANEOUS

KENDRICK

Trojan, stop!

SHARON

No!

Derek is struggling to break free from Trojan. He pulls out a knife he has strapped to his side.

DEREK

Let go. I said I'd kill you.

Sharon runs forward to grab his arm.

SHARON

Derek, don't hurt him.

KENDRICK

What's happening?

SHARON

He's got a knife. He's going to kill Trojan.

Kendrick dives forward to take Derek down. Sharon jumps in to grab Trojan's halter, pulling him away. Derek's buddies take this opportunity to rush forward and pull Kendrick off Derek. They hold him between them. Derek stands up and PUNCHES Kendrick in the stomach.

SHARON

Derek, you coward. He can't even see to hurt you.

Derek answers with a another PUNCH to his face. Kendrick's legs let go and the two loggers allow him to fall. At this moment, a sheriff's car arrives. HENRY, the county law leaps out and runs over to pull Derek away.

HENRY

That's enough, Derek. Stop or I'll take you in.

Derek backs away, but gives Kendrick one last KICK.

HENRY

I said enough!

(CONTINUED)

DEREK

That's okay, I'm through.

Sharon opens the Jeeps door and orders Trojan to jump in. She closes it and runs over to Kendrick.

FOCUS ON

SHARON

Are you okay?

Kendrick groans as he slowly gets up. He pushes Sharon's hands away. On his feet, he wipes the BLOOD from his lips.

KENDRICK

Yeah, I'm fine.

WIDER ANGLE

DEREK

Next time, stay away from my girl.

SHARON

Get out of my life, Derek. I never want to see you again.

DEREK

We'll see about that.

SHARON

Henry, if he comes anywhere near me, I swear I'll shoot him. I'll file a restraining order if I have to.

HENRY

Now, Sharon, these lover spats happen all the time. Just give things time to calm down. Then we'll see how it all works out.

Sharon wants to scream. She takes hold of Kendrick's arm and leads him to her Jeep. After helping him in, she gets in the driver's side and they leave.

INT. CAR - DAY

Trojan, still excited, is standing trying to lick Kendrick's face. He ruffs his head and tells him he's okay, but he's not. He's sullen and withdrawn.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

There wasn't anything else you could have done.

KENDRICK

Stop. You don't understand. I'm special forces, I'm supposed to be the best. I've been trained to fight no matter the situation, yet I froze up like a new recruit.

SHARON

No, you stop. Listen bucko, you've been through a traumatic experience that would have left lesser men drooling in their own spit for years, yet you've come back and you're learning to start over. That takes guts. How much training have you received in fighting blind since your accident.

Kendrick doesn't answer.

SHARON (CONT.)

Exactly, zero. You are in a new situation. You've only recently begun to regain your self confidence, and you just tackled a guy two times your size - blind. I'd say that was pretty awesome.

PAUSE

KENDRICK

Twice my size, huh?

SHARON

At least. With buddy back-up.

KENDRICK

Hmmm.

INT. SHARON'S CABIN - DAY

Sharon walks in leaving the door open for Kendrick and Trojan.

KENDRICK

Where are we?

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

My place. I didn't want to have to explain to everyone why one of my clients has ended up with blood all over him. They might think I did it. Tell Trojan to take you to the couch while I get the med kit.

Sharon walks out while Trojan takes Kendrick to the sofa.

KENDRICK

(Over his shoulder)

Mind if I take his harness off so he can relax?

SHARON

(Off camera)

Sure, and I'll let him out so he can run around a bit.

Kendrick takes the harness off. Trojan happy and free rolls on the rug. Sharon re-enters the room and sets the medical stuff on the coffee table.

SHARON

Come on, Trojan. Outside.

The dog leaps up and follows her to the door. He's barely able to contain his eagerness. When the door opens, he bolts out.

SHARON

Boy, I'd say he really had to go.

FOCUS ON

Sharon sits next to Kendrick and begins dressing the CUTS on his face.

KENDRICK

So, how did you get mixed up with a guy like Derek?

SHARON

Long story short - When I first came to Alaska, I was nervous and feeling out of my element. When I met Derek, he gave me the attention that made me feel like I could conquer the world.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

You couldn't tell how possessive he was?

SHARON

At first, he didn't show it. Then as it progressed, it was easier turning a deaf ear to it than to face it. I just kept caving in. Eventually, it became normal.

KENDRICK

Sharon, the way he acted today should never be normal.

