

SALVAGE

"Pilot"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. GRASSY SPRINGS PARK - FLORIDA - DAY

A crystal-clear stream, in a deep-woods slice of Old Florida charm: cypress trees and Spanish moss. Now a charming GLASS-BOTTOM BOAT appears. On it, TOURISTS -- including a 10-year-old BOY -- gaze down through the glass bottom and listen to a GUIDE:

GUIDE

They say ol' Ponce De Leon came to Florida to look for the Fountain of Youth. A way to turn back time. Well, you're looking into the past right now: rainwater from years ago, coming back up in the spring. What goes up always comes down... and nothing buried stays down for long.

And as we and the boy strain closer to the glass... the boat passes over a *DEAD BODY!* Eyes wide, staring up at us horribly, and as SCREAMS of tourists fill the swamp, we SLAM to a TITLE CARD --

SALVAGE

EXT. GULF OF MEXICO - THE BOTTOM - DAY

SILENT down here, but for a scuba diver's BREATHING. In the sparse debris field of a 1920s SHIPWRECK, we find the DIVER sitting, cross-legged, on the sand. Just sitting. This is JIMMY HILL, 40, strong and smart and quiet. CLOSE on him -- behind his clear mask, HIS EYES just staring ahead, as --

YOUNG JIMMY (*PRE-LAP*)

Is that real gold, Dad?

EXT. SALVAGE BOAT, "THE LONG NAP" - DAY (**30 YEARS AGO**)

ON YOUNG JIMMY, 10, eyes staring at a single, gleaming GOLD SPANISH DOUBLOON, dated 1715, in his FATHER'S HAND. REVEAL his dad, GUY HILL, having just come up from a dive in the Gulf, with a small display of artifacts from the bottom: some broken plates, iron rivets, and this one shiny coin.

GUY

It is, Jimmy, and I can sell it for enough to keep our salvage business going while we find the rest.

YOUNG JIMMY

How much, after the State's cut?

GUY
 (winks)
 All of it, if the State don't know.

YOUNG JIMMY
 (frowns a bit)
 Yeah but... the law says they get a
 percentage of any treasure we find.

Guy eyes his son. Lesson time.

GUY
 I ever tell you about a Pirate by
 the name of Gentleman John Lawless?

QUICK POPS - ACTION FOOTAGE of PIRATE SHIPS in raging seas.

GUY (CONT'D)
 A poor man, who set out to sea to
 remedy the situation. Not far from
 here, he encountered the *Santa
 Bella*, the pride of the Spanish
 fleet, loaded with gold and jewels.
 And without a thought, he attacked!

QUICK POP - a BROADSWORD being slipped from a SCABBARD.

GUY (CONT'D)
 The Spaniards were so surprised by
 this raggedy punk, he took the ship
 without a single shot being fired.

QUICK POP - a CANNON FIRES

GUY (CONT'D)
 Or maybe one shot. Point is, he
 took the treasure -- this treasure --
 from the Spaniards, which they had
 taken from the Aztecs. The entire
 history of Florida is men coming
 here with what they stole, and
 other men coming to steal it from
 them. It's the bedrock of the
 economic system. And the money
 belongs to who has it.

CLOSE ON JIMMY, taking that lesson in, and MATCH TO --

EXT. GULF OF MEXICO - THE BOTTOM (**PRESENT DAY**)

Adult JIMMY, sitting on the bottom. A SHADOW passes, and we
 look up at a SHARK, swimming slowly near the surface. Jimmy
 just watches the shark pass, silhouetted against the sun.

EXT. DOCKS — DAY

The Gulf side of town, blue water under sunny skies. Jimmy exits his boat -- the *Long Nap*, the same salvage boat we saw in the flashback but pretty time-worn. As he heads toward the dockside BAR, holding a crusted-metal chunk of SALVAGE from the Gulf bottom... his path is blocked by two rough, threatening STRANGERS: POP and ENRIQUE. Jimmy stops. Beat.

JIMMY

Help you gentleman?

The larger one, Pop, leans close, talks too loudly.

POP

YOU BEEN DIVING OUR CLAIM?

JIMMY

(beat; turns to Enrique)

Why is he yelling at me?

ENRIQUE

It's a hearing thing, don't worry about it.

POP

WE HAVE A CLAIM ON THE *SANTA BELLA*.
DIVE OUR CLAIM YOU END UP FISH FOOD.

JIMMY

Okay. First? Shhhh. Second...

(re his salvage piece)

This is the cast-steel compass off a 1921 Ecuadoran steamer called the *Coronado*. The *Santa Bella* was an all-wooden Spanish galleon that went down in 1715, about 200 years before steel ships, so we can agree this compass is not from the *Santa Bella*. And third, you can only claim the *Santa Bella* if you find the *Santa Bella*, and the *Santa Bella* isn't out there, so the only thing you actually have a claim to is being the ugliest man on this dock.

Pop turns red with fury, and takes a huge SWING at Jimmy -- who calmly raises the steel compass to block Pop's fist. Crunch. Pop YELLS in agony, his hand probably broken.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

See? Steel.

And Jimmy continues on his way, as --

SHERIFF WARD (PRE-LAP)
There's turbulence. Underneath.

