

HEART LIKE A TRUCK

FADE IN:

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DUSK

LAINIE (20s), black eye, bruised cheek and her daughter CASSIE (8) ride silently. The radio plays:

RADIO
*I've got a heart like a truck, it's
been drug through the mud...*

A tear forms in Lainie's eye as we...

FLASHBACK

INT. MODEST FARM HOUSE - DAY

BRAD (30), red-faced, fists doubled, raging at Lainie. She cowers, lips trembling.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DUSK

Lainie looks to Cassie with concern as the radio continues:

RADIO
*It's got a lead foot down when it's
leaving, Lord knows it's taken a
hell of a beating...*

Lainie drifts into another...

FLASHBACK

INT. SAME HOUSE - DAY

Brad, once again in a rage, shoves Lainie down. Cassie appears in the doorway, rushes to Brad and grabs his arm. He turns his rage on her and pushes her to the floor near Lainie. Laine scrambles to protect Cassie as Brad looms over them, rage glaring in his eyes. CLOSE on Lainie's face as something comes over her, no fear now, but resolve as she narrows her eyes in contempt at Brad.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DUSK

Lainie looks in her rearview mirror. From her POV, smoke rises in the background as we...

FLASHBACK**EXT. MODEST FARM HOUSE - DAY**

Lainie stands by the pickup truck. She touches her bruised cheek, looks inside the truck where Cassie sits belted into her seat.

RADIO (O.S.)
*I've got a heart like a truck, it's
been drug through the mud...*

Lainie retrieves a hose from the back of the truck, inserts it into the gas tank, sucks briefly on the hose to start a flow and then places the hose in a bucket.

She strides to the house, bucket in hand. Brad meets her on the porch, whiskey bottle in hand. He tosses the bottle and raises his hand to strike.

RADIO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It runs on dreams and gasoline...

Lainie dodges the swing and tosses the contents of the bucket onto Brad. Brad is shocked into inaction for a moment as he looks down at his saturated clothing.

RADIO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*A little bit of love was all that
it was needin'...*

Brad looks up to see Lainie standing, now with a LIGHTER in her hand. She flicks it to ignite the flame.

Brad looks to her, the rage now replaced with horror.

FADE TO SLO-MO

Lainie tosses the lighter onto Brad. He is immediately consumed with the flame which quickly spreads to the porch floor. Lainie looks on, stoic.

RETURN TO PRESENT

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Lainie looks again to Cassie, smiles, reaches out and squeezes Cassie's hand . Cassie smiles back tentatively and squeezes Lainie's hand in return, both now safe.

RADIO

*It's got a lead foot down when it's
leaving
Lord knows it's taken a hell of a
beating
A little bit of love is all that
it's needing
But it's good as it is tough
I got a heart like a truck.*

EXT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Red tail lights fade into the darkness.

THE END