SHARON

I know, you're right. It's only been since you came and seeing how he's reacted to my working with you that I've begun to see how wrong this all is. I'm sorry for today. I feel as though I caused it.

KENDRICK

No, you are not responsible for his behavior. One thing we learn in the military is to take ownership of what we do. I may be blind, but I can tell it was definitely not you who hit me.

There is a pause. Kendrick reaches out his hand and brushes Sharon's face.

Trojan BARKS outside and Sharon jumps. She remembers she's supposed to be tending his cuts.

SHARON

Sounds like he's treed a squirrel or something.

KENDRICK

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your letting me have him.

SHARON

No problem. In fact, I was blindsided by how quickly God answered my prayer. One moment, I was asking for some way to help you, the next he's standing in front of me, shivering and scared.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

You were praying for me?

SHARON

I make it a point to pray for everyone I work with. You just happened to be on my mind that day. I think we had just run out of budget money for furniture.

KENDRICK

Very funny. It's a neat coincidence though.

SHARON

I don't believe in coincidences.

KENDRICK

You really believe God answered your prayer?

SHARON

Sure, He does it all the time.

KENDRICK

When my father was alive, he always talked about how he would pray and things would happen. I thought he was the most important man alive.

SHARON

You were close to him?

KENDRICK

Yeah. To me he was the perfect Dad. We played sports together, went out for ice cream, watched football on TV. He's the reason I went into the military. He was a Navy Seal; one of the best.

SHARON

Yet you defected and went Army.

KENDRICK

I hated swimming. I was good at it, but I just never developed a love for the water much to my father's horror.

SHARON

He sounds wonderful.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

After he died, my mother fell apart. She went into a drunken stupor which she's yet to come out of. It's a good thing Dad taught me how to be a man. From that point on, I had to raise myself. I finished school and joined the military when I graduated.

SHARON

If you ask me, you did a pretty good job of it. So your father was a man of faith?

KENDRICK

Church every Sunday. He saw no contradiction between his work and his faith. I must say, though, I'm having a hard time keeping my faith through this.

SHARON

That's not unusual considering what you've been through. Give yourself time to heal. It'll come.

There's a SCRATCHING at the door. Sharon gets up and lets Trojan in.

KENDRICK

Come here, Trojan.

The dog runs forward into Kendrick's embrace.

KENDRICK

Aaagh, he's wet!

SHARON

Looks like he's been in the lake.

KENDRICK

Just remember, you have to transport him back in your car.

FADE OUT

INT. JACOB'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

There is a knock on the door. Matthew Harris walks over and opens it. TWO MEN in business suits stand in the hallway. One flashes a badge.

MAN
We're with the FBI.

Matthew steps back.

MATT
Please come in.

The men step into the room, instinctively looking around. Matt shakes their hands.

MAN
I'm Jeff Stanfield, my other half
is Craig McLendon. Is Mr. Lowery
here?

MATT
He's in the other room. Let me go
get him.

Matt walks to the bedroom door and knocks. A second later, he opens it and walks in. The two agents barely have time to gaze around before Jacob and Matt enter. Jacob leads using a cane. He walks to a chair and sits down. Matt gestures for the men to take the couch while he takes the remaining chair.

JEFF
Mr. Lowery, I'm Jeff Stanfield and
Mr. Craig McLendon is with
me. We're with the FBI. We're
here because you contacted our
office. From what I've been told,
you have a major case on your
hands.

JACOB
Well, you can start with
embezzlement, add murder, finish up
with attempted murder and probably
squeeze a few things in between.

JEFF
That's what we heard. Who's the
person you suspect?

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

His name is David Cotes and, believe it or not, he's my present head of security.

JEFF

Sweet. He would have access to everything in your company. But you said "present".

JACOB

He's only been in that position for a month. When the embezzlement scheme first started breaking, he immediately came forward and blamed it on our then head of security, Larry Hinsley. I was skeptical, but he got the ear of several of my board members and was able to get Hinsley put on leave with himself as his replacement.

CRAIG

But you don't think Hinsley did it.

JACOB

Larry is a genius with security, but couldn't balance his money in a Monopoly game. He doesn't have the know how to pull off something this financially sophisticated.

JEFF

Not even with help?

JACOB

I can't say it wouldn't be possible, but after working with the man as long as I have, I seriously can't see it happening. Pun intended. However, the speed that Cotes used to manipulate things makes everything point to him.

JEFF

If nothing else, we can run some extensive background checks on the guy. We have resources your company wouldn't.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB

I have not confronted Cotes to give him room to see what he would do. I also gave him one of the discs that shows every place and time that the embezzlement took place along with the corresponding security footage.

CRAIG

You said one, then there is another?

JACOB

Yes, it was on the plane with me.

CRAIG

Did he suspect you had it?

JACOB

I didn't tell him outright, but I did insinuate I had another.

JEFF

With the result that your plane went down. Why didn't you contact us sooner?

MATT

The Board wanted to keep it in-house for as long as possible to keep the media from creating a panic on our stocks.

JACOB

We honestly didn't think Cotes would move as quickly as he did. A good man died in that crash and I feel responsible.

JEFF

He's the one who tampered with your plane, not you. So, you have the other disc on you?

JACOB

No, I had it hidden and lost it when the plane hit the water.

CRAIG

Then it's on the plane or in the lake?

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Jacob has a seeing-eye dog named Trojan. When the plane hit the water a section of the fuselage was torn open and Trojan was thrown out. The disc is hidden in Trojan's collar.

INT. COTE'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

CLOSE SHOT

David Cotes is sitting at a table wearing a pair of headphones. He grins suddenly.

DAVID

BINGO!

(Over his shoulder)

Boys, we get to go hunting.

FADE OUT

ACT THREE

INT. SHARON'S OFFICE - DAY

Sharon is busy typing on her computer when the phone rings. She picks up the receiver.

SHARON

Hello? Oh, hi Mike, what's up?

(PAUSE)

Yeah, I still have him. He's being kept here at the center. FBI? You sure? Okay, tell them how to get here and I'll meet them. Give them my number just in case. What did you say the man's name was?

She picks up a pen and writes the name.

SHARON (CONT.)

Jacob Lowery. Why is the FBI involved in finding a dog? Okay, I guess I'll find out when they get here. When do you think it will be? I'll have him ready. Bye.

Sharon reaches over and presses a button on her phone.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Jan, can you please have someone ask Mr. Logan if he will come to my office? Thanks.

INT. JACOB'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Empty living room. A cell phone on the coffee table rings breaking the silence. It takes only a few seconds for Matt to come out and answer it.

MATT

Hello? Great! That was fast.

The door to Jacob's room opens. Jacob leans out trying to hear what is happening. Matt turns to him smiling.

MATT (CONT.)

When can we get him? Okay, we'll be ready in thirty.

Matt slaps his phone shut.

MATT

They've found him.

JACOB

Where?

MATT

He's at a disability rehab center about an hour's drive from here.

JACOB

Disability rehab? He just couldn't help himself. He had to go to work without me.

MATT

We need to get ready, they'll be here in a half hour.

JACOB

Already there, my friend.

INT. COTE'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Cotes jumps up, slamming the lid on his laptop.

(CONTINUED)

COTES

Mack, I need an address for all rehabilitation facilities within a sixty mile radius. Yesterday.

MACK V.O.

You got it.

COTES

Let's go, guys. They're leaving in thirty minutes. We need to be there first.

INT. SHARON'S OFFICE - DAY

Sharon is sitting at her desk. She's distracted. There is a KNOCK on the door and she sighs. The dreaded time has arrived.

SHARON

Come in.

Kendrick opens the door and lets Trojan bring him in. They come to the chair directly in front of Sharon's desk where Kendrick sits down. Trojan takes position at his side.

SHARON

I received a phone call a few minutes ago from Mike our animal warden. Trojan's owner has been found and is looking for him.

Kendrick is silent. Sharon pushes forward.

SHARON (CONT.)

We knew this was going to happen. I've made some progress in getting you a dog of your own. When you're done here, I'm very hopeful we can get you into the program.

KENDRICK

What's his name?

SHARON

Jacob Lowery.

KENDRICK

When is he coming?

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Within the hour. There's something else. For some reason the FBI is in on this. I don't know why, but we'll find out soon enough.

Kendrick cocks his head at the news, but doesn't comment. He reaches down and strokes Trojan's head. The dog licks his hand in return.

KENDRICK

May I take him outside for a while?

SHARON

Sure.

As Kendrick is leaving, he pauses for a moment. Without turning he speaks.

KENDRICK

It's okay, really. I could sense Trojan was missing his real master. I'm glad they'll be together again.

SHARON

Pretty soon you'll have one of your own to miss you.

Kendrick gives a little smile and leaves.

CUT TO

OVER THE SHOULDER:

Sharon is watching Kendrick sitting on a bench, petting Trojan. He gets up and they leave.