EXT. GRASSY SPRINGS PARK - DAY

We're looking DOWN into the water, where the BODY from the first scene, a 16-year-old BOY, turns slowly, 8 feet down, like on a record player, arms splayed, face up and staring.

SHERIFF WARD (O.S.)
 It's why he won't float up.

WIDEN TO REVEAL that the beautiful, unspoiled spring is now under the control of Bel Grove Sheriff Department, which has blocked off the shoreline area from gawking tourists. SHERIFF GALEN WARD (43) and DEPUTY KATIE COLLINS (36) are in the glass-bottom boat, looking down on the dead boy. The Guide is keeping the boat in place. Katie wobbles her head in little circles as the boy turns, trying to look at him.

KATIE
 Are we even sure it's Rory Boone?

GUIDE
 It's Rory. My boy and him are on the wrestling team together.

DEPUTY EDDIE (O.S.)
 Hey Sheriff! You want this?

On the shore, DEPUTY EDDIE TURK stands holding a 10-foot FLAGPOLE, the American flag still on it. Ward calls back --

SHERIFF WARD
 Why would I want that, Eddie?

DEPUTY EDDIE
 To poke him out. It's all they had.

KATIE
 Don't dip the flag on the ground.

Now the Sheriff and Katie see a CAR drive up to the police line. Sheriff Ward grimaces and calls over to Eddie --

SHERIFF WARD
 Parents are here. They can't see you stabbing at their boy like a piece of fondue, get your mask and fins and go in after him.

He signals to the Guide to take them back over. As the boat heads slowly toward shore, the boy's PARENTS get out of the car, the MOM shrieking, being held back...

KATIE

I can talk to them, tell them it's too early to know what happened.

SHERIFF WARD

We know what happened. He drowned.

KATIE

(confused)

Well. I mean... maybe, but... we need to hear from the Medical Examiner, and I could see a head laceration I'd like checked out --

SHERIFF WARD

Katie. You're not from here, so you don't know, but kids do this -- dive down in the spring and hit their head on the rocks, dive too deep. It's tragic, but these things happen. And it was an accident.

KATIE

I haven't lived here long, no sir, but long enough to notice that the citizens seem very accident-prone.

SHERIFF WARD

Implying what, exactly?

KATIE

Just that "These things happen" is the number one cause of death in this town, second only to "It's a mystery" and "Just drop it, Deputy."

The boat arrives at the dock. Ward steps out, turns back.

SHERIFF WARD

I'm about to go talk to Mr. and Mrs. Boone, that's Tom and Annabelle, who I've known for years, and give them the worst news they will ever hear. This is not Atlanta, where murder and mayhem are growth industries. If you prefer that, you're welcome to return; but this is a nice town, where people's feelings come first, and those parents do not need theirs stirred up any worse. Rory Boone's death is an accidental drowning, Deputy, and you are to treat it as one, now and forevermore. Okay?

Ward heads off to the parents. Katie's angry, frustrated.

INT. "BOUNCY'S BIG CLOWN" BAR — DAY

The lively old bar at the docks, a shabby but fun place where tourists and locals mix, and where at the moment is a KARAOKE SETUP in a far corner and a pretty young TOURIST at the karaoke mic, singing a wobbly *Margaritaville*.

PRETTY YOUNG TOURIST
 NIBBLING ON SPONGE CAKE
 WATCHING THE SUN BAKE...

AT THE BAR, Jimmy eats and talks to the large owner, BOUNCY.

JIMMY
 So who were those assholes, before?

BOUNCY
 Narrow it down, Jimmy, I seem to be awash in assholes these days.

JIMMY
 Loud-talker, and his little friend.

BOUNCY
 Treasure divers. Loud-talker used to be an underwater welder, 'til a bull shark scared him and he shot to the surface too fast and one eardrum popped. Now they call him Pop. And he's afraid of sharks.

JIMMY
 And they're after the *Santa Bella*?

BOUNCY
 For a syndicate out of Buffalo. And since that ship went down with 300 million dollars on it, they're keen to have it to themselves, so maybe steer clear of those guys.

JIMMY
 I'm trying to steer clear of everyone, Bouncy. My fantasy is that I go out on my boat one day, and when I come back I'm invisible. I can walk among people, but no one sees me or ever talks to me.

BOUNCY
 In this scenario, can you pick things up, or eat?

JIMMY
 I believe so, yes.

BOUNCY

And could people walk through you,
and if they do, could you hear
their thoughts?

JIMMY

You've already done more thinking
about this than I have.

CARL CHAMBERS (O.S.)

Jimmy Hill? I KNEW that was you!

A businessman Jimmy's age, CARL CHAMBERS, arrives grinning.

CARL CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

I just heard you moved back to town.

JIMMY

Yeah, two months now... um...?

CARL CHAMBERS

Carl Chambers! Bel Grove High?
It's okay, you've been gone a long
time. Lot of changes, huh?

JIMMY

Quite a few, yeah.

CARL CHAMBERS

The old Bel Grove Savings Bank
closed, you see that? Me, I work
at SunCoast Bank. Was gonna be
manager, some things happened, word
to the wise, cocaine makes a very
poor Secret Santa gift. Point is,
we took over a bunch of loans from
Bel Grove Savings, and among those
is the note on your Daddy's boