

THE HAND OF GOD

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREAM - NIGHT

A LARGE SPLASH, an explosion of sorts, as an ELECTRIC CHAIR lands hard in the middle of a country stream, dropped from the stormy sky above.

The chair sits upright in the rushing water, partially submerged and mangled, but surprisingly complete.

A MAN, a prisoner, lies motionless, half in the chair, half in the water. His right arm remains strapped tight to the bent arm of the chair.

On his forearm there's a SYMBOL. Not just a scar, or a tattoo. It's unique - a combination of both, raised but darkened. The form: a tapered line with two thick hash marks.

The man bolts upright, gasps for breath.

We'll call him LEVI for now. Late 30s, worn and scarred. He's hardened, but more than anything, he's weary.

He pulls himself up, slumps onto the seat of the chair.

The world around him is beat to shit, just like he is. Trees stand naked, stripped of their leaves. Debris litters the area. The path of destruction is wide.

Levi is unimpressed.

He casually splashes a little water on his face, takes a sip.

Levi winces with pain as he tugs at the leather strap binding his arm to the chair. A small padlock holds it in place.

He looks to the sky, contempt in his eyes.

A fist-sized stone, alone on the muddy bank, catches Levi's eye. He grabs the chair and, eyeing the stone, slowly drags the heavy chair to the water's edge.

Levi flops in the water, exhausted from the effort. Still, he extends for the rock. It's just out of reach.

Finally, with one massive burst of effort and a loud scream, he lunges for the rock.

The chair lurches forward slightly and Levi slams his hand down, directly on the earthly mass.

A small victory, he laughs.

He grabs the stone and swings himself back into the seat of the chair. He's out of the deeper water, the stream just below his knees.

Next, he examines the lock, which dangles from a metal cuff surrounding the leather strap.

He strikes at the lock, but it only swings back and forth.

With his left hand, his free hand, he draws the stone back, practices a few swings. Finally, he rears back and swings with all available force.

Unfortunately, he hits himself square on the wrist.

LEVI

God damn it!

Levi tries to gather himself, shake off the pain.

LEVI

That's it. I'm done. Find someone else to fuck with.

He drops the stone in the water, closes his eyes and lays his head back.

LEVI

What do you say to that?

Something GROWLS. He's not alone. Levi opens his eyes.

A wolf emerges from the shadows. A big wolf. An angry wolf.

It paces the far bank, slowly creeps Levi's direction. Only a few feet of water separate he and Levi.

The wolf lunges, but can't reach Levi.

Panicked, Levi fumbles with the lock.

LEVI

Shit.

Levi takes a deep breath, and with another burst of painful energy, he rolls the chair over itself, upside-down, back into the deeper water.

Levi is pinned under the chair, under water, but the lock now sits nicely against the chair's arm, facing the sky.

Unfortunately, he's also closer to the wolf, who lunges for Levi's ankle.

Levi kicks at the wolf as he desperately feels around the creek bed for the stone.

Finding it, he pounds on the lock.

It takes several strikes, but the lock finally breaks and the metal cuff falls away.

Next, he fumbles at the leather strap until, mercifully, it releases him.

Out of breath and near panic, he slides out from under the chair and lunges frantically for air.

Emerging from the stream, he stands, face to face with the canine beast.

Levi takes a step back. The wolf advances.

LEVI
I'm gonna walk away. You're gonna
let me. Okay?

Levi very slowly takes another step backwards.

LEVI
It's not like we have to be
friends.

The wolf leaps at Levi.

The fight is vicious, a whirl of teeth and claws.

Levi gets the upper hand, grabs the wolf around the neck and falls on top of it, smothering his foe under water.

Eventually, the wolf goes limp and Levi lets go. The wolf's body floats downstream and settles against a pile of debris.

Levi stands, stiffens. He looks to the sky, defiant.

LEVI
Enough!

His resolve quickly melts and he flops back onto the bank.

LEVI
Enough.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

Levi, wrist in a homemade splint, places the final stone on the wolf's grave and limps to a nearby pile of debris, a wrap around his ankle, blood-soaked.

He finds a suitcase. It's full of clothes. Not an exact fit, but close enough for him to ditch his prison garb. There's also enough material to make a quick sling for his right arm.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

Levi wears a suit as he pulls the suitcase, searches the debris. He plucks a coffee mug from the pile. It reads: "WELCOME TO THE SHOW ME STATE."

He grabs a few canned goods, a screwdriver, various other items, and fills the suitcase.

Satisfied, he walks on.

EXT. STREAM - NIGHT

Levi snaps awake as raindrops sizzle in a campfire. He scrambles to gather the few things he owns, snuffs out the fire, best he can, and marches on.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

He crests a small hill. In the distance, a barn. Nearby lights. Just a few. He hustles that direction as the rain picks up.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

In the rain and darkness, Levi skirts the edge of the barn. Chickens clatter. Absentmindedly, he quiets them.

He finds a large door, partly open, and slips inside.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The loft is large. Dark. Dry. Rusty tools line one wall.

Small hay bales form large stacks. On the left, the bales nearly stretch to a window, just shy of the loft's peak.

Levi climbs.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi places the last bale in a line - a small wall to hide himself from anyone down below. A bale next to the window serves as a seat.

He looks out from the barn where the rain has stopped.

From his god-like perch: a modest, two-story farmhouse across a small open space. A pond to his left, close to the barn. To his right, a chicken coop.

Empty fields surround the house and barn. In fact, aside from the chickens, there's no real evidence the farm is active.

Levi settles in for sleep.

INT. HAYLOFT - DAY

Sunlight washes over Levi as he sits next to the window.

Levi unwinds the bloodied cloth from his ankle. The wound is gruesome. He pulls a fresh cloth from the suitcase and carefully re-wraps the injury.

BANG! A shotgun blast rings out.

Levi instinctively ducks, then peeks out the window.

JORDAN, 30s, female, rounds the corner of the house toward a small garden. A large hat shields her face as she holds a shotgun in the air.

Even from a distance, she projects a certain independence. There's a strength to her gait.

JORDAN

Hey!

Levi leans forward as Jordan strides into the garden. A rabbit pops out the other end, but stops a few feet away.

She advances.

JORDAN

That's my lettuce. I planted it. I watered it. Sure, we both weeded this garden, but I didn't ask you to do that.

The rabbit only stares.

JORDAN
Go home. Go.

BANG! Another shot to the sky.

When the cottontail still doesn't move, Jordan lowers the gun, takes aim.

Levi shakes his head.

She drops the shotgun and charges, arms flailing.

JORDAN
Yaaaaaaaah!

The rabbit hops to the safety of nearby bushes. Jordan retrieves the shotgun and returns to the house.

Levi, laughing, leans back.

LEVI
(to himself)
He'll be back.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The house lights glow in the night.

Down the driveway, headlights pierce the darkness. A vehicle stops and the headlights snap off.

A MAN slips out of a pickup truck, quietly closes the door, and sneaks toward the house.

INT./EXT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi, on alert, leans forward, watches out the window.

The man, just a shadow, carries something long and skinny. It's hard to tell with the darkness.

He approaches the farmhouse, slides around to a side window, peeks inside.

The man edges to a nearby riding MOWER and crouches next to it. He's not there long.

He sneaks back to the front of the house, to the front door. The man places the item on the porch, rings the doorbell and runs back to the truck.

Levi watches as the house door opens.

The light from inside splashes the front porch. Jordan reaches down, picks up a large batch of flowers, her face hidden by the shadows.

Levi leans back as she looks around. Jordan retreats back into the house, flowers in hand.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi examines a can of beans. Outside, a chicken clucks, catching Levi's attention. He tosses the can of beans aside.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

Levi edges to the pen's gate and quietly opens it.

As a hen struts closer, Levi leans out.

LEVI

Aren't you a pretty bird? So plump
and juicy.

When he's close enough, he snatches it.

In one quick motion he grabs its head and swings the chicken in a large circle, like a softball pitcher throws a fastball. The chicken is killed instantly.

He tucks the dead chicken under his arm, reaches into the coop and grabs a few eggs.

He doesn't see the car turn into the driveway behind him.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A police car rolls toward the darkened house.

The car creaks to a stop and the SHERIFF, 50s, grunts as he pulls himself from the aging cruiser. He's a country sheriff, with a roundness to his stature and demeanor.

He ambles toward the house, but before he can get there, a disturbance in the chicken pen catches his attention.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

The Sheriff, flashlight in hand, investigates.

The light from the flashlight sweeps the area, just barely missing Levi as he dives into the coop.

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

Levi lies facedown on the floor, amidst a mix of feathers, hay and poop.

The light of the flashlight peeks through the cracks between the boards of the chicken coop walls. Levi holds his breath as tiny streams of light wash over him.

At his feet, near the slightly-open door, the dead chicken is lit by a shaft of moonlight. Levi uses his foot to gently slide it into nearby darkness.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

The Sheriff, satisfied, turns off the flashlight. As he does, the chicken coop door flaps open in the wind, banging hard against the side of the coop.

The Sheriff snaps the flashlight back on and opens the pen gate. As he presses into the pen, a hand grabs his shoulder. He quickly spins, his free hand reaching for his holster.

The Sheriff blinds the offender with the light of the flashlight. He instantly recognizes Jordan.

JORDAN

I didn't mean to startle you.

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

Hearing Jordan, Levi perks up. He presses closer to the side of the coop, fights to get a look through the boards, but he's unable to get a clear view.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

The Sheriff gathers himself.

SHERIFF

You got me pretty good.

He points to the chickens.

SHERIFF

Something's got 'em all agitated.

JORDAN

We've been a little distracted.
They should be in the coop.

SHERIFF
Bunch of wolf sightings over the
last few weeks.

Jordan steps into the pen and scoops up a chicken.

JORDAN
I'm guessing you didn't come out to
talk chickens.

Without looking, she tosses the chicken into the coop.

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

A chicken lands next to Levi. He gently pushes it away,
fighting not to cough.

SHERIFF (O.S.)
I don't know how to say it, so I'm
just gonna be straight.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

Jordan smiles an uncomfortable smile.

JORDAN
Uh, oh.

SHERIFF
There's talk in town.

She rounds up another chicken.

JORDAN
I've never known you to get caught
up in gossip.

Jordan blindly tosses the bird into the coop.

SHERIFF
I wouldn't say anything. But,
you've been good to me and mine. I
think you should know.

The Sheriff steps in to help wrangle the last chicken.

SHERIFF
Nate's gonna foreclose.

The Sheriff scoops up the bird.

SHERIFF

Soon.

The Sheriff carries the chicken toward the coop, but Jordan, agitated, takes it from him.

JORDAN

I can handle this.

She tosses the chicken into the coop.

SHERIFF

Nate's a good man. You give him a reason to think things will change, he'll hold off.

The two close the pen and walk toward the cruiser. The Sheriff fights to break the awkwardness of the moment.

SHERIFF

You take any damage? From the storm?

JORDAN

Haven't found any.

SHERIFF

You want me to come out tomorrow? I can walk the fence line. Twister comes that close --

Her agitation grows.

JORDAN

I can handle it.

SHERIFF

I didn't mean anything by it. It's just -- you're out here alone --

JORDAN

I've got my son.

SHERIFF

Of course -- I --

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

Levi watches intently, still unable to see Jordan's face, as she pulls the Sheriff in for a neighborly hug.

JORDAN

I appreciate it. I do.

The Sheriff slides into the cruiser.

SHERIFF
You need anything...

Jordan nods.

When the Sheriff drives away, Jordan slumps in the shadows of the front stoop. Her shoulders shake as she sobs.

INT./EXT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

Levi peers through the cracks of the chicken coop. Jordan is gone. The house is quiet. The lights are off.

Levi crawls out, dead chicken in one hand, eggs in the other. He heads for the loft.

Before he can get there, a GUN BARREL juts from the darkness and presses against his temple.

Levi freezes.

ISAAC (O.S.)
Get off my land.

The voice is young. Very young.

Levi slowly turns while stepping back.

LEVI
Easy now.

ISAAC, 10, fresh-faced and puffed up, steps out of the darkness, gun raised. He wears a BALL CAP, pulled down tight.

Levi's expression instantly changes as weariness and dread sweep over him. He drops to his knees.

LEVI
Isaac?

ISAAC
How do you know my name?

Levi looks to the sky. He's rattled.

LEVI
Leave him out of this.

ISAAC
Put 'em down.

Levi sets the items on the ground.

ISAAC

What's your name? And, don't you
lie to me. I'll know.

LEVI

My name's Jacob.

Levi, hands shaking, gently pushes the gun barrel aside.

Isaac digs in. He swings the gun back at Levi, aiming square
for his midsection.

ISAAC

You're lying. Get off my farm.

Levi points to the barn.

LEVI

I'll just grab my things.

Levi stands. Isaac panics, pulls the trigger. PFFT. It's an
odd sound. A rush of air.

Levi looks at his stomach. No damage.

Isaac drops the BB gun and runs back to the house. On the
way, the ball cap flutters off his head. Levi watches the boy
disappear into the house, then picks up the cap.

He grabs the gun and hurries back to the loft.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi quickly packs his very few belongings into the suitcase.

LEVI

You selfish son of a bitch. This is
between you and me.

Levi looks at the gun. He aims, pulls the trigger. PFFT. He
tosses it into the corner.

He grabs Isaac's cap, looks it over. Smells it.

It's a loving gesture, full of longing.

Outside, the screen door slams.

Levi quickly stuffs the cap in his coat pocket and pulls the
zipper on the suitcase to close it. It sticks.

He glances out the window.

Jordan marches toward the barn. The shotgun in her hand is most certainly real.

Leaving the suitcase, he jumps down the bales and runs for the door. Just as he gets there, Jordan presses in, shotgun raised at his chest.

They slowly circle as he creeps toward the door. Levi stares, searching her determined but frightened face.

LEVI
I'm leaving. I promise.

She lowers the gun, slightly.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Levi sprints across a field as the lights of the farm fade into the background.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

A small town main street. Pickup trucks. Plaid shirts. Muddy jeans. Cracked sidewalks.

An exhausted Levi slogs into town.

Finding a bench, he plops down, reaches into his pocket, and retrieves the ball cap.

With his thumbs, he gently pushes at the curve of the bill. He runs his fingers around the stitching.

Up the street, a small car coughs to a stop outside the Post Office, catching Levi's attention. Probably twenty years old, whatever color the vehicle used to be, it's rust colored now.

Alone in the car, ADAMS, mid 30s, picks at a pile of mail. Relatively untouched by life, Adams is a man in transition, evidenced by his slightly mismatched, wrinkled clothing.

He chooses one or two envelopes, sets the rest aside and reaches for the car door.

Before he can get out, a large pickup truck pulls up, bumping the car from behind.

SAUL, 30s, hops out of the truck. With a confidence matching his large size, and without so much as a glance around, he saunters into the Post Office.

Adams calmly starts the car and pulls it forward a few feet. He slides out of the car, checks the back bumper, then heads for the Post Office, mail in hand.

As Adams approaches the door, it swings open and Saul, looking down at a pile of mail, pushes out. Rather than hold the door for Adams, Saul lets it swing closed.

Saul brushes past Adams and Adams, trying hard to ignore him, disappears into the Post Office.

Saul reaches inside Adams' car and pops the hood.

Saul briefly messes with the engine, drops the hood, and jumps into his truck.

As Saul peels down the street, Levi calmly stuffs the ball cap in his pocket and leans back.

He glances to the Post Office, where Adams, having dropped off his mail, walks back to his car.

Adams tries to start the car, but the rust bucket won't cooperate. Reluctantly, Levi walks to him.

LEVI
Pop the hood.

ADAMS
I'm all right. Thank you.

LEVI
Just pop it.

Adams does.

Levi tinkers a bit, motions for Adams to start the car.

When it starts right up, Levi closes the hood and walks away, in the opposite direction from where he entered town.

Adams jumps out of the car and chases after him.

ADAMS
I'd like to say thank you.

Levi doesn't slow down.

LEVI
You just did.

ADAMS
How about lunch? You look hungry.

Adams fights to keep up.

ADAMS
A few bucks to help you along?

Levi stops.

LEVI
How far to the nearest town?

Adams looks back, points.

ADAMS
Eight, ten miles.

LEVI
Nearest town, not that direction?

ADAMS
That'd be Columbia. Probably thirty miles. Straight out this road, take a right after the bridge.

LEVI
There you go. We're even.

Levi walks away.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Levi, having reached the edge of town, passes a tavern.

In the back, a WORKER unloads supplies from a truck. He wheels cases of liquor into the building.

After the door closes, Levi slinks to the truck and peeks inside. He sees booze. Lots of it.

He quickly fills his pockets, only stopping long enough to chug a bit of the hard stuff.

INT. STOPGAP BEDROOM - DAY

Still-unpacked moving boxes line one wall of what looks to be a converted office.

There's a mini-fridge in a makeshift corner kitchen and piles of dirty laundry scattered about.

A TV CHIRPS in the corner.

TV REPORTER

The tornado, which first touched down in Kansas, cut a 150-mile path of destruction across Missouri before dissipating near the town of Moberly. It's believed to be the longest recorded tornado track since the infamous 1925 Tri-State tornado covered 174 miles, killing 695. While not as deadly, last weekend's storm killed seventeen and left countless others homeless.

Levi pulls himself awake, sits up in bed, and tries to rub the pain from his temples.

TV REPORTER

One of the stranger stories to emerge from the catastrophe, that of a missing death row inmate, scheduled for execution just as the tornado struck a Lansing, Kansas prison. Wanted for murder, but presumed dead, the prisoner remains the subject of a multi-state search.

FBI SPOKESPERSON

This was a powerful storm that killed, among others, four of our finest. While we're certain that this individual could not have survived, we are asking --

Levi rises, snaps the TV off.

On top of a box next to his bed, a note catches his attention: "V-8 IN THE FRIDGE." Next to the note, a bottle of Aspirin and a glass of water.

Levi grabs a few pills and quickly downs them.

He checks his pocket. The ball cap is still there.

He limps over, grabs a T-shirt.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Levi shuffles down a short, institutional-feeling hallway, carrying the T-shirt.

He spies a men's room.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - DAY

Levi splashes water on his face. Then, using his finger, he brushes his teeth.

He grabs the T-shirt, holds it up. On the front of the shirt, a cartoon character gives a big thumbs up. Over its head, the words: "GOD IS GREAT!"

Levi rips the T-shirt into several long pieces.

Levi pulls off his own shirt. Like the rest of him, his back and chest are scarred. He wets the T-shirt remnants and cleans himself up.

Levi grabs the last remnant, limps into a stall, props his foot on the toilet and unwraps his ankle.

Already, the healing is evident. It looks considerably better. Unusually so.

He rewraps the ankle with the fresh cloth and tosses the bloody rag into the trash.

Levi pulls his shirt on, runs his fingers through his hair and heads out.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Levi hears muffled voices as he approaches a closed door.

Pressing in, he listens. One voice is familiar.

ADAMS (O.S.)

And so God says, ask and it will be given unto you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. He says it three different ways in one verse. Ask. Seek. Knock. He will answer.

TOM (O.S.)

Amen.

ADAMS (O.S.)

I think that's a great place to finish. So, go. Ask. Seek. Knock.

Several people file out of the room, Bibles in hand. Among them is an older gentleman, TOM, 60s, who walks with Adams.

TOM

You doing okay, Reverend?

ADAMS
Settling in, I guess.

Adams sees Levi.

ADAMS
You look better this morning.

LEVI
This is your church?

ADAMS
Humble as it is.

LEVI
How did I -- ?

ADAMS
-- Tom found you last night. Passed
out on the church doorstep.

TOM
For the record, I don't think you
look any better today.

Tom turns to Adams.

TOM
Remember. People are like cats. If
you feed them, they'll never leave.

Tom winks at Levi, then pats Adams on the shoulder.

TOM
We'll catch up later.

He heads out as Adams leads Levi down the hall.

LEVI
It's been twenty years since I
drank like that.

ADAMS
You must've been a hard-charging
twelve-year-old.

LEVI
I'm older than I look.

Adams motions to an office.

ADAMS
I've got some phone calls. Just
make yourself at home.

ADAMS (CONT'D)

There's some food in my room, but
you might have to search for it.
I'm a bit disorganized right now.

Adams ducks into the office, leaving Levi to himself.

INT. CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

A large wooden cross hangs on a dingy white wall.

A crumpled wrapper bounces off of it, landing near several
others just like it.

Levi sits in the first row of pews. He unwraps a fresh
breakfast sandwich.

It's a simple church, the cross behind the lectern the only
item with any real presence.

LEVI

Seventeen people?

Disgusted, he tosses the wrapper at the cross.

From the back of the room, a voice startles him.

ADAMS

You're talking about the tornado.

Adams clutches a Bible, tightly, in one hand.

ADAMS

You want to know why bad things
happen to good people.

Levi turns to him.

LEVI

Good, bad, indifferent. Those
people were neutral. Your god is a
real son of a bitch, Reverend.

ADAMS

So he's not your god?

LEVI

He took my livelihood. He took my
family. Then, he took my only means
of escape. So, yeah, fuck him.

Adams picks up Levi's crumpled wrappers, sits next to Levi.

ADAMS
I'd ask you to be more respectful,
please.

LEVI
You talk to God?

ADAMS
Every day.

LEVI
Me, too. He ever talk back?

ADAMS
Every day.

LEVI
Bullshit.

Levi grabs the Bible, holds it behind his back.

LEVI
Now listen. What do you hear?

ADAMS
I --

Levi waves him off, listens intently.

Adams fidgets in the silence, until finally, Levi tosses the Bible back to him.

LEVI
Nothing.

ADAMS
I feel Him, His presence.

LEVI
Not good enough.

Adams cocks his head, unsure of a response.

LEVI
You know the difference between you
and me? You believe God exists. I
know He does.

Levi stands.

LEVI
That's the problem.

He walks out.

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE - NIGHT

Rev. Adams writes at his desk.

Levi saunters in, clearly bored. He grabs a chair, leans back and props his feet on the Reverend's desk.

LEVI

What are you working on?

ADAMS

This week's sermon. On baptism. I can share if you're interested.

Levi laughs.

LEVI

Pass.

ADAMS

Are you baptized? We could --

Levi waves him off.

LEVI

-- I can't be saved. You have a family?

Adams hesitates. His eyes instinctively dart to an overturned photo on his desk. He moves to change the subject.

ADAMS

I don't even know your name. Most people call me Reverend. Or, Reverend Adams. But, my --

LEVI

-- Call me whatever you want.

Levi reaches for the photo.

ADAMS

Please don't.

Levi studies Adams' face, withdraws his hand. Adams snatches the photo and drops it in his desk drawer. Levi doesn't see it, but the photo is of a smiling Jordan and Isaac.

LEVI

Aw, you fucked it up, didn't you, Reverend?

ADAMS

I wouldn't put it exactly that way,
but --

LEVI

-- But you fucked it up.

ADAMS

I'd like to talk about you.

Adams pulls out a vial of water.

ADAMS

We don't even have to go into the
sanctuary.

Levi stands, ready to escape.

LEVI

No thanks.

Adams backtracks, setting the vial on the desk. He motions
Levi to stay.

ADAMS

I won't push. Promise.

Levi leans in.

LEVI

What'd you do? Screw around?

Adams sighs, surrenders to the conversation.

ADAMS

My wife kicked me out.
(off Levi's look)
For being jealous.

It's muted and introspective, but Levi laughs.

LEVI

Jealousy will kill you every time.

Levi picks up the vial of water. He casually flips it while
the conversation continues.

ADAMS

She told me not to come back until
I can trust her.

LEVI

So go back.

ADAMS
I don't know if I can.

LEVI
She's probably testing you.

Levi holds the water in the air for closer examination.

LEVI
Doesn't look holy.

Adams reaches for the vial, but Levi pulls it back.

ADAMS
Aren't you afraid?

LEVI
Of what? Death?

Levi unscrews the cap from the vial.

LEVI
I used to be afraid of death. Now
it's just the dying that makes me
nervous. Let me tell you, that
hurts.

He smells the water, then drinks it.

LEVI
But, death? I'd welcome it.

Levi stands, drops the empty vial into the trash can.

LEVI
Your jealousy, or your wife. You
can only love one.

He walks out.

INT. CHURCH - STOPGAP BEDROOM - NIGHT

Levi snaps awake to a bright light. The clock on the wall shows 2 a.m. But, Adams is up, dressed, and full of energy.

ADAMS
Sorry. Had to find my shoes.

Adams turns the main light off, flips on a smaller light. He pulls on his shoes.

LEVI
Going out for a night of drinking
and drugging, Reverend?

ADAMS
What? No, I --

LEVI
-- I'm kidding. You've got Bible
college written all over you.

Levi rolls over to sleep.

LEVI
You're going back to her.

ADAMS
I've got to try. I love her.

LEVI
You left her. It'll be harder now.

ADAMS
In my defense, she told me to
leave.

LEVI
And you did.

Adams clicks off the light, stands in the doorway.

ADAMS
You're welcome to stay. At least
until you heal up.

LEVI
I'm a fast healer.

ADAMS
Whatever you need.

Adams closes the door.

LEVI
I doubt that.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

An old tire swing hangs from a tree along the banks of a
country stream. On the bridge above, a hiker. It's Levi. The
splint on his hand and the limp in his gait are both gone.

About halfway across, he spots the swing.

EXT. STREAM BANK - DAY

Levi, climbing the tree, reaches the rope and unties it. The tire and rope drop to the edge of the stream.

Levi climbs down and takes the rope.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Levi stands on the edge of the bridge, outside of the main metal structure. The rope is now tied to two places: one end to a METAL HANDRAIL on the bridge, the other around his neck.

LEVI

I don't care what you do with me
after. Just let me go.

He takes a deep breath, looks to the sky.

LEVI

You understand? I'm asking.

Levi leans forward, plummets toward the creek. The rope snaps tight. He instinctively struggles as he swings back and forth, below the bridge.

On the bridge above him, the handrail gives way.

Levi drops fast, landing hard in the middle of the stream.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Soaked, Levi sits in a puddle on the edge of the bridge, legs dangling. Fresh rope burns ring his neck.

Frustrated, he reaches over to the handrail, now just a metal bar which juts, bent and broken, from the bridge structure.

He bends the metal bar until it snaps completely off, and angrily tosses it aside.

LEVI

Word of God, my ass.

Down the road, movement catches Levi's eye. A police car rounds a bend, heading for the bridge.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Saul, in full deputy's uniform, stands on the bridge, looking out over the stream, police cruiser parked behind him.

Directly below him, under the bridge, Levi hangs from a deck support. Mere feet apart, neither man can see the other.

While Levi strains to maintain his grip, a stream of yellow liquid trickles inches from his face as Saul relieves himself into the water below.

Saul, finished, zips his fly. He turns to leave, but notices the broken handrail. He looks around. The puddle of water. The metal bar. The tire swing on the bank.

Saul leans over, looks into the stream below. He still can't see Levi struggling to hang on.

Finally, Saul turns and climbs back into the car. Hearing him drive off, Levi drops into the creek below.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Levi climbs from the stream's bank, resumes his hike.

Almost immediately, a car pulls up next to him.

It's Reverend Adams.

ADAMS

What'd you do? Go for a swim?

Levi keeps walking as Adams rides alongside.

ADAMS

Hop in. I'll give you a lift.

LEVI

No thanks.

ADAMS

Come on. I'll be on this road for about ten miles. That's ten miles closer to the next town.

Levi stops. Thinks about it.

ADAMS

I won't try to save you.

Levi gets in.

INT. CAR - DAY

Adams' car is a wreck. The only thing keeping the interior of this car together might well be the exterior.

Adams is deep in thought as Levi picks at the glove box door.

The Reverend glances over.

ADAMS

I wouldn't --

The door falls off in Levi's hands. He tries to replace it, with no success.

ADAMS

Just toss it in the back.

LEVI

Sorry.

They continue in silence until Adams can't take it.

ADAMS

She took me back.

LEVI

I figured.

ADAMS

You were right. She's more distant.
I don't know how to show her --

LEVI

-- You're not going to share, are you? 'Cause I'd almost rather you try to save me.

More silence. But, this time it's Levi that breaks it.

LEVI

It's a crock, you know.

Adams doesn't.

LEVI

You said, ask and you will receive.
I didn't receive.

ADAMS

Maybe you just didn't like the answer.

LEVI
So, it's more like, ask and I'll do
what I want anyway?

ADAMS
No. It's just, God has a plan --

Adams' cell phone RINGS. The Reverend looks at the display,
then to Levi.

ADAMS
You mind?

LEVI
I'd prefer it.

Adams reluctantly answers the phone.

ADAMS
Hello.
(he cocks his head)
I'll be there as soon as I can.
(hangs up)
Hang on.

The Reverend swings a big U-turn, using every inch of
shoulder on both sides of the road. The move is aggressive
and no doubt tests the limits of the car's capabilities.

It also tests the limits of Levi's fear.

LEVI
Holy shit, Reverend.

He steadies himself as they bounce back onto the road and the
car grinds its way to uncomfortable speeds.

LEVI
Is this thing going to hold
together?

ADAMS
I don't know. I've never gotten it
over fifty-two before.

LEVI
Jesus.

Adams smiles.

ADAMS
I've already got you praying.

EXT./INT. CAR - DAY

Adams yanks the car hard left, kicking up rocks as he hits a gravel driveway.

Levi looks up. Their destination is straight ahead.

LEVI

Shit.

EXT. FARM - DAY

The car pulls to a screeching halt and Adams jumps out. Levi lingers, but eventually, reluctantly, he exits the car.

Nearby, an electric company truck idles. But, everyone's focus is on PHILIP, 50s, the utility worker in the tree, and the woman below.

Jordan, baseball bat in hand, is hopping mad and she's giving a full verbal volley to the poor treed electrician.

JORDAN

I have a son. How am I supposed to cook him dinner? Is this what your company stands for?

Adams gently nudges Isaac to the side and approaches Jordan - very carefully.

ADAMS

You need to calm down.

JORDAN

He turned it off. There's no electricity.

PHILIP

She's lost it, Reverend.

Jordan continues to work over her defenseless victim.

JORDAN

I told you I'd pay. I'll pay. You don't believe me? Are you calling me a liar?

PHILIP

I'm just doing my job.

Adams agrees.

ADAMS

Philip's just doing his job.

JORDAN

We're just trying to get by, like everyone else. But, you don't care, do you? You're just going about your day, jumping from farm to farm, happily turning off --

Finally, a loud voice pierces the moment. It's firm. It's authoritative. It's effective.

LEVI

-- Jordan!

She freezes. Turns. Levi strides to her.

LEVI

Let him down. Now.

He softens.

LEVI

The only thing that's going to come from this, is you're going to feel really bad about it later.

It's nearly imperceptible, but she nods.

As Levi gently takes the bat from Jordan, he looks up at the worker in the tree.

LEVI

Go.

The man jumps down, scrambles to his truck and drives away.

Levi flips the bat, pushes it to Isaac.

LEVI

(to Jordan)

You're going to figure this out.

Levi returns to the car and hops back into the passenger seat. He impatiently hits the side of the car.

LEVI

Let's go, Reverend.

Rev. Adams doesn't move, stunned by the moment. Levi leans over, HONKS the horn, very anxious to leave.

LEVI

Come on.

Finally, Adams approaches the car.

ADAMS

How do you know my wife's name?

Now it's Levi who's stunned.

LEVI

Your wife?

He drops his head.

Levi punches the dash, then calmly gestures to Adams.

LEVI

You promised me a ride.

Adams turns to his family, motions them inside the house.

ISAAC

That's the guy.

Adams waves Isaac on and slides into the car with Levi.

INT. CAR - DAY

Levi stares out the window.

ADAMS

So, you know my wife?

LEVI

You could say that.

Adams doesn't like that answer.

ADAMS

How?

Levi turns to Adams.

LEVI

Rather than play this whole thing out, let's just agree to stop it right here. Right now.

ADAMS

What are you talking about?

Levi grows frustrated.

LEVI

I'm talking about the fact that God is punishing me, and it's the people around me who pay the price. I'm talking about telling God that He's finally gone too far. I'm talking about saying no. For once.

He struggles to keep it together.

LEVI

Please. Just, turn the key. Drive me out of here.

ADAMS

I need to know how you know Jordan.

LEVI

I'm not here to steal your wife. Okay? The only thing I want -- the only thing -- is to die.

Levi gathers himself.

LEVI

Right now, I'll settle for a ride to Columbia.

Adams stares, deep in thought. Finally, he gestures to the rope burns on Levi's neck.

ADAMS

Would you like to talk about -- ?

LEVI

-- Fine. I'll walk.

He reaches for the door. The handle snaps off in his hand.

LEVI

Son of a bitch, Reverend. Would it kill you to buy a new car?

Defeated, Levi slumps forward, rests his head on the dash.

ADAMS

Why don't you stay the night? We'll get you a couple of good meals and a good night's sleep. Then I'll drive you all the way to St. Louis tomorrow. I promise.

Levi gently bangs his head on the dash, thinking. Finally, he hands the door handle to Adams.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A small flame flickers in the dimly lit dining room.

Levi and Isaac sit at a fully dressed table, surrounded by half-melted candles. Isaac glares at Levi. Levi takes it.

Adams and Jordan whisper in the adjacent kitchen, but not quiet enough.

ADAMS (O.S.)

I went straight there and came
straight back.

KITCHEN

Adams unpacks several takeout bags. Jordan plates the food.

JORDAN

Well he hasn't said a word since
you left. It's creepy, the way he
looks at me.

DINING ROOM

Levi, embarrassed, smiles awkwardly at the glaring Isaac.

KITCHEN

The disagreement continues.

ADAMS

It's one night.

JORDAN

Whose idea was that?

ADAMS

I'm not real comfortable with this
either, but I feel like God wants
me to help him somehow.

JORDAN

We can barely afford to feed
ourselves.

ADAMS

What do you want me to do? Ignore
every sermon I've ever given?

JORDAN

What I want is for you to take care
of your family. He makes me
uncomfortable. Isaac, too.

ADAMS

He needs help. I think he tried to kill himself.

Jordan relents, just a bit.

JORDAN

I don't want him sleeping in the house.

ADAMS

He already insisted on sleeping in the barn.

JORDAN

Fine.

ADAMS

Seems he doesn't want to be around you any more than you want to be around him.

Jordan shoots Adams a look, angrily plops food onto a plate.

ADAMS

I don't mean anything by it. It's just, he knew your name. And Isaac's.

JORDAN

I told you I don't know him. And, I told you, I'm done answering these questions. You either believe me, or you don't.

Adams relents, pulls Jordan close.

ADAMS

I believe you. I do. I'm just trying to make sense of it all.

He kisses her. She softens ever so slightly.

ADAMS

I'm sorry. I'll do better.

JORDAN

Let's just get through the evening.

Finished prepping the meal, they grab the plates, put on fake smiles and head for the dining room.

DINING ROOM

They all pick at their food in awkward silence.

Feeling Jordan looking at the marks on his neck, Levi pulls his collar higher.

Embarrassed, Jordan tries to make conversation.

JORDAN

My husband didn't introduce you.

Levi glances around.

LEVI

Call me Levi. Like the jeans.

This doesn't sit well with Isaac.

ISAAC

His name's not Levi.

JORDAN

(scolding)

Isaac.

ISAAC

He told me it was Jacob.

Isaac looks at Levi.

LEVI

That's true.

ISAAC

I knew you were lying.

ADAMS

Isaac, that's enough.

(to Levi)

Would you rather we call you Jacob?

LEVI

Call me whatever you want.

ISAAC

How about a liar and a thief?

JORDAN

Isaac, you'll treat our guest with respect, or you'll go upstairs.

Isaac accepts the deal, storms out.

ADAMS

I'm sorry.

LEVI

He forgot murderer.

Jordan and Adams exchange uncomfortable glances.

LEVI

I killed a chicken, remember?

His comment does little to ease the tension.

JORDAN

So, Levi. Do you have a wife?

LEVI

No.

JORDAN

So, no kids?

Levi drops his fork, stands.

LEVI

If you don't mind, I'd rather eat
in the barn.

Adams nods reluctant approval.

LEVI

I appreciate the hospitality.

Levi takes the plate, turns to leave. He stops at the door.

LEVI

For the record, my family is dead.

He walks out.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

A fly buzzes around Levi's empty dinner plate.

Levi looks out from the hayloft window. The moon is bright.
The sky is clear.

The screen door slams.

As Rev. Adams approaches the barn, Levi leans his head back
in resignation.

The hayloft door groans open and Adams calls out from below.

ADAMS (O.S.)
Can I come up? I've got pie. Apple.

LEVI
We both know you're coming up, no
matter what I say.

Adams laughs.

ADAMS
That's true.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Adams and Levi sit, talking, in the glow of the moonlight
that washes in from the window. Levi is nearly finished with
his pie.

ADAMS
She's sending him an apology pie.

Levi laughs.

ADAMS
The look on that poor electrician's
face. He thought she was going to
kill him.

LEVI
I know I did.

When the laughter dies, Levi turns serious.

LEVI
Let's get this over with.

ADAMS
What?

LEVI
You came up here to save me. Last
chance and all, with leaving
tomorrow.

ADAMS
I'm a Reverend. It is what I do.

LEVI
Well, you're too late. God judged
me guilty long ago. Rightly so, I
guess, since I killed a man. Two,
actually.

Adams is a bit rocked by the statement. He gathers himself.

ADAMS

He hasn't judged you, yet. You're still here.

LEVI

I'm still here because that's God's punishment.

ADAMS

What are you saying?

LEVI

I'm saying your god is a vengeful, hateful prick, more interested in batting me around than solving real problems.

ADAMS

It sounds like you're the one making the judgment.

LEVI

Damn right. It's why I have to go. The longer I stay, the more dangerous it gets for everyone.

ADAMS

I don't believe that.

LEVI

As soon as I care about the people around me, he rips them away. It's happened over and over.

ADAMS

You think you're caught in some kind of karmic Groundhog Day?

LEVI

He doesn't just take them out of my life, Reverend. He kills them.

ADAMS

God wouldn't do that.

LEVI

Read your Bible.

ADAMS

But that's not --

LEVI

-- Believe what you want. I don't care to talk you out of your god.

Levi pushes the plate toward Adams.

LEVI

Thanks for the pie.

Adams gets the hint. The conversation is over. Reluctantly, he takes the plates, climbs back down.

INT./EXT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi looks over the farm from his perch in the hayloft.

Down below, the rabbit, using the cover of darkness, nibbles on leafy goodness in Jordan's garden.

Levi hops down the bales.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Levi picks through piles of junk inside the old barn. He pulls out several long metal stakes and tosses them aside.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Levi, hammer in hand, sleeps outside in the morning sun.

He's a muddy, sweaty mess, but the garden next to him has a fresh, new fence.

A loud BANG shakes him awake, the sound of metal on metal.

Across the way, inside the open barn, Jordan works on an old tractor. She's not happy and the tractor takes her full fury as she repeatedly strikes it with a large wrench.

Levi saunters over, casually flipping the hammer as he walks.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Levi approaches.

LEVI

If you just need to beat on something, I'd recommend a different tool.

He offers her the hammer. Jordan stops.

JORDAN
It won't start.

LEVI
Want some help?

Jordan turns her attention back to the tractor engine.

JORDAN
I've got it, thank you.

Levi tosses the hammer onto one of several crowded work counters that fill this area of the barn.

JORDAN
You left your suitcase, last time.

LEVI
It never really was *my* suitcase.

Levi picks through old tools, scattered on the benches. Sideways glances keep him up to date on Jordan's progress, or lack thereof.

JORDAN
I put in some fresh clothes, a little bit of food.

LEVI
Thank you.

JORDAN
You're welcome to shower, too.

LEVI
Thanks.

Jordan looks at Levi.

JORDAN
Seriously. Shower.

He laughs as he continues working his way around the room, examining various junk piles surrounding the tractor.

LEVI
That guy, the other night. Brought you flowers. Who was he?

Jordan stops.

JORDAN
Please don't cause me trouble.

LEVI
I'm not telling anybody, if that's
what you're worried about.

JORDAN
I'm not.

Her attention returns to the tractor.

JORDAN
He's my ex-husband. Sort of.

LEVI
Sort of?

JORDAN
It was a long time ago. We were
only married about a month. Long
enough to get pregnant.

LEVI
Isaac?

JORDAN
Yes. I hadn't heard from him in
almost ten years. He moved to town
right after we got this farm.

LEVI
You hoping to reconcile?

Jordan, still looking over the tractor, responds sharply to
the question.

JORDAN
I'm married. Happily.

LEVI
You don't have to convince me.

He continues picking through the tools.

LEVI
It's just, he watched you take the
flowers inside. Might've gotten the
wrong idea.

JORDAN
I'm getting awfully tired of -- My
husband's a good man.

Levi turns to her.

LEVI

I don't doubt that. But, there's a reason you're out here working on a tractor you know nothing about.

JORDAN

I know enough.

LEVI

Say you get this tractor running. What's your plan?

Jordan snaps.

JORDAN

I'm going to plant these fields.

Levi backs off a bit, moves for the door.

LEVI

It's none of my business.

Jordan gestures to the garden.

JORDAN

Thank you for the fence.

LEVI

I owed you. For the chicken.

He turns to leave, but Jordan stops him.

JORDAN

I don't have a choice.

Levi turns back.

JORDAN

This farm -- my grandpa gave it to me when he died. It's all I have. My husband left me once. If he -- I have to take care of my son.

Levi glances to the sky, shakes his head, then reluctantly grabs a wrench.

LEVI

You replace the batteries?

JORDAN

You know about tractors?

LEVI
Little bit.

He turns his attention to the tractor.

LEVI
This here's an I-H 806 diesel.
Guessing about 1966. You drain the
fuel and check the filters?

He doesn't even wait for an answer. He's a swirl of energy,
grabbing tools and diving into the engine.

Adams pops his head into the barn.

ADAMS
You ready to go?

Levi barely breaks his focus from the engine.

LEVI
Gonna be a couple days.

Adams looks at Jordan. She shrugs.

INT. BARN - DAY

A freshly-showered Levi stands in front of the pile of junk
with Jordan. Isaac dawdles in the corner.

LEVI
I put together a list.

Levi motions to Isaac.

LEVI
It's on the counter.

Isaac reluctantly retrieves it.

LEVI
The tractor's a priority, but we
also need to get the planter in
shape.

Jordan takes the list from Isaac and reads it over. Levi
crawls over the junk, a man on a mission.

LEVI
You've got two weeks to get this
done. Planting season's about over.

JORDAN

There's got to be a thousand dollars worth of items --

LEVI

-- Three fields. About seventy-five acres total. We're planting beans, so, three hundred dollars an acre. That's twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars. Plus repairs.

Jordan is stunned.

JORDAN

How are we -- ?

LEVI

-- Gonna have to sell some stuff.

Levi reaches his destination on the other side of the pile.

LEVI

Luckily, your grandfather was a bit of a collector.

Levi holds up a mannequin. Female, no legs. Naked. Levi spins it around.

LEVI

Not so sure about this.

Isaac, in no mood to give Levi an inch, challenges him.

ISAAC

I like it.

Levi tosses it to him.

LEVI

I guess you would.

Isaac catches the mannequin. A wave of embarrassment quickly sweeps over him when he realizes he's caught it by its breasts. He drops the unlucky lady.

Levi points to an old sidecar motorcycle in the corner.

LEVI

That one, we're keeping. But, this...

He pulls at a tarp, revealing an even older motorcycle.

LEVI
1911 Indian. Single-cylinder, 4
horsepower.

He turns to Jordan.

LEVI
This bike, by itself, is going to
fill your fields.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

A lantern flickers inside the old barn where Levi works on
the tractor.

The barn door slides open and Adams pushes through.

ADAMS
I'm heading into town to grab a few
things. Anything you need?

LEVI
I'm good.

ADAMS
Jordan's working on your list. You
were right about that motorcycle.
Took her less than four hours to
get an offer. Twenty-six grand.

LEVI
Her grandfather had good taste.

ADAMS
Electricity will be back on in a
couple days, thanks to you.

LEVI
(sarcastic)
I'm a real godsend.

ADAMS
I've been thinking about you.

LEVI
Please don't.

Levi motions for a tool, Adams hands it to him.

ADAMS
Why did you stay?

Levi leans his forehead against the tractor, already worn out by the conversation.

LEVI
Just say what you came here to say.

ADAMS
I think, on some level you realize you don't need to escape. You need redemption.

Levi laughs.

ADAMS
God wants you to have it.

LEVI
You telling me that God killed seventeen people to redeem me?

ADAMS
The tornado?

LEVI
It's the reason I'm here.

ADAMS
Far better to believe he killed them to punish you?

Levi lunges to Adams, his anger sparked.

LEVI
Leave it alone, Reverend.

Adams holds his ground, barely. He searches Levi's eyes.

ADAMS
You're filled with uncertainty.

LEVI
Don't push me.

ADAMS
You don't really know what's going on, do you?

Levi calms, concedes the point.

LEVI
It's different this time.

ADAMS
Because God's reaching out to you.

LEVI

It's not that. It's -- He wants to break me.

ADAMS

Why would He want that?

LEVI

Next time you talk to Him, ask Him. He doesn't seem to hear me.

Levi tosses the tool onto the counter and turns off the lantern. He strides out of the barn, leaving Adams alone in the darkness.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Adams fiddles with the radio as he turns out of the driveway. He pounds on the dash, trying to will the radio to life.

Distracted, he doesn't notice a pickup truck sitting on the shoulder of the country road.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Once Adams is past, the truck's headlights flip on and the pickup turns toward the farm.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi sits near the hayloft window, Isaac's ball cap in hand.

Outside, a car door closes. Levi peeks over the sill.

A large man reaches into a pickup truck, retrieves a batch of flowers. He knocks on the farmhouse door.

Jordan answers.

The man hands her the flowers, but, with a glance to the hayloft window, she pushes them away.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Saul, in street clothes, stands on the porch. He pushes the flowers back, but Jordan again declines.

SAUL

I'm just trying to be nice.

Jordan fidgets nervously.

JORDAN
Why are you here?

SAUL
To take Isaac fishing.

JORDAN
It's nearly ten o'clock.

SAUL
Night fishing. He'll love it.

JORDAN
You can't just take Isaac whenever
you want.

SAUL
He's my son, too.

JORDAN
I'm trying to account for that.
But, you can't --

SAUL
-- I'm not trying to cause trouble.
I'm sorry. I'll come back.

Again, she glances to the hayloft window. Levi isn't there.

JORDAN
When my husband's home.

Saul notices the darkened house.

SAUL
No electricity?

JORDAN
It'll be back on soon.

SAUL
Maybe I can help out around here?
Get this farm up and running.

LEVI (O.S.)
Not your concern.

Saul flips around to see Levi, approaching fast.

JORDAN
Levi, this is Saul. My ex-husband.

Saul extends his hand. The gesture isn't as much friendly, as it is challenging. Levi rejects the overture.

LEVI
Jordan doesn't need your help.

SAUL
Well, it's good to know she's got someone looking out for her.

LEVI
She's got a husband for that.

Saul chuckles at the thought, returns to his truck.

SAUL
I'd like to take my son fishing.
Maybe this weekend.

Levi steps toward the truck as Saul climbs in, answering Saul's earlier alpha behavior. Saul turns to Levi.

SAUL
Nice to meet you, Levi.

The sincerity is questionable.

SAUL
Good night, Jordan.

Finally, Saul pulls away, speeds down the driveway.

Levi, on his way back to the barn, calls out to Jordan.

LEVI
You're playing with fire.

Jordan chases after him.

JORDAN
You have something to say?

Levi spins to her.

LEVI
I'm the last guy to give you advice on love. The last guy. But, if you think, in any way, that guy is part of the solution...

As Levi walks away, he points down the driveway, toward Saul.

LEVI
That's a dangerous man.

INT. BARN - DAY

Jordan sets the shotgun next to the door and joins Levi as he pulls a dead battery from the tractor.

Levi glances at the shotgun.

LEVI
You ever shoot anything besides
clouds?

JORDAN
I can handle myself.

LEVI
I doubt that.

He grabs a fresh battery and swings it into place.

LEVI
It's not in your nature.

JORDAN
Yeah?

She grabs the shotgun and marches out.

EXT. BARN - DAY

A tin can sits on a bale of hay.

BANG! The tin can doesn't move.

JORDAN
Not that it's your business, but,
so you know, I'm not interested in
Saul.

LEVI
Why does your husband think
different?

JORDAN
I was, briefly. Obviously. A long
time ago. Even then there was
something about him. Something
uncomfortable.

Jordan loads a fresh shell in the shotgun.

JORDAN
When Saul showed up -- I don't
know. My husband -- shrank.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
For the first time, I felt
vulnerable around him. Almost
alone.

BANG! She rocks back from the gun's kick. Her form matches
the results. Not good.

Jordan glares at the can.

Another shell. Jordan pulls the trigger, but nothing happens.
She cracks the gun open, looks at the shell.

LEVI
Whoa, whoa, whoa.

He snatches the gun and closes it, securing the unspent
shell. Jordan quickly takes it back.

LEVI
Never open a gun that soon after a
misfire. If that shell cooks off --

JORDAN
-- I'm doing just fine.

LEVI
It's called a hangfire, Jordan.
It's rare, but it can be deadly.

She cracks the gun, replaces the shell, and lines up another
shot. Levi shakes his head, then relents to helping.

LEVI
Rest it against your shoulder and
widen your stance.

She does. BANG. Miss.

LEVI
The Reverend -- when you married
him...?

JORDAN
I can't describe it. It was just,
right.

She lines up the next shot. Levi adjusts her stance.

JORDAN
I want to feel that certainty
again.

BANG. Miss. Dejected, she loads another shell, lines up
another shot.

JORDAN
Guess I'm not very good at this
after all.

LEVI
You're doing fine.

JORDAN
I haven't hit one yet.

Levi presses the barrel of the gun toward the ground.

He marches over to the target, tosses the can to the side and
flings the bale of hay on end, into an upright position.

He moves her closer, pushes the gun up.

LEVI
Go.

BANG. The bale rocks backwards. Bits of hay float to the
ground as Levi grins.

LEVI
Now, can we go back to something
you're actually going to use? Lord
knows, when it counts, you'll never
pull the trigger anyway.

Levi strides back toward the barn.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Darkness blankets the farm.

The barn door slowly slides open. The glow from a small
lantern highlights the shape of the tractor inside.

Someone swings into the driver's seat.

It's Jordan, revealed as Levi lifts the lantern.

Suddenly, the tractor springs to life, belching puffs of
black smoke from the exhaust. The weather cap flaps against
the fumes.

Jordan laughs, leans down, high-fives Levi, then sits back
tall in the seat.

The tractor lurches forward. Stops. Then lurches again.

It turns from the barn and churns down the drive, leaving
Levi in the doorway, silhouetted by the light of the lantern.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

The metal discs of the planter bite at the fertile soil.

Levi sits over the tire of the tractor as Jordan drives.

Levi looks back, checking the progress of the planter. He gives a thumbs up to a smiling Jordan.

In the distance, Adams stands near the field's edge, watching the two revel in their success. He squirms, clearly fighting feelings he would rather not be having.

Levi gives him a nod, catching Jordan's attention in the process. She gives Adams a big, happy wave.

Adams waves back, then turns to the house.

He stops, reaches into his pocket and pulls out his cellphone. He's received a call.

After a brief conversation, he waves for Jordan to come over. She stops the tractor and runs to him.

Levi hops down, watches the two interact.

She takes the phone. Listens. Then hangs up.

Jordan says something to Adams and they hug tightly. He picks her up and swings her around.

It's big. It's happy.

They walk, arm-in-arm, to the house together, lost in the moment, chatting excitedly.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Levi, Adams and Isaac eat a country breakfast.

The electricity is back on. The house has returned to normal.

Levi salts his eggs.

ADAMS

Easy. That stuff'll kill you.

Levi considers the information, then vigorously shakes more salt on all his food.

ISAAC

Can I touch it?

Confused, Levi looks at Isaac, realizes he's staring at the symbol on his forearm. Levi holds his arm out.

LEVI
(to Adams)
You never told me why bad things
happen to good people.

ISAAC
Where'd you get it?

LEVI
I didn't get it. It was given.

ADAMS
We're all sinners.

LEVI
So they deserved it?

ISAAC
What's it mean?

LEVI
It means I'm screwed.

ADAMS
Levi, please. Language.

LEVI
It means I'm going to be around for
a while.

ISAAC
Here?

LEVI
Around.

ADAMS
The wages of sin --

LEVI
-- is what? Death? If only.

ADAMS
I'm saying that we, as humans,
brought death into this world. Now
we pay the price. But, just because
we're sinners and subject to death,
doesn't mean God can't use us for
His glory. We're all instruments of
God.

LEVI
Fuck that.
(to Isaac)
Sorry.

Isaac hides a very small smile.

LEVI
When does God take responsibility?

ADAMS
For sin?

Levi holds up his fork.

LEVI
If my fork is a piece of shit, I
don't blame the fork. I blame the
guy who made it. By his own
admission, God cranks out one
crappy fork after another.

Jordan bursts into the room, a whirl of nervous energy.

JORDAN
It won't start.

Levi looks at her quizzically.

JORDAN
The tractor.

Levi stands, motions to Isaac.

LEVI
Time to get your hands dirty.

Levi and Jordan start out of the room. Isaac doesn't move.

LEVI
I'm not asking.

Isaac looks to Adams for support, but he gets none, so he
pulls himself up.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Levi and Jordan march toward the barn, Isaac trailing behind.

JORDAN
Every time I feel like we're making
progress, something else happens. I
feel cursed.

LEVI

It's a tractor, Jordan. Nothing mysterious about it.

JORDAN

Everything's falling apart. We can't keep up. Last week it was the well pump. This week the mower -- it's too much.

INT. BARN - DAY

As they enter the barn, Levi motions to Isaac.

LEVI

Try to start her up.

Jordan holds Isaac back.

LEVI

You're going to need help. He's plenty old enough.

She lets Isaac go. Isaac smiles as he climbs into the driver's seat and turns the key. Nothing.

Levi inspects the engine. A WIRE is loose.

JORDAN

You found something?

Levi ignores her, replaces the wire and signals to Isaac. When the tractor roars to life, Levi looks at Jordan.

LEVI

Bring Isaac up to speed.

Levi marches out of the barn.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Levi rides the sidecar motorcycle into town, scanning, looking for something, someone.

He spots a familiar pickup truck, parked in front of a diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

A WAITRESS offers Levi a menu as he presses into the diner.

WAITRESS
Welcome to Mac's.

He brushes past, on a mission.

The diner is mostly empty. A few people in a booth, and one man at the counter: Saul, who's attacking a big breakfast.

Levi sits next to him, grabs a small plate and a nearby ketchup bottle.

He squeezes out half a bottle of ketchup onto the plate and, with his hands, proceeds to eat hash browns off Saul's plate, stopping to dip them in the ketchup.

Levi takes a sip from Saul's drink.

LEVI
I know what you're doing.

When Levi dips another bit of hash browns, Saul angrily smashes Levi's hand down into the ketchup.

SAUL
That's my son. My wife.

Levi, flashing in his own anger, leaps up and grabs Saul by the neck and face.

LEVI
Nothing else breaks. You hear me?

Saul doesn't back down.

SAUL
Walk away.

Levi squeezes harder. Ketchup oozes between his fingers.

Suddenly, Levi's memory sparks. Just a flash. He's squeezing Saul's throat, much like today. Only, it's not ketchup. It's blood that oozes between his fingers.

He snaps back to reality. Everyone in the diner stares at the two men.

SAUL
It's not too late.

Levi lets go of Saul, and calmly sits.

LEVI
It is for you.

Saul is curious.

LEVI
She's pregnant.

Saul laughs as he wipes the ketchup from his jaw.

He slaps a ten-dollar bill on the counter, then slides the plate in front of Levi.

SAUL
Keep the potatoes. I really just
wanted the bacon.

Saul takes the bacon and swaggers away.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

An unlit, dusty light bulb hangs by a wire in the center of the loft. A sound: PFFT. The bulb explodes.

Levi sits underneath the window, Isaac's BB gun in hand. He picks another target. PFFT, ping.

Something bumps in the distance. A car door? He works his way to the window and peers out over the farm. A pickup truck sits in the dark, a short distance from the unlit farmhouse.

Near the house, a shadow slithers. A man.

Levi drops the BB gun and races down the bales.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi sneaks past the truck. He's searching, but sees nothing.

Continuing around the house, he looks up, in time to see a man slip into an open window. Like the man must have done, Levi climbs a large TV antenna and hops onto the roof.

Levi peeks into the window.

INT./EXT. FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Isaac sits on his bed while Saul rifles through the closet. Saul grabs a fishing pole, hands it to a hesitant Isaac.

ISAAC
I have to ask my mom.

Saul puts his hands on Isaac's shoulders.

SAUL
I'm giving you permission.

Levi climbs in.

LEVI
Get your hands off him.

Saul immediately spins to Levi. The two men stand face to face, inches apart. Saul sizes up Levi.

SAUL
Last chance.

LEVI
Isaac, get your dad.

ISAAC
My dad's not home.

SAUL
His dad is standing right here.

They continue their stare down, neither man giving an inch.

Suddenly, Saul violently pushes Levi out the window and onto the roof. Saul grabs a nearby baseball bat and scurries out the window toward Levi.

Levi jumps to his feet but Saul overtakes him. He presses Levi against the house, bat across his throat.

SAUL
You think you can turn my son
against me?

Saul turns to the window where Isaac watches, wide-eyed.

SAUL
Nothing to be afraid of, Isaac.
We're just going fishing.

When Isaac balks, Saul grows a little more forceful.

SAUL
Now.

Isaac climbs out of his room and down the TV antenna.

LEVI
I won't let you take him.

Saul leans in.

SAUL

Someone tells you, you can't see
your own son, what would you do?

LEVI

You're not a father. You're a
donor.

Saul steps back and swings hard. The baseball bat catches Levi square in the midsection. The next blow in the knees. He rolls on the roof, in screaming pain.

Saul turns for the antenna.

Leaping to his feet, Levi bull rushes Saul. Together, they smash into the side of the house. The bat tumbles from the roof, to the ground.

Saul pounds on Levi, breaks his grip, then pummels Levi with punch after punch. He's younger, stronger, faster.

He kicks Levi backwards, off the roof.

THUD. Levi lands next to a terrified Isaac. The impact takes Levi's breath away.

Saul hops off the antenna, turns to Isaac.

SAUL

You ready?

Isaac meekly shakes his head, drops the fishing rod.

Saul snatches the rod, grabs Isaac's collar and aggressively pulls him to the front of the house. Isaac actively resists.

Levi struggles to regain his bearings, but Isaac's screams provide the motivation.

Levi sees the bat, grabs it and limps to the front.

As Levi turns the corner, Jordan bursts out of the house.

JORDAN

You're hurting him.

SAUL

Isaac's tough. If he's not, he will
be.

With Saul's attention on Jordan, Levi rears back and delivers the hardest blow he can to Saul's back, rocking him enough to make him let go of Isaac.

JORDAN
(to Isaac)
Run!

Isaac takes off for the hayloft as Saul turns to Levi.

SAUL
Who are you? An ex-boyfriend? A
lover?

Levi stares, wags the bat defensively. He can barely stand.

LEVI
I'm just a guy.

SAUL
I don't think so.

He swivels to Jordan.

SAUL
(mocking)
Are you having an affair?

LEVI
Leave them alone.

Saul lunges at Levi, snaps the bat aside. Again, he lays a severe beating on Levi, blow after blow, eventually forcing Levi to the ground.

Jordan beats at Saul's back, but he turns and hits her hard. She crumbles into a heap.

Saul gives Levi one last kick, then heads for the barn.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Beams of moonlight pierce the darkness as Saul slides the door open and enters the hayloft.

SAUL
Isaac... I didn't mean to scare
you. I'm sorry. I just want to
spend some time with you.

When he gets no response, he climbs the bales toward the window. There, he sees the suitcase and a makeshift bed, but no Isaac.

He hops back down.

The corners of the loft are dark and Saul lacks the courage to explore them.

SAUL
I brought glow-in-the-dark bait.

There's a bump in the darkness behind him. He spins, but sees nothing. His irritation returns.

SAUL
Isaac. Come out. Now.

Still nothing.

SAUL
Shit.

He glances around, but it's just too dark.

SAUL
Fine.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

As Saul strides out of the barn, Adams' car rambles down the long driveway.

Jordan is gone, but Levi, battered and beaten, limps toward the barn. Saul pushes him down and drags him back to the center of the farmhouse driveway.

Saul kneels and pulls Levi's head up as Adams pulls to a stop and jumps out of his car.

ADAMS
What are you -- ?

SAUL
-- Isaac, if you don't come out,
I'll kill him!

JORDAN (O.S.)
No. You won't.

Saul turns to see Jordan standing, defiant, with her shotgun.

ADAMS
Whoa! Everyone calm --

SAUL
(to Jordan)
-- Ten years. Couldn't even bother
to tell me.

JORDAN

Was I wrong?

SAUL

You decide who's a father, and
who's not? Who made you God?

She trembles as Saul slowly steps toward her.

Suddenly, Saul flinches. Blood dots his cheek.

SAUL

What the hell?

He looks up. Isaac stands tall in the hayloft window, BB gun
drawn. Saul flinches again.

SAUL

You little shit.

ADAMS

Isaac, stop!

Saul lunges toward Jordan.

JORDAN

Please.

Jordan cries as Saul rips the shotgun from her with no fight.
He immediately turns it on her.

SAUL

Isaac. Put your peashooter down.
I'm taking you home.
(to Jordan)
That boy needs a good whooping.

JORDAN

Stay where you are, Isaac!

Saul slaps her.

Adams lunges for Saul, but Saul swings the gun around. The
move stops Adams in his tracks.

Saul quickly pivots back to Levi.

SAUL

You're like an itch, I just have to
scratch.

ADAMS

Don't do this, Saul.

Levi looks to Isaac in the hayloft window and mouths the words: "IT'S OKAY."

He looks back at Saul, and down the barrel of the shotgun.

With every bit of energy left, Levi stands. And smiles.

SAUL

You don't think I've got it in me?

LEVI

We've all got it in us. It's just --

SAUL

What?

Levi holds up his arm, displaying the mark.

LEVI

I can't die. I'm completely incapable. God knows I've tried.

SAUL

Let me see if I can't help.

Saul pulls the trigger. CLICK.

He looks at the shotgun. It's a MISFIRE.

LEVI

If it makes you feel better, I still think of you as a murderer.

Saul fumbles with the shotgun. He points it downward to get a good look and cracks the gun open.

Just as he does, the shell EXPLODES, sending shrapnel two directions: out the back end, striking his face -- and down the barrel, into his left foot.

He drops the gun and uses his hands to stem the bleeding from the fresh pellet wounds that now dot his face.

Jordan runs to Levi, who picks up the shotgun. She slaps a shell in his hand and he quickly reloads the gun.

Saul flinches again. He's under attack from above. Isaac is letting fly.

With no options left, Saul hops to his truck. Seething, and with blood dripping down his face and neck, he points toward Isaac. He tries to speak, but his anger chokes his words.

Saul points to Levi, threatening.

A BB pings off the truck hood as Saul drags himself into the driver's seat.

Levi limps to the truck as Saul quickly starts it up.

SAUL
There's a fox in your henhouse,
Reverend.

Levi leans into Saul, through the driver's window.

LEVI
I killed you once. I'll do it
again.

Confusion sweeps over Saul's face. The look in Levi's eyes says he's serious.

SAUL
You're fucking crazy.

Saul peels out, speeds down the driveway.

Jordan runs to Levi as Adams tries to process what he just witnessed. She puts her arm around Levi, supporting him.

Isaac runs to them both.

Adams watches as Jordan and Levi limp to the house with Isaac's help.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Levi sits on the sofa as Jordan gently presses a pack of ice on his swollen face. He puts his hand on hers, holding the pack in place.

Adams slips into the doorway. Jordan pulls her hand away.

JORDAN
I'll get you another pack.

She slides, silently, past Adams, but he stops her.

ADAMS
Are you okay?

She pulls away.

JORDAN
I need to get this.

Her irritation is obvious.

ADAMS
What did I do?

JORDAN
Nothing. You did nothing.

She continues into the kitchen. Adams turns to Levi.

ADAMS
I think you were right.

LEVI
To which particular point are you referring?

ADAMS
You need to leave.

LEVI
That's not happening.

ADAMS
You said it yourself, the longer you're here, the more dangerous it becomes. Well, it became real dangerous tonight.

Levi pulls himself up.

LEVI
He's coming for you, Reverend. He's coming for her. For Isaac, and this farm. Are you going to stop him?

Adams paces the room, still processing the night's events.

ADAMS
The shotgun. How did you -- ? And, what you said to Saul. You killed him? I don't understand.

LEVI
Understand this. I know this man. He's wounded. He retreated. But, he won't quit.

Isaac runs into the room, panicked.

ISAAC
Something's wrong with Mom.

They all rush from the room.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The simple sounds of the house are deafening against a tortured silence. A clock ticks. A sink drips. The house groans against the pressures of even the smallest breeze.

Levi and Isaac sit amidst the stillness. It's difficult to tell which of them is more uncomfortable.

LEVI

So this is your farm?

Isaac picks at the sofa cushion.

LEVI

When we first met, you said, "Get off my land." Like it's yours.

Isaac shrugs.

LEVI

I used to have my own land. A long time ago.

The silence returns. Eventually, Isaac breaks it.

ISAAC

Thank you.

Levi glances up.

ISAAC

For helping my mom and me.

LEVI

You're pretty good with that BB gun.

Isaac smiles, but it doesn't last.

ISAAC

He scares me.

LEVI

I got your back. You understand? We stick together.

Isaac nods.

ISAAC

I'm sorry I called you a liar and a thief.

LEVI
You weren't wrong.

ISAAC
You were just hungry.

LEVI
I'm not a good person, Isaac. Not
like you.

Outside, a car door closes. Levi and Isaac jump up. The front door opens and Adams leads Jordan into the house by the arm.

She pulls away. It's not harsh, just independent.

JORDAN
I'm fine.

She heads straight up the stairs. Adams, slightly frustrated, watches her go. Isaac escorts her.

LEVI
What'd they say?

ADAMS
Doctor wants her on strict bed rest
for a while. She's gonna be okay.
Baby, too.

LEVI
Saul?

ADAMS
Jordan told them she tripped, hit
the table. Didn't even mention him.

LEVI
What?

ADAMS
She doesn't want any more trouble.

LEVI
It's too late for that.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Morning breaks as Levi kneels on the rooftop and taps on Isaac's window.

Eventually, a groggy Isaac appears, slides it open.

LEVI
Let's go. We've got work to do.

Isaac pushes the window closed, but Levi pulls it back open.

LEVI
We don't finish seeding, this
farm's dead.

Still, Isaac hesitates.

LEVI
I'm not going to care more about
your farm than you do.

Isaac relents.

ISAAC
We stick together.

Levi nods, smiles.

MONTAGE - LEVI AND ISAAC BOND

-- Levi pushes the barn door open. The tractor lurches out, Isaac at the wheel, barely in control. Jordan watches from the window, alternating between fear and laughter.

-- In the field, Levi sits next to Isaac as the boy steers the tractor, pulling a planter behind.

-- Re-filling the planter. Isaac struggles to lift a large bag of seed. Levi chuckles, but doesn't help. Isaac fills the seed bins.

-- Isaac drives, alone. Levi stands proud at the end of the field. Isaac turns the tractor, it's too sharp and the tractor tire hits the planter. Levi runs to stop him.

-- Changing the tire. The tractor sits on a jack in the field. Levi and Isaac roll a new tire up to the tractor.

-- Night. Isaac sleeps against the new tractor tire. Levi approaches, smiling. He nudges Isaac awake.

END MONTAGE

EXT. FIELDS/FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi and Isaac walk back toward the house where Adams emerges to greet Isaac with a hug.

Levi beams with pride.

LEVI
This boy's a farmer.

Isaac proudly slips past Adams.

LEVI
Good job today, Isaac.

Isaac disappears into the house.

Levi shuffles to an old water spout and pumps the handle.

Adams follows him.

ADAMS
You worked him hard.

LEVI
I did.

ADAMS
I don't mean to sound ungrateful,
but, why?

LEVI
Why?

Levi rinses his face.

ADAMS
You obviously know what you're
doing. You don't need the help of a
ten-year-old.

LEVI
I won't be here forever.

ADAMS
But, you don't do any of the work.
Maybe you could give him a break.
Take over once in a while?

Levi runs water through his hair.

LEVI
Can't.

ADAMS
Seriously, I appreciate what you're
teaching him, but --

LEVI

-- You can take over. I'll show you, same as him.

ADAMS

My work at the church is the only thing keeping us anywhere close to solvent. All I'm asking is, you spell him once in a while.

LEVI

Told you. I can't.

Levi locks down the pump handle and heads back to the barn. He hollers back over his shoulder.

LEVI

Early start again tomorrow. Have him ready.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi lies in his makeshift bed, struggling to sleep. Ball cap on his chest, he stares at the loft ceiling.

The loft door groans open, snapping him to attention.

JORDAN (O.S.)

I'm coming up.

Levi scrambles to the edge just as Jordan's head pops over the top row of bales.

LEVI

What happened to bed rest?

He reaches out to help her.

JORDAN

I wanted to see your view of things.

Levi pulls her up. She ends up close to him. Face to face.

She quickly diverts to the window.

Levi joins her. They look out, over the sprawling farm.

JORDAN

We must seem so insignificant to God.

LEVI

I haven't seen you for a while,
except for your appearances in the
window. The look on your face as
Isaac drives the tractor --

He makes a panicked face, playfully poking fun. Jordan
laughs, lightly slaps his shoulder.

JORDAN

That's enough.

Levi studies her face as she giggles.

LEVI

I forgot how much I love to see you
laugh.

The comment makes Jordan more curious than uncomfortable.

JORDAN

What's your story?

LEVI

I'm just a guy.

JORDAN

No. You definitely have a story.
I've never seen you before, but --

Levi shakes her off.

JORDAN

I won't think you're crazy, if
that's what you're worried about.

LEVI

My whole life, I've had but one
short window of actual happiness.

He stares out the window, choking back a memory.

JORDAN

Your family?

LEVI

I actually thought for a moment --
a brief moment -- that God...

JORDAN

And now?

LEVI

All I know -- and I'm certain of this -- God wants me here. And that scares the shit out of me.

JORDAN

I want you here, Levi. You've been good for us. Good for Isaac.

LEVI

It won't last. It never does.

In the house below, the dining room light flips on. Adams takes a seat at the table and spreads his work out. Seeing him, Jordan slips away from the window.

JORDAN

I should tuck Isaac in bed.

LEVI

It was nice to have a visitor.

She smiles as she climbs down, slips out of sight.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Adams works at the dining room table. He flips through his Bible, taking notes on a pad.

Movement outside catches his eye. It's Jordan walking back from the barn. Once inside, she heads straight upstairs.

Adams stares out the window, clearly struggling to contain his thoughts.

His trance is broken when headlights appear down the driveway. The Sheriff's car approaches the house.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The Sheriff closes the cruiser door, looks toward the house.

As he adjusts his belt, the passenger door opens and Saul, in full deputy's uniform, slides out.

He walks with a limp and his face is bandaged, but he's definitely smiling. Saul is happy to be here.

He glances up at the barn window, but no one's there.

The Sheriff and Saul approach the house.

Saul kicks at the welcome mat as the Sheriff reaches to knock. Before he can, Adams swings the door open.

SHERIFF

Sorry to bother you tonight,
Reverend. But, I need to ask you
some questions. May we come in?

Adams hesitates, his displeasure obvious.

SAUL

Nice to see you again, Reverend.

Adams can't even look at Saul.

ADAMS

(to the Sheriff)
He's not welcome in my house.

The Sheriff assesses the two men. The tension is clear.

SHERIFF

(to Saul)
Why don't you wait with the car?

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Sheriff sits across from Adams. Jordan sets cups of coffee in front of them and takes a seat next to her husband.

Outside the window, a grinning Saul leans on the car, basks in the moment.

SHERIFF

I know there's a history here. But,
this is serious. So, I need to ask.

ADAMS

Go ahead.

SHERIFF

My deputy says he was out here
visiting the other day, saw a man
living in the barn. Says he didn't
recognize him, so he did a little
digging. Fugitives, missing
persons, the usual.

The Sheriff slides a piece of paper across the table.

SHERIFF

Says he thinks it was this man.

Jordan catches her breath. It's light, but noticeable. Adams grabs her leg under the table.

They're looking at an FBI "wanted" bulletin. Levi's picture. The charge: MURDER. Name: UNKNOWN.

SHERIFF

You know him?

Adams quickly interjects.

ADAMS

You think he was in our barn?

SHERIFF

Saul swears by it. Even says the man shot him.

The Sheriff studies Jordan as she reads the bulletin.

SHERIFF

Went missing from Kansas. Death row. Real dangerous man. They say he was seconds from execution when a tornado ripped the prison apart. Same storm that did so much damage 'round here.

Jordan reads the bulletin. The Sheriff presses further.

SHERIFF

He killed several people.

ADAMS

Saul says he was out here visiting?

SHERIFF

His son, yes.

ADAMS

Ever consider your deputy might be using you to cause trouble for us?

SHERIFF

What's between you two is none of my business.

ADAMS

And yet, here you are, when you ought to be talking to him about stalking my wife and my son.

The Sheriff points to the bulletin.

SHERIFF

This right here is my business.
But, if you've got a complaint, I
can take it down.

Adams, frustrated, storms away. The Sheriff sips his coffee,
still eyeing Jordan closely.

SHERIFF

You got something to tell me?

Jordan wants nothing to do with the question.

JORDAN

Let me see if I can calm him down.

She chases after her husband.

LIVING ROOM

Adams paces while Jordan desperately tries to soothe him.
Their whispered words strain with anxiety.

JORDAN

Take a breath.

ADAMS

You know how many sins I just
committed? I'm covering for a
murderer, to spite Saul.

JORDAN

He's not a murderer.

ADAMS

He is. He told me straight out.

JORDAN

I don't believe it.

ADAMS

Well, I do.

JORDAN

Why is he here?

Adams doesn't understand.

JORDAN

You said it yourself. God brought
him here for you to help him.

Jordan presses in close.

JORDAN

Levi protected us. We owe him this.
At least.

ADAMS

We don't know anything about him.
Not really.

Jordan turns away.

JORDAN

We know he's saving the farm.

ADAMS

Do you love him?

Jordan spins back, angry, but Adams cuts her off.

ADAMS

-- There's a connection. I see it.

She softens.

JORDAN

It's not love.

ADAMS

Then what is it?

JORDAN

I don't know.

Adams paces, struggles to understand.

JORDAN

Did you know that you look at me
differently? Since Saul came back.

ADAMS

I can't compete with him. Or Levi,
for that matter. If that's what you
need --

JORDAN

-- I need you. Without the
judgment. I need the safety of
seeing that you know me, the real
me. I need to know that you still
believe in me.

ADAMS

I don't want to lose you.

JORDAN

Then trust me. And, if you can't do that, trust your God.

With no other choice, Adams steels himself.

DINING ROOM

Adams strides into the room.

ADAMS

Did he call it in? When he supposedly got shot?

SHERIFF

I'll be the first to admit, his story doesn't add up. If it did, I'd have that barn surrounded, Reverend or not. But, I've got to check things out.

Adams folds the "wanted" bulletin, jams it in his pocket.

ADAMS

How long has Saul worked for you?

SHERIFF

'Bout six months.

ADAMS

I'm not a perfect man. I'm the first to admit that. The whole town knows about Saul and me. But, I've been a pastor here for what -- five years? I baptized your grandson last year. Your granddaughter, the year before that. You know me. Do you really know him?

The Sheriff sighs. He rubs his face with his hands, struggles with the moment. Finally, he stands.

SHERIFF

I'm sorry to bother you.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Jordan and Adams see the Sheriff out.

SHERIFF

Thanks for your time.

He notices the fields. The tractor.

SHERIFF
Got the farm up and running?

ADAMS
Learning as fast as we can.

SHERIFF
Nate's got to be pleased with that.

JORDAN
He'll be more pleased when all the
seed's in the ground. We're close,
but not there, yet.

The Sheriff heads for the car. As he does, Isaac runs out of the house. Seeing Saul, he tucks in close to his mother.

ISAAC
Should I get Levi?

Jordan pulls Isaac tighter, as if to signal his silence. Saul perks up. The Sheriff stops.

SAUL
That's his name. Levi.

The Sheriff turns.

SHERIFF
Damn it, Reverend.

He's torn, but he has a job to do.

SHERIFF
I'm going to ask one more time. You
got something to tell me?

Adams doubles down.

ADAMS
Levi is the name we gave our
shotgun.

Jordan glares at Saul.

JORDAN
Our protection.

ADAMS
I told you, your deputy has been
threatening my wife and son. They
don't feel safe when he's around.

The Sheriff, processing, glances at the barn, back at Adams.

SHERIFF

Probably best if I take a quick
peek. Settle my deputy down.

The Sheriff motions to Saul, heads to the barn. Saul smiles at Jordan and Adams, then follows the Sheriff.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The loft door slides open. Flashlights pierce the darkness as the Sheriff and Saul press into the hayloft, guns drawn.

SHERIFF

Anybody in here?

Saul shines his flashlight toward the window.

SAUL

He sleeps up there.

SHERIFF

Can you climb?

Saul nods, starts the climb.

As he peeks over the top, he sees a figure in the corner, sleeping. It can only be one man. Saul pulls his gun, frantically signals to the Sheriff.

To Saul's surprise, the Sheriff motions for them to back out.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Saul trails the Sheriff as they both hustle to the car.

SAUL

We need to take him.

SHERIFF

That man's on the Most Wanted list.
I'm not screwing this up because
you want to be a hero.

The Sheriff sees Jordan, Adams and Isaac huddled on the front porch, watching.

SHERIFF

You. Don't go anywhere.

He grabs the car radio.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

The farm crawls with police cars. Lights flash everywhere. SWAT teams and heavy equipment surround the barn.

The Sheriff holds a bullhorn.

SHERIFF

This is your last warning.

Saul stands next to the Sheriff, bathed in smug satisfaction. Jordan, Adams and Isaac remain on the front porch.

The Sheriff motions to the SWAT team. They stack by the door.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The SWAT team sweeps into the loft. "Move, move, move."

Flashlights canvass the room. The leader motions, they're going up. The team climbs toward the window.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

The SWAT team saunters out of the barn carrying a body.

TEAM LEADER

We got him.

SWAT TEAM MEMBER

He's in pretty bad shape.

They hold up the mannequin, laughing.

TEAM LEADER

Can we get a medic?

Everyone has a laugh at Saul's expense. The Sheriff, angry and embarrassed, approaches Saul.

SHERIFF

I don't want to hear of you coming out here ever again. Understand?

Saul glares at Adams as the Sheriff shuffles away.

The team tosses the mannequin to Saul.

SWAT TEAM MEMBER

Why didn't you tell us he was such a looker?

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The hayloft door slides open and Adams pushes into the barn.

ADAMS

You can come out. It's clear.

A hay bale moves, mid-stack, and Levi wiggles out from a hidden compartment he's built amidst the bales.

Levi jumps down to Adams. His jaw is locked, his eyes filled with determination.

LEVI

I'm going to need the shotgun.

Adams hands Levi the folded bulletin.

ADAMS

Did you do it?

Levi reads it, shoves it back.

LEVI

I already told you I'm a murderer.

ADAMS

I need to know.

LEVI

Why? Would it make me less guilty
if I said no?

Levi grabs a shovel from the corner, tosses it near the door.

ADAMS

I just committed a felony for you.

LEVI

He's coming. Maybe tonight.

ADAMS

God is a God of redemption. But, if
you kill Saul --

LEVI

-- I don't give a shit about
redemption. He's coming to kill my
family.

He searches the hayloft.

ADAMS

Your family?

LEVI
Jordan is --

Levi catches himself.

ADAMS
Say it.

LEVI
-- Jordan was my wife. Isaac my
son. I'm sorry.

Levi spots a length of rope hanging high on the wall. He
looks for a foothold, a way to reach the rope.

Adams spins with a mixture of confusion, jealousy, anger.

ADAMS
Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't
she -- ?

Levi finds a foothold.

LEVI
It wasn't her. I mean, it was, but
it wasn't. I'm the same. She's not.

He still can't reach the rope, so he jumps down.

LEVI
For God's sake, Reverend, it was
another life. For them, literally.
She doesn't even know.

Adams is incredulous.

ADAMS
You can't --

LEVI
-- I killed a man. And, to punish
me, God used Saul to kill them. So,
I killed him, too.

Finding another way up, he grabs the rope and hops back down.

ADAMS
Kill them? What? I don't --

Levi coils the rope.

LEVI
I've lived so long without them.
Watched thousands die.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Some I cared about, most I didn't.
Happened so much, I'm numb to it
all. But God isn't happy with numb.
He wants me to hurt.

Levi slips the rope over his shoulder.

LEVI

That asshole that you so blindly
worship -- He brought them back.

Levi locks eyes with Adams.

LEVI

He's going to kill them again, just
to see me suffer. Saul did such a
good job the first time, God called
him again.

ADAMS

So -- it's about revenge?

Levi grabs Adams.

LEVI

You're not listening. He can screw
with me all he wants, but I won't
watch them die again.

ADAMS

None of this makes sense.

Levi releases him.

LEVI

We're all instruments, Reverend.

ADAMS

Not like that. No. God wouldn't --

LEVI

You think I'm crazy?

Levi holds his arm in the air, the mark on his arm prominent.

LEVI

Seems I'm the only one God's not
willing to kill.

Levi grabs the shovel and heads for the door, but Adams
blocks his way.

ADAMS

Whatever you're dealing with, I
can't let you kill a man.

LEVI

Get out of my way, Reverend.

Levi pushes past. Again, Adams stops him.

ADAMS

I know you think you know her. But,
I'm her husband. I'm Isaac's
father. I deserve to handle this.

Levi tosses the supplies near Adams.

LEVI

Then handle it.

Adams walks past the shovel and rope and stops at the door.

ADAMS

My way, Levi. I'll talk to him
tomorrow. Man to man, like I should
have done months ago.

LEVI

Jesus, Reverend.

ADAMS

My family. My decision.

Adams ducks out, leaving Levi alone with his frustration.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

A full moon casts long shadows across the farm.

A figure moves through the darkness, from the front to the
side of the house. A man.

A light snaps on in an upstairs window. The figure ducks
behind a bush. Jordan's shadow hangs by the window for a
moment. The light turns off.

The figure slides along the house to the back door. He checks
it. Surprisingly, it's unlocked.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The man gently closes the door behind him, clearly not
wanting to attract attention.

As he sneaks into the quiet light of the living room, his face is revealed.

It's Levi.

Choosing his steps carefully, he moves silently across the room, searching.

Finally, Levi sees what he's here for. The shotgun.

He grabs it and checks the chamber. Two shells. Satisfied, he quietly retraces his steps.

Before closing the back door behind him, he stops to lock it, but the knob falls off. He quickly gathers it and sets it, tenuously, back in place. He pulls the door closed.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi hops off the TV antenna and onto the roof near Isaac's bedroom window.

He peeks inside. Isaac is snug in bed.

Levi settles in, on watch.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Rev. Adams flips on the dining room light and tosses his Bible onto the table.

Cup of coffee and a notepad nearby, he skims through the Bible, book of Genesis.

A verse catches his eye. He reads more closely.

ADAMS

The Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest
any finding him should kill him.

He flips the page back, then back again, searching. Almost frantic, he runs his finger down the page.

His hands shake as he reads.

ADAMS

When thou tillest the ground, it
shall not henceforth yield unto
thee her strength; a fugitive and a
vagabond shalt thou be...

He drops his pen, looks toward the barn.

KITCHEN

Bible in hand, the Reverend opens the fridge and grabs a bottle of beer.

LIVING ROOM

Adams plops onto the couch and, hands still shaking, takes a large swig of beer. Resting the Bible on his chest, he sinks back into the couch and looks to the sky.

ADAMS

If you've got anything to say, I'm listening.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi sleeps, his head propped against the windowpane.

Behind him, visible through the window, a sleepy Isaac slides out of bed and trudges out of the room.

Down the driveway a truck turns in, headlights snap off.

Saul has arrived.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Isaac, still half asleep, makes his way downstairs.

He shuffles past Rev. Adams, asleep on the couch.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Saul sneaks into the hayloft.

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Isaac sips a glass of water. Finished, he sets his glass in the sink and glances up to see Saul run from the barn.

The hayloft window shines bright, an orange glow broken only by the dark smoke seeping from within.

ISAAC

Levi.

LIVING ROOM

Isaac dashes past Adams, who stirs awake.

It takes the Reverend a second to process, but he soon sees the burning barn through the dining room window.

ADAMS

Oh my God.

He jumps up, sending the Bible flying. As he turns for the door, he trips on the rug.

He quickly scrambles back to his feet.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Isaac sprints for the burning barn.

ISAAC

Levi!

ROOF

Levi bolts upright. He tosses the shotgun aside and quickly scrambles to the ground.

LEVI

Over here!

Isaac can't hear him.

DRIVEWAY

Saul peels away.

Levi sprints for the barn as Isaac disappears into the burning hayloft.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Jordan shuffles into the dining room, where, outside the window, smoke billows from the loft window.

She gasps as Levi pushes into the barn.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Adams rushes from the house, Jordan follows close behind.

Suddenly, Levi, holding Isaac, leaps from the loft window, chased by flames. They land in the pond with a large splash.

Adams scrambles into the pond as Levi emerges with a lifeless Isaac. The Reverend rips the boy away as a distraught Jordan meets them at the pond's edge.

Adams rushes Isaac clear of danger, lays his son's limp body on the grass.

ADAMS

Please, God --

Levi pushes Adams aside and checks Isaac for signs of life.

He quickly begins mouth-to-mouth.

After a few cycles, he puts his ear to Isaac's mouth, listens. Still nothing. He punches the ground, hard, fights to contain his anger.

LEVI

He did nothing --

He resumes CPR while Adams frantically prays over them.

Isaac's chest heaves as he draws a deep breath. He's alive. Jordan throws herself around Isaac.

Levi collapses back, exhausted from the effort. He looks to the sky and sneers.

LEVI

Fuck you, you son of a bitch.

ADAMS

Thank you, God. Thank you.

Across the driveway, the barn crumbles into a burning heap.

INT. FARM - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Levi frantically searches drawers, shotgun in hand. Finally, he finds what he's looking for: more shells.

He loads up.

As Levi turns to leave, Adams appears in the doorway blocking his exit. Adams puts his hand on the shotgun.

ADAMS

Not this way.

Levi pushes past.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Levi, shotgun in hand, storms out of the house. Adams trails closely behind.

ADAMS

We have to show Saul that he can't stop us.

Levi arrives at the motorcycle, which sits next to the tractor and planter.

LEVI

If you're not going to do what needs to be done, I will.

Adams grabs Levi's arm, points to the tractor.

ADAMS

This is what needs to be done.

LEVI

Someone has to stop him.

ADAMS

Isaac didn't risk his life so you could go on killing.

Ignoring him, Levi drops the shotgun in the sidecar. Adams turns away from him.

ADAMS

I'll figure it out myself.

Adams picks up a bag of seed, but Levi spins and smacks it out of his hands. When Adams leans down to pick it back up, Levi pushes him to the ground.

Adams stands back up, defiant in his passivity.

Levi charges Adams, knocking him to the ground. He pounds the defenseless Reverend.

LEVI

Fight, you coward.

Levi releases his full fury. It's brutal.

As Levi rears back for the finishing blow, Adams struggles to speak through the blood bubbling from his mouth.

ADAMS

You gonna kill me again, Cain?

Levi stops, nearly frozen by the question. A look of recognition sweeps over his face.

LEVI

Abel?

Adams pushes the stunned Levi aside and pulls himself to a sitting position, propped against the tractor tire.

Eventually, Levi stands, leans against the tractor.

Adams closes his eyes.

ADAMS

I always thought my name was a sort
of curse. Reverend Abel Adams.

He laughs at the thought.

LEVI

Stand up.

Adams opens his eyes to see that Levi stands over him, holding the shotgun.

Adams shakes him off.

LEVI

I said stand up.

Adams painfully pulls himself up.

ADAMS

Surrender to God, Cain.

LEVI

It's always surrender with you.

Levi spins the gun around, slams the stock into Adams' hands and kneels on the ground.

LEVI

I killed you.

Levi presses the shotgun barrel to his own forehead.

LEVI

All this -- That's what it's about.

Levi closes his eyes, spreads his arms.

LEVI

God put you in this moment. Your
chance for revenge.

Adams tosses the gun aside.

ADAMS

Just because you don't think you're
worth saving --

Levi leaps up, grabs Adams by the collar.

LEVI

-- God damn it, Abel.

He pushes Adams back against the tractor.

ADAMS

We don't beat Saul by becoming him.
We beat him by showing that we
won't become him.

Levi lets up, just a touch.

ADAMS

He breaks the tractor, we fix it.
He burns down the barn, we build a
new one. He knocks us down, we get
up. That's how we make him stop.

Adams points.

ADAMS

We plant these fields tonight. We
send a message.

Adams wipes blood from his chin, squints through a quickly-
swelling black eye.

ADAMS

But, I need your help.

Levi tosses Adams aside.

LEVI

God you're naive.

Levi picks up the shotgun, notices...

Isaac.

He's obviously been standing there for a while. His anger and
disappointment are palpable. His bloodied father, the raging
Levi. It's almost too much.

Behind Isaac, Jordan seethes.

She approaches Levi.

LEVI
We can't let Saul --

She delivers a hard slap to Levi's face.

Isaac climbs into the seat of the tractor and starts it up.
Jordan tends to her husband as Levi retreats to the house.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A shotgun shell sits upright on the lace of the dining room table. It's knocked aside by a glass of ice water.

JORDAN
Drink.

Levi sits alone at the table, the shotgun, along with a pile of shells, near him.

Jordan retreats to the kitchen. Levi palms the glass with one hand, nervously flips a shotgun shell with the other.

LEVI
I won't see you again. After tonight.

Jordan returns to the doorway.

Levi can't look at her. She can't look at him.

JORDAN
This is my fault. I brought Saul into this.

She turns for the kitchen. Levi lunges, grabs her arm.

LEVI
I know this won't mean anything to you, but I loved you.

She freezes. They lock eyes.

LEVI
I still do.

Jordan's expression changes. The look is familiar to Levi. It's realization.

LEVI
You recognize me.

She pulls free, sweeps out of the room.

KITCHEN

Jordan slumps against the counter, Levi hurries to her.

LEVI
Do you remember?

JORDAN
Do I remember? What? That six
thousand years ago, God chose Abel
to be my husband, and you killed
him?

LEVI
I had no idea what death was. The
permanence. No one did. On some
level you understood that. I mean,
you married me.

JORDAN
Who else was I to marry?

LEVI
I was good to you.

It's almost a question.

JORDAN
I learned to love you.

He's practically pleading.

LEVI
I provided.

JORDAN
You want to be a good person? Do
the right thing.

LEVI
That's what I'm trying to do.

JORDAN
By nearly killing my husband?
Again.

LEVI
I'm sorry --

JORDAN
-- I'm not your wife. Isaac is not
your son.

LEVI
I know that.

JORDAN
Do you?

LEVI
Tell me what to do. Abel says if I
kill Saul, I dishonor Isaac. You
say I dishonor you by protecting
you.

JORDAN
So, you're protecting me?

LEVI
He won't stop.

JORDAN
And you will?

LEVI
I'm not Saul.

JORDAN
Then show it. Because what I saw
out there...

LEVI
I can't let him --

JORDAN
-- Just go do what you were always
going to do.

She storms out of the room.

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Muddy shoes hang off the end of Isaac's bed, as Levi, ball
cap on his chest, lies prone, staring at the ceiling.

He looks around the room, notices the BB gun hung on the
wall, the mannequin in a chair by Isaac's desk.

LATER

He stands in Isaac's closet, smelling the clothes.

INT. FARMHOUSE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Levi stands at the front door, shotgun in hand, looking back into the house.

He soaks it in.

One picture catches his eye. A family portrait. Adams, Jordan and Isaac. Happy.

He sets the gun in the corner and reaches for the doorknob.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Lightning flashes in the distance, silhouetting the tractor as it sits idle near the field. Overhead, storm clouds churn.

Levi marches through the first drops of rain.

Isaac approaches him, heading for the house. He tracks Levi, his eyes filled with the pain of betrayal. Levi looks away.

Adams, cold and beaten, drags behind. He ignores Levi.

When they pass, Levi reaches out, stops Adams.

Isaac continues into the house, letting the screen door slam.

Levi stares at Adams, searches his face. He kisses him on the forehead then cradles his brother's head on his shoulder.

LEVI

My brother.

Adams doesn't hug him back. Eventually, Levi lets go.

ADAMS

The fields are planted. It's in
God's hands now.

Adams disappears into the quiet of the farmhouse, leaving his brother alone in the rain.

Levi whispers to himself...

LEVI

Good-bye, Abel.

Levi climbs onto the sidecar motorcycle and heads into the building storm.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

"Wanted" bulletins line a board inside the tiny, underfunded law enforcement outpost. In the center, ONE FOR LEVI.

A hand reaches up, rips it off the board.

Levi, soaked from the rain, walks to an empty counter, RINGS a bell. Waits.

Eventually, the dispatcher, BEN, 50s, shuffles out, adjusting his trousers. He sees Levi.

BEN

Sorry, I was in the john.

Levi offers him the paper.

It takes a few seconds for the information to register, but soon Ben's hands begin to shake.

Ben takes a quick drink from a nearby coffee cup.

SAUL (O.S.)

I got this.

Saul approaches fast.

BEN

I'll call the Sheriff.

SAUL

Let him sleep.

Levi kneels and Saul quickly has him cuffed.

Saul pulls Levi to his feet. He's not particularly gentle.

SAUL

I'll drive him down to Jeff City.

BEN

That's not procedure.

SAUL

And what part of procedure includes you drinking scotch?

Ben shifts the coffee cup to under the counter.

Saul leads Levi out the front door.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jordan gently presses a wet cloth on Adams' bruised and muddied face.

JORDAN

I remember, I was so lonely, after
Cain killed you. I married him, but
-- then Saul came along. He was
just --

She strokes Adams' cheek.

JORDAN

-- When Cain met Saul, he suspected
immediately.

She looks away, hiding her shame.

JORDAN

He was a jealous man, but, he
wasn't wrong.

Jordan looks back to Adams, tears in her eyes.

JORDAN

Once Cain confronted him, Saul knew
the affair was over. If he couldn't
have me, he said...

She stares into the distance, back in the moment.

JORDAN

I remember Saul's hands. Choking.

Jordan reflexively strokes her neck.

JORDAN

I knew I was dying. But, the thing
I remember most -- I wasn't afraid.

Jordan returns to lovingly cleaning Adams' face.

JORDAN

I understand it now. Somehow, even
in that moment, I knew we'd be
together again.

He sits back on the couch and stretches out his legs. As he does, he accidentally kicks the Bible, still on the floor from the night before.

He picks it up. Clutches it.

JORDAN
Levi's a deeply flawed man. But...

Adams' face strains with emotion.

ADAMS
He's my brother. I can't let him do
this alone.

JORDAN
I'm going with you.

ADAMS
No, you're not.

She sweeps toward the door.

JORDAN
You don't have a choice.

The Reverend chases after her.

ADAMS
What about Isaac?

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rocks crunch as a car skids to a stop on a gravel drive.

The car door opens and Adams sprints around the front. He hustles a sleepy Isaac out of the car and up to the house where Tom and his WIFE, 60s, wait in their pajamas.

Tom's wife takes Isaac and leads him inside.

ADAMS
You have it?

TOM
(about Adams' face)
You alright?

ADAMS
Do you have it?

Tom holds his shotgun up.

ADAMS
I wouldn't ask...

Tom sits back in a rocking chair near the front door, lays the shotgun across his lap.

TOM

I won't move until you're back.

ADAMS

And if we don't come back...

TOM

No one's getting to that boy.

Adams runs back to the car. Before he climbs in...

ADAMS

You're a good man, Tom.

Adams peels away, into the storm.

INT./EXT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

A bobblehead Moses, complete with tiny stone tablets, dances on the dash of Saul's police cruiser as rain pounds the windshield. Saul, driving, stares into the darkness ahead.

Levi calls out from the backseat, behind a metal cage that separates the front seat from the back.

LEVI

I didn't take you for a religious fellow.

Saul taps the bobblehead. It swings wildly.

SAUL

My Nana gave me that. Said, "You never know when you're going to need divine intervention."

He looks into the rearview mirror.

SAUL

But, I don't wait for divine intervention.

Saul reaches down and checks his left pant leg. He's got a GUN hidden underneath.

LEVI

Not sure you'd get the type of intervention you'd be hoping for anyway. How many of those commandments have you broken?

SAUL

Let's see. I've coveted.

Saul thinks hard.

SAUL

And, Lord knows I've taken his name
in vain. Probably dishonored my
parents once or twice.

LEVI

You're missing at least one.

The cruiser approaches the steel truss bridge.

SAUL

Thou shalt not kill.

Saul pulls hard on the steering wheel.

WHAM! The car slams into the first upright of the bridge.

Levi smashes against the metal cage, then slumps back, his
face bloodied. He's out cold.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff's office glows bright, a standout on a dark and
sleepy Main Street.

Adams' clunker of a car skids to a halt in front of the
entrance. The front bumper continues on, bouncing down the
wet pavement.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ben stares at the phone, nurses the coffee cup. Levi's poster
lies nearby.

Rev. Adams bursts in.

ADAMS

Where's Saul?

BEN

Hey, Reverend.
(about his face)
Jesus...

ADAMS

Saul?

BEN

Took a prisoner to Jeff City.

ADAMS

Prisoner?

Ben points to the poster of Levi.

ADAMS

Shit.

Ben is taken aback by the singular burst of profanity.

BEN

Reverend.

Adams calls back as he heads for the door.

ADAMS

Nobody believes that's coffee, Ben.

Once Adams is gone, Ben downs the remaining "coffee" and stares at Levi's picture.

He tosses the coffee cup into a nearby trash can, pops a breath mint and picks up the phone.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Levi shakes awake.

Up front, Saul recovers, punches the airbag out of his way.

Moving slowly, Saul reaches into the glove box, retrieves a paper clip and bends it open.

He steps out of the car and opens the back door.

Saul tosses the paper clip onto the floor of the back seat.

SAUL

Kick the back window out.

Levi looks at him, confused. Saul pulls the gun from his gun belt, points it at Levi.

SAUL

Turn around. Kick it out.

Levi rotates onto his back and complies, kicking hard until the window finally gives way.

Saul rips Levi out of the car, marches him to the middle of the bridge, where he throws him to the ground and uncuffs Levi's right hand.

He steps back, holsters his gun and takes the belt off, then tosses it into the rushing water below.

SAUL

Stand up.

Levi slowly pulls himself to his feet.

Saul punches him.

SAUL

Let's go.

Levi has no problem complying with this order.

He charges Saul and slams him into one of the bridge uprights, then knees him hard in the groin. Saul crumples, but not for long.

He rips Levi's leg out from under him, sweeping him to the ground, then jumps on top of him.

Saul punches Levi in the face, but Levi bucks him off.

The men wrestle for control. They claw, scratch, bite. It's all out war and it's primal.

Saul again pins Levi, but Levi rolls them to the side of the bridge where he pushes Saul's head over the edge. Hands around Saul's neck, he chokes him.

Saul grabs the handcuff dangling from Levi's left arm and pulls Levi's arm out from under him.

Using the handcuff almost as a brass knuckle, he punches Levi in the face, sending him backwards. It's a devastating blow.

Saul snaps the gun from his ankle holster, pulls himself up and stands over Levi.

LEVI

She was never my wife.

SAUL

What?

LEVI

Not really, anyway.

SAUL

You're one crazy son of a bitch.

Saul grinds the gun into Levi's forehead. BANG!

Levi flinches, but he's unhurt.

ADAMS (O.S.)

Drop it.

Reverend Adams holds the shotgun in the air. Smoke drifts from the barrel.

Saul turns his gun on Adams. Adams aims his at Saul.

SAUL

You're interfering with the recapture of a wanted man.

ADAMS

Not what it looks like to me.

SAUL

That's what it's going to look like to everyone else.

JORDAN (O.S.)

I won't fight you.

Jordan approaches the bridge.

LEVI

Jordan, no.

ADAMS

What are you doing?

JORDAN

You can have the farm. I'll be your wife. But you have to let them go.

SAUL

I'll take that deal.

ADAMS

No. Jordan --

JORDAN

(to Adams)

-- Saul is my sin.

She steps between Adams and Saul so that Adams can't shoot.

LEVI

This is on God, Jordan. You have nothing to do with this.

When she's close enough, Saul grabs her and spins her around, using her as a shield. Adams lunges, so Saul presses his gun into Jordan's temple.

He motions for Adams to drop the gun. Adams does.

SAUL
(to Levi)
Cuff yourself to the bridge. Now.

Levi crawls to the railing and does as he's ordered.

JORDAN
But, you agreed --

SAUL
-- I almost missed it. But, you
didn't include Isaac. Honest
mistake, right?

With Levi secured, Saul tosses Jordan to Adams and saunters over to scoop up the shotgun.

SAUL
Prisoner escapes with help from the
two people that most hold a grudge
against me.

Saul aims the shotgun at a bridge upright. BANG! Pellets dimple the metal.

SAUL
Shoot-out ensues.

Saul drops the shotgun and kicks it aside.

He kneels down, gets in Levi's face.

SAUL
Before I kill you, I'm going to let
you watch them die.

Saul stands.

SAUL
Isaac will finally have the father
he deserves.

Levi, his uncuffed arm behind his back, reaches around, searching for something. Anything.

Saul keys the mic on his radio, points his gun to the sky.

SAUL
Officer needs assistance at the
Gardner Bridge! Shots fired!

He pulls the trigger. BANG!

SAUL
I repeat. Shots fired!

BANG! Saul releases the mic. The Sheriff's voice crackles over the radio.

SHERIFF (O.C.)
Hang on Saul. I'm not far.

Saul points the gun at Jordan, but Adams quickly shields her.

SAUL
You want to go first? Fine.

Adams turns to Jordan, pulls her close.

ADAMS
You. Me. Isaac. We were always
meant to be together.

Jordan looks down, but Adams gently nudges her chin up.

ADAMS
I'm not afraid.

The look on his face says, "IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY."

ADAMS
Even if it takes another six
thousand years...

They kiss.

Adams turns back to Saul as Jordan presses her face into her husband's back.

Saul raises the gun.

Levi finally finds what he's looking for: the BROKEN METAL BAR from his suicide attempt. He swings it hard, catching Saul at the knees.

The gun goes flying.

Saul quickly gathers himself and charges Levi.

Grabbing him by the throat, Saul chokes him, bending him back, over the bridge's edge.

BANG!

Saul lets go. He stands, turns to Adams.

Smoke trails from the barrel of the gun in the Reverend's trembling hands.

Saul staggers, then drops to the pavement. Dead.

Adams, in shock, doesn't move.

Jordan runs to Saul, takes the keys off him and quickly uncuffs Levi as SIRENS wail in the distance.

Levi limps to the stunned Adams. He pushes gently on Adams' arm, helping him lower the gun.

ADAMS

You need to get out of here.

Levi takes the gun. The SIRENS grow closer.

LEVI

You don't know me.

Adams is confused.

Levi reaches into his pocket, pulls out Isaac's ball cap. He hands it to Adams.

LEVI

I know you'll take care of him.

The Sheriff's car skids to a stop.

Levi raises the gun. BANG! He shoots Saul's body.

Levi grabs Adams, spins him around, puts the gun to his brother's temple, whispers in his ear.

LEVI

If I could take it all back --

ADAMS

-- I forgive you, Cain.

Levi watches as the symbol on his forearm, the mark of Cain, slowly disappears.

The Sheriff throws the car door open, draws his weapon.

SHERIFF

Give it up.

LEVI

Stay back. I already shot Saul.

SHERIFF
Just drop the weapon.

LEVI
If these two hadn't driven up --
I'd already be three towns over.

Levi locks eyes with Jordan. She mouths: "THANK YOU."

Levi whispers to Adams.

LEVI
Baptize me.

ADAMS
I can't -- how?

SHERIFF
No one else needs to get hurt.

LEVI
(to Adams)
Say the words. Please.

Adams' voice trembles.

ADAMS
Levi --

LEVI
-- My name is Cain. Cain of Adam.
Brother of Abel.

ADAMS
Cain of Adam, in the name of the
Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, for the forgiveness of your
sins --

LEVI
-- God bless you, brother.

He pushes Abel aside, points the weapon at him.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The Sheriff's shots land accurate and hard.

Levi staggers back, to the edge of the bridge.

He watches as Jordan rushes to Adams' side and Adams throws his arms around her.

Finally, Levi falls backwards, arms splayed.

The rushing water welcomes him.

EXT. STREAM - NIGHT

A man floats peacefully down the stream, past a rusting electric chair.

He gazes unceasingly at the stars above.

It's Levi.

He is dead.