FOCUS ON

Sharon returns to her desk and sits down. Opening a drawer, she pulls out a file and places it on her desk. The file opens and

INSERT

a picture is seen of Kendrick in military uniform.

WIDE ANGLE

Slowly, sadly, Sharon lifts the picture and writes some notes. She closes it just as a tear falls onto the cover.

FAVORING

(CONTINUED)

Sharon wipes her eyes. Looking up.

SHARON

Father, I know you have good plans for Kendrick. Help him to hang in there until he sees them.

The phone rings.

SHARON

Yes? Already? I'll be right there.

Hanging up, she looks at her watch a little confused. Oh, well. She gets up and heads for the door.

CUT TO

EXT. REHAB CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Sharon walks out the door. Three men are standing by a sedan. Jan is beside them, her cell phone in her hand. But this is not Jacob, Matt or the FBI agents. It's David Cotes and his two henchmen. Mack is wearing dark glasses and holding a white cane as though he's blind. Unsuspecting, Sharon walks up to them and extends her hand.

SHARON

Hello, I'm Sharon Peters.

DAVID

I'm Matthew Harris, Mr. Lowery's head in Canada. This is Jacob Lowery and Agent Harman with the FBI.

SHARON

Pleased to finally meet you. Trojan is a rather remarkable dog. When I brought him here I had no idea he was a trained guide dog, but he went right to work taking one of my patients under his paw you might say. They've been inseparable ever since.

DAVID

That sounds like Trojan. Is it possible we can see him now? Jacob's anxious to have him back.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Of course.

(To Jan)

Kendrick should be close by. Can you bring him here, please?

Jan walks off with a nod.

SHARON

I'm curious why the FBI is involved. Why would you be interested in tracking down a dog?

DOUG

There's more to this than just the dog. There was an embezzlement in Mr. Lowery's company of several million and an attempt made on his life. I'm here as protection.

Sharon adds things up quickly.

SHARON

If someone was able to steal millions without someone noticing right away then that must mean your company is worth...

DAVID

Billions.

SHARON

That's what I thought you would say.

DAVID

He's the owner of Westmarlow Shipping Industries. One of the largest shipping companies in the world.

SHARON

Wow.

David smiles benevolently. Just then his gaze is distracted by something behind Sharon. She turns and sees Kendrick and Trojan walking towards them. Sharon steps to one side to get out of the way.

SHARON

Mr. Logan, Mr. Lowery is here with Matt Harris and FBI Agent Harmon.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Mr. Logan, pleased to meet you.

At the sound of David's voice, Trojan stops in his tracks. When Kendrick tries to move him forward, he simply stands still. A LOW GROWL is heard.

MACK

Trojan? Is that you? Come here boy.

But Trojan is not budging. His GROWLS get louder. Sharon is realizing that everything is not as it should be. Trojan starts backing up, pushing Kendrick away from the men. Kendrick is confused.

KENDRICK

Sharon, what's happening.

SHARON

I don't know. Trojan is refusing to go with these men. But that wouldn't make sense if he belongs to Mr. Lowery.

David sees that things are going wrong. He has only minutes until the real Jacob and Matt show up.

SHARON

Gentlemen, I'm sorry but can I see some identification?

DAVID

Of course.

David puts his hand inside his jacket, but pulls a gun out instead of ID.

DAVID (CONT.)

I didn't mean for it to go this far, but I need to have the dog - now.

KENDRICK

Sharon?

SHARON

He's pulled a gun.

(To David)

What's so important about Trojan? Why are you doing this?

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

It's not something you need to know. I'll tell you what, you can keep the dog, just give me the collar.

Sharon glances over at Trojan.

CLOSE SHOT

Trojan's neck. His collar is barely visible beneath the make-shift halter.

WIDER ANGLE

SHARON

We had to take it off when we put the harness on. It's at my cabin.

David swears in anger.

DAVID

Then you're going to take us to get it.

DOUG

What about the dog?

DAVID

I don't care about the dog. It's the collar I need. Get them into the car.

Sharon walks over to stand beside Kendrick. She takes his arm off Trojan's harness and places it upon her arm. Trojan WHINES.

SHARON

Why do you need to bring him? He can't identify you.

DAVID

He knows the sound of our voices. Sorry, but you're both innocent victims of something you were not supposed to be a part of. Now, I need you both in the car or I'll shoot the dog.

Sharon leads Kendrick to the sedan. Doug opens the back door for them then gets in beside them.

ANGLE ON

(CONTINUED)

Trojan sits down on the sidewalk uncertain what to do.

CHANGE ANGLE

The car backs up and drives out onto the street.

ANGLE ON

Trojan is left on the curb. He WHINES his anxiety, then makes a decision. Leaping off the curb, he follows at a full run.

CUT TO

INT. FBI SUV - DAY

INSIDE POV

Between the driver (Jeff) and front passenger (Craig), we see the sign Penton Disability Rehabilitation Center pass by when a blue sedan pulls out. They ignore the car and are about to turn in when a large German Shepherd runs in front of them chasing the sedan.

REVERSE ANGLE

Matt in the back seat sees the dog. He points his arm between the two agents.

MATT

That's Trojan.

CRAIG

He's chasing the blue car that just pulled out.

JACOB

If he's become attached to the man he's been helping, he'll follow him no matter what. He's trained to never leave his charge.

CRAIG

My guess is, they haven't left him willingly.

JEFF

I'll follow at a distance. When they outdistance Trojan, we'll stop and pick him up.

EXT. ALASKAN ROAD - DAY

MOVING SHOT

Trojan is running flat out, but the car quickly leaves him behind.

MOVING SHOT

The FBI SUV is following at a discrete distance.

INT. SUV POV

They're coming up behind the running dog. The sedan is nowhere in sight. Accelerating, they begin to go around Trojan to head him off.

WIDER ANGLE

The SUV pulls ahead of Trojan and stops. Jacob and Matt jump out and Jacob calls out to his dog. Trojan stops, uncertain.

ANGLE ON

MATT

One more time, Jacob.

JACOB

Trojan, come here big guy.

FOCUS ON

Finally, Trojan recognizes his master's voice. He BARKS and runs forward in excitement.

WIDER ANGLE

MATT

Here he comes.

Jacob kneels down and Trojan almost knocks him over while wiggling and licking him in eager reunion. Jacob hugs him tight.

CRAIG

(Inside car)

Sorry to break up your reunion, but the car is getting away.

Jacob gets up and commands Trojan to get inside the SUV. He jumps into the section behind the passenger seat. Jacob wipes a tear from his eye as he gets back in and shuts the door. The SUV speeds away after the sedan.

(CONTINUED)

MOVING SHOT

The blue sedan passes by followed a few seconds later by the black SUV.

INSIDE SUV

JEFF

Mr. Lowery, can you tell if the disc is still in Trojan's collar.

JACOB

I've got it right here.

MATT

The make-shift halter they made had covered the collar. They didn't know it was there.

JACOB

How did David know to go after Trojan?

JEFF

He's head of security. He probably bugged your room before you ever got there.

JACOB

Then, where are they going?

JEFF

If they didn't see the collar, then they're probably still looking for it. Whoever they have in the car is taking them somewhere. My guess would be the woman we're supposed to meet and the guy who's been working with Trojan.

CRAIG

Let me see if I can find something out.

Craig pulls out his cell phone and dials a number.

INT. BLUE SEDAN

David is in the front seat, half turned with a gun pointed at Sharon.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID
How much further?

Sharon doesn't answer. Kendrick places his arm around her shoulder and draws her close.

DAVID
I said, how much further?

Sharon looks out to see where they are.

SHARON
About two miles ahead, you'll see a
dirt road going off to the
right. Take it.

David turns back around.

ANGLE ON

Kendrick leans his head towards Sharon.

KENDRICK
As much as you believe in God, now
would be a great time to talk to
Him.

Sharon reaches over and takes his hand.

SHARON
Believe me, I have been.

MOVING SHOT

The blue sedan comes upon the dirt road and turns onto it. It disappears into the woods.

A few seconds later the black SUV drives up and stops. It, too, turns down the road.

EXT. SHARON'S CABIN - DAY

The blue sedan pulls up in front of Sharon's cabin.

ANGLE ON

David gets out then opens the door for Sharon and Kendrick. Doug and Mack exit their sides.

DAVID
So, where's the collar?

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

Inside, top drawer of the dresser
next to my bed. I'll get it.

Sharon starts forward, but David grabs her arm.

DAVID

Oh, no. I don't want any
surprises. My guys will get it,
and if you've lied, I shoot the
blind guy.

Sharon remains silent. Doug and Mack walk into the cabin.

FOCUS ON

Kendrick's right hand reaches out and finds Sharon's
hand. His fingers go up to her wrist and covers her watch.

ANGLE ON

Kendrick leans his head to Sharon's

KENDRICK

What time is it?

Sharon seems confused, but as realization dawns, it quickly
turns to concern. She glances to David who is watching the
cabin more than them.

SHARON

One o'clock.

WIDER ANGLE

Kendrick lets go and steps away. David, who had glanced at
them when they started talking, returns his attention to the
cabin.

SHARON

(A loud whisper)

NOW!

Kendrick launches at David in a full tackle. The unexpected
assault brings them both to the ground.

FOCUS ON

The gun lands in the dirt several feet away.

ANGLE ON

Kendrick is on top. One good blow and David is out
cold. Sharon runs up and grabs Kendrick's arm.

(CONTINUED)

WIDER ANGLE

SHARON

Let's go!

Panting, Kendrick allows Sharon to pull him up. Holding hands, they run for the woods and disappear.

SECONDS LATER

ANGLE ON

David groans and rolls over to his side. At this moment, his men come running out of the cabin, pulling their guns.

MACK

It wasn't there.

David throws his arms towards the woods.

DAVID

Find them.

Mack and Doug run after our fleeing heroes.

ANGLE ON

David stands and picks up his gun. He hand cocks the pistol as he glares at the woods.

DAVID

Okay, blind boy, no more nice guy.

EXT. ALASKAN FOREST - DAY

MOVING SHOT

Sharon and Kendrick are running as fast as they are able.

MOVING SHOT

Mack and Doug are hot on their trail and catching up.

ANGLE ON

Sharon leads Kendrick to a drop off above a small creek.

SHARON

We have to go down a ledge about five feet. It's rocky below but level. I'll go first.

WIDER ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

Sharon sits on the ledge then slides down the embankment. Kendrick is already sitting when she turns around. He launches himself and lands with only a little wobble.

SHARON

Put your hand on my shoulder and follow me.

NEW ANGLE

Sharon leads him around a few boulders to where a tree has fallen.

FOCUS ON

Behind the roots is a large cut-away in the bank. They crawl in and hunker down.

SHARON'S POV

Their pursuers jump onto the stream bed and continue across and up the other bank. They disappear into the woods on the other side.

ANGLE ON

SHARON

We'll go back to the cabin and see if we can take their car.

KENDRICK

And if they have the keys?

SHARON

Hot wiring is Survival 101 out here.

KENDRICK

A girl of many talents.

WIDER ANGLE

They crawl from their hiding place and start following the bank. They only make a few feet when. . .

OVER DAVID'S SHOULDER

DAVID

Stop! Please, give me a reason to shoot you.

REVERSE ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

David is on the bank with a gun. He looks a mess.

SHARON

If you shoot, you'll never find the collar.

DAVID

No, if I shoot YOU, I'll never find the collar. He, on the other hand, is another matter. In fact, I'd just love to shoot one of his knee-caps just to hear him scream. Then, if you still won't tell me, I'll shoot the other.

SHARON

No, I'll tell you.

DAVID

Too late.

David raises his gun and takes aim. Just then, a large German Shepherd flies through the air and grabs his arm. They both go down. David screams as Trojan SHAKES him in a vicious grip.

FOCUS ON

Trojan is savage. A second later, Craig and Matt arrive. Matt pulls Trojan back as Craig takes David into custody.

WIDER ANGLE

Matt looks down at Sharon and Kendrick. When Trojan begins WHINING and pulling, Matt lets him go.

ANGLE ON

Trojan jumps down and runs up to Kendrick who bends down to greet him.

KENDRICK

Hey, fella, I missed you.

MATT

You guys okay?

SHARON

Yeah, great timing.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

Thank Trojan. He led us right to you. He really has a special bond with this guy.

KENDRICK

The feeling is mutual.

MATT

Well, Mr. Lowery is waiting back by the car. How about we get the two of you up here so you can meet him.

Matt helps them up the bank while Trojan jumps up after them. They head back to the cabin.

EXT. OUTSIDE SHARON'S CABIN - DAY

Two sheriff's cars are parked behind the black SUV. David and his two henchmen, handcuffed, are being placed into the back. The two cars turn around and drive away taking the bad guys with them.

NEW ANGLE

Jacob, Matt, Sharon and Kendrick are standing on the front porch watching them. Jeff and Craig are beside their SUV.

ANGLE ON

JEFF

Can we give anyone a lift back? The sedan is a rental. Sheriff said you can use it. Just drop it off at his office.

SHARON

Thanks, I can use it to get back to the center.

