

BLIND FAITH

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FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

A blue SUV motors steadily along. Overcast sky above.

Mozart's *TURKISH MARCH* - piano, wafts out of car speakers.

Road hugs the base of a mountain on the right. Left of the SUV is a mangled guardrail, protection from a steep cliff.

INT. SUV - DAY

PEGGY DRIFTMEYER, late 30s, is at the wheel. Music quelled.

She's a throwback with her poofy auburn hair, peach-colored lip gloss, floral blouse and white Capris.

White P.F. Flyers complete the ensemble.

Sitting stoically in the front passenger is son EUGENE, 10.

Thin frame, wavy brown hair and sunglasses. Dressed like it's Sunday: White shirt, narrow tie, dark slacks.

He turns to Peggy.

EUGENE

What if the cure don't work?

Peg turns to Eugene.

PEG

What if it DOES work?

Eugene sits back. Brushes aside the white cane next to him.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - SAME

SUV travels a slight incline, around a mountain bend. Tires crunch over old asphalt.

EUGENE (O.S.)

How much longer?

PEG (O.S.)

Heaven's around the turn.
Five minutes, give or take.

EUGENE (O.S.)

Awesome. Then we meet God?

PEG (O.S.)
He's a Shaman. I told you.

EUGENE (O.S.)
Then why'd you say heaven?

PEG (O.S.)
Okay, Mister. Keep it up and
you're walking.

ALONG THE ROADSIDE

SUV tires roll past flowers, Black-eyed Susan.

Past a carpet of cigarette butts...

Past an empty wallet...

INT. SUV

Peg checks the GPS system.

EUGENE
Know what I want to see most
in the world?

PEG
Uh, me?

EUGENE
Taylor Swift! Doofus.

Peg notices his restrained smile. She reaches across.
Punches Eugene's arm lightly.

Her gaze back to the road. Around a curve...then a

ROADBLOCK.

An older-model, black car parked sideways on the curve.
Blocks her lane. Beyond that is a steep hill to the top.

Peg slows the SUV to a stop. Her eyes on alert.

EUGENE
Mom...?

PEG
Just an abandoned car in the
road. Nothing to worry about.

From nowhere, a WOMAN staggers to Peg's side of the SUV. Peg
JUMPS in her seat.

The woman, 30, pounds on the SUV window. She looks homeless.

WOMAN
It's here. IT'S HERE.

Terror-stricken face.

PEG
What's here?

WOMAN
Can't you see it?

PEG
See what?

WOMAN
The sky - the Devil's Face!

EUGENE
What's going on?

Woman pounds on Peg's window. Tries to open the SUV door.

PEG
Stop. I swear I'll deck you.

WOMAN
Please. Before...

EUGENE
MOM!

WOMAN
...it's too late.

PEG
Get away from my car.

She sees the woman gaze upward. In a trance-like state.

Peg frowns. Puzzled.

Tries to see what's in the sky overhead. Can't see shit from inside. Doesn't dare open her window.

EUGENE
What's happening?

Peg goes for her cell phone. No signal. Eugene's in a panic.

She wraps her hands around Eugene's shoulders. Holds him securely. The tone in her voice is even and calm.

PEG
Breathe in...

EUGENE
Why was she screaming?

PEG
I don't know. Now exhale.

They breathe in unison. Tranquility returns slowly.

PEG
Maybe on drugs.

Peg's turns back to the woman. Still standing, gaze upward.

PEG
Screw this. We're outta here.

Peg shifts the SUV in reverse. She turns to back up.

Car won't budge. Tires spin angrily. Smoke fills the air.

PEG
Oh God, no.

Peg bangs the steering wheel. Frustrated. Takes a breath, then reaches into the glove box. Grabs something.

EUGENE
...the gun?

PEG
Precautionary.
(beat)
Gotta check the tires. Keep
the doors locked, till I get
back. Can you do that?

EUGENE
I can. What if it's a trap?

She tousles her son's hair. Kisses his forehead.

PEG
Be strong. Love you so much.

With that, Peg pops open her door. Gun in hand.

EXT. ROAD

Peg steps onto the road. Trains her gun on the woman. Peg peers up to the sky. Sees a dark cloud above - no big deal.

PEG

Crap.

Eyes back on the woman. A dangerous smile on woman's face.

Then a dark flash in Peg's peripheral vision. Slashing toward her from the left. Before she can turn –

SMACK. Peg is blind-sided. Her body goes airborne.

Gun flies from her grip.

Peg crashes to the road about 10 feet away. She GROANS.

INT. SUV

Eugene hears the uproar outside.

EUGENE

MOM?

At the driver-side window is the woman.

Watching Eugene. She raps on the glass.

WOMAN

Open the door.

EUGENE

NO.

WOMAN

YES. Or your mommy dies.

A battle can be heard outside. Peg's not going down easy.

Eugene trips the unlock button. Woman enters and searches. Sees luggage in the backseat. And Peg's purse.

Rifles through the purse and finds an envelope of cash.

Outside, a single – GUNSHOT – rings in the air.

EUGENE

NO. You said –

The woman looks back. Pockets the cash. Looks at the boy.

WOMAN

You were too slow. You did it. You killed her.

EXT. ROAD

Eugene tumbles out. He hears the other car drive away.

Peg is down. On her back, a bullet wound to the gut. She holds her stomach. Her blouse is a mop of blood.

EUGENE

Where are you, Mom?

PEG

Eugene...

He taps his way to his mom. Finds her. Falls to his knees.

PEG

My Eugene. Your turn to be...
brave. Go to the hilltop. Get
help. Can you do that?

EUGENE

I can.

Peg breathes her last breath.

Eugene bends down for a last kiss. He rises and taps his cane on the road.

Then, a bright light from above falls on Eugene. He feels the warmth. Looks up. REFLECTED in his

SUNGLASSES

A celestial occurrence. Swirling light in shifting clouds.

EUGENE

I see it...so beautiful.

Now reflected in his glasses is his MOM'S SPIRIT. Ascending to the celestial light.

Eugene drops his sunglasses. Squints. Beholds a spectacle.

Watches his mom's angelic form ascending. Until she's gone.

The sky returns to blue air and a dark cloud.

Eugene sucks in a breath. Discards his cane. Strides up the road.

Nothing to go back for. His eyes peer the hilltop.

FADE OUT.