REVERSE ANGLE

JACOB

If Ms. Peters and Mr. Logan don't mind, I'd like to stay and talk with them a moment.

SHARON

Sure. Why don't we go in and I'll get everyone some coffee.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB
That would be wonderful.
(To FBI Agents)
Thank you, but I'll have my
secretary come out and pick us up.

REVERSE ANGLE

CRAIG
Okay. We'll be in touch. Ms.
Peters, we'll need to talk to you
and Mr. Logan, too, to get your
statements.

REVERSE ANGLE

SHARON
Any time.

They watch as Craig and Jeff get into the SUV and drive
away.

INT. SHARON'S CABIN - DAY

Jacob and Matt are on the couch while Kendrick is in the
chair Sharon serves coffee then sits on a throw pillow on
the fireplace's shelf. Trojan is pressed against Jacob's
legs, his head on his master's lap.

JACOB
Ms. Peters..

SHARON
Sharon, please.

KENDRICK
And Kendrick.

JACOB
Sharon, Kendrick I can't express my
gratitude for your taking care of
Trojan.

KENDRICK
Actually, he took care of me.

Jacob smiles in total understanding.

JACOB
Yes, he does have a way of doing
that.

(CONTINUED)

SHARON

May I ask you a question?

JACOB

Of course.

SHARON

Trojan doesn't act like a normal guide dog. He's different.

MATT

That's because when Jacob lost his sight, some of us were afraid he would become too vulnerable.

JACOB

Bodyguards are good, but I didn't want my family constantly tripping over them.

MATT

So we came up with the idea of having a dog specially bred and trained to both see and protect. Trojan was the result. That dog can out think ninety percent of the population.

JACOB

He's like an extension of me now. Don't tell my wife this, but I think he's closer to me than she is. Now, back to what I wanted to discuss with you two. I would like to show my appreciation in a more substantial way.

SHARON

If you're talking about a financial reward, it really isn't necessary.

JACOB

That's exactly what I'm talking about, and yes, it is. You see, you not only saved Trojan's life, but helped me recover an important disc that was hidden in his collar. This disc is going to allow me to regain millions of dollars that was stolen and help me find out exactly who David's accomplices were.

Sharon looks over at Kendrick.

(CONTINUED)

JACOB (CONT.)

Sharon, I believe you work at a disability rehabilitation center?

SHARON

Yes.

JACOB

Well, your facility is about to receive some major up-grades. As you can imagine, working with the disabled is of significant importance to me. I'm going to make your facility as state-of-the-art as possible. And, as for you, I'm establishing an annuity of \$200,000 a year for the rest of your life.

SHARON

Whoa.

JACOB

Please, let me do this. Believe me, that amount is less than our snack bill for the company.

(To Kendrick)

Kendrick may I ask how you lost your sight?

KENDRICK

In Afghanistan. An explosion right in front of me. Took my buddy with it.

JACOB

I'm sorry. What doctor's have you seen?

KENDRICK

Just VA. Couldn't afford a specialist.

JACOB

I'm sending you to the best eye surgeon in the world. If there is any chance that your eyes can be restored, he'll find it. If he can't, I'll ensure that you receive your own Trojan. Either way, I'm also giving you an annuity like Sharon's.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

Thanks, but I'd rather make it or fall on my own.

JACOB

Fair enough. Then, at least allow me to give you something to help you get a new start. You can use it to invest in college, a business, or whatever you want.

MATT

Actually, our company could use a person with your attitude. Any time you'd like a job, give me a call.

KENDRICK

Thanks, I may do that.

CLOSE SHOT

Suddenly, Trojan raises his head and GROWLS. Outside, they hear a car door close.

WIDER ANGLE

MATT

It's going to take him a while to settle back down.

Sharon gets up and opens the door. Trojan jumps up, tail wagging and BARKS a greeting as Stacy walks in. Jacob allows him to go and say, "hi" to his friend. She bends down to hug him as he covers her in kisses.

STACY

You ready to come live with me now, big guy?

JACOB

Not on your life.

FADE OUT

INT. EYE SURGEON'S OFFICE - DAY

Kendrick is sitting on a table of a doctor's office. Bandages are wrapped around his head. The SURGEON is standing next to him carefully cutting the top layer. He is talking him through their removal as he slowly unwraps the layers.

(CONTINUED)

SURGEON

Okay, we're going to do this slowly. Let me know if you feel any pain.

He continues to unwrap the bandage until there is just a large gauze bandage over each eye.

SURGEON (CONT.)

Now, lean your head back, but keep your eyes closed.

Kendrick leans his head back. The surgeon removes the gauze and drops some liquid into the corner of each eye.

SURGEON (CONT.)

Okay, lean forward. I'm going to shine a light in your face. Tell me if you can see it through your eyelids.

He does so.

SURGEON (CONT.)

Can you see it?

Pause

KENDRICK

Yes, yes I can.

FADE OUT

EXT. PENTON REHAB CENTER - DAY

Sharon and Kendrick hold hands as they walk in front of the new construction site. Kendrick guides Sharon around some debris.

SHARON

Have you made your plans yet as to what you want to do?

KENDRICK

I think I want to take Matt up on his offer for a while to see if I like it. Eventually, I want to go to college and learn architecture.

ANGLE ON

Kendrick glances at Sharon

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK
You know Kenny was right.

SHARON
About what?

KENDRICK
I can see ten lumberjacks fighting
over who would take you to lunch.

Sharon pushes him with her shoulder so that he stumbles
away, laughing. Suddenly, he's very serious.

KENDRICK
In fact, I could see myself
fighting over taking you to lunch.

SHARON
Who says you would have to fight?

KENDRICK
Seriously?

SHARON
Yeah, seriously.

KENDRICK
You know, just before my surgery, I
was giving a lot of thought about
what you said regarding releasing
things. You were right. They were
controlling me.

SHARON
So you let them go?

KENDRICK
Yeah. I didn't realize how bound
up I was until it was gone.

ANGLE ON

A large king cab truck pulls up. Its tires SQUEAL as the
driver lays on the brakes. Sharon groans.

REVERSE ANGLE

SHARON
Oh, no it's Derek. Why can't he
just leave me alone?

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

Let me handle it. I'll be gentle,
I promise.

REVERSE ANGLE

Sharon doesn't have time to reply before Derek storms out of the truck and walks towards them.

DEREK

I thought I told you not to be
around this guy any more.

WIDER ANGLE

Derek begins to walk up to Sharon but Kendrick steps into his path. Derek has to stop or run over him.

KENDRICK

She isn't your girl any more. In
fact, she just became mine.

Derek looks more surprised than angry.

DEREK

Look blind guy, I told you to
leave. Evidently, I didn't say it
loud enough last time. Step aside
or I'll do it again.

Derek reaches out to push Kendrick away. Before he can touch him, Kendrick grabs his hand, forcing the fingers backwards and bringing Derek to a halt.

KENDRICK

I would really suggest that you
leave now. Sharon is no longer
your concern.

It's finally dawning on Derek that Kendrick could see, but the guy is stubborn. He tries to throw a punch at Kendrick's face which is easily deflected.

ANGLE ON

SHARON

Derek, give it up. The man is
special ops. He's trained to bring
down men with a flick of his
finger.

WIDER ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

Derek refuses to give up. He gives his next punch all he's got. Kendrick blocks it and, in a few moves, brings him down.

KENDRICK

Okay, it's over. I can do this all day if I have to. You need to accept the fact that Sharon is not yours any more. Go find another.

ANGLE ON

Derek slowly gets up. Without a word, he leaves.

WIDER ANGLE

Sharon and Kendrick stand together and watch him drive away. Sharon glances at Kendrick.

SHARON

What did you mean I'm your girl now?

KENDRICK

A flick of my finger? Where do you come up with this stuff?

SHARON

You first.

KENDRICK

Yeah. That is, if you want to.

SHARON

I might consider it. But first, I have something I want to give you.

MOVING SHOT

Sharon leads Kendrick to her Jeep.

ANGLE ON

Sharon opens the back. Inside, is a dog crate. Opening it, Sharon pulls out a ten-week-old white German Shepherd puppy and hands it to Kendrick.

KENDRICK

He's beautiful. Is he Trojan's?

SHARON

Not unless he's by immaculate conception. Guide dogs are neutered.

(CONTINUED)

KENDRICK

Ouch, poor guy. I think in the grand theme of things, I'll call him Roman.

FOCUS ON

A WET SPOT suddenly appears on Kendrick's shirt. Kendrick holds the puppy from him.

ANGLE ON

KENDRICK

Oh, man. He just peed on me.

SHARON

Consider it as he's marked his territory.

MOVING SHOT

Over the Alaskan scenery

KENDRICK V.O.

This isn't funny.

SHARON V.O.

Sure it is. It's the fountain of youth.

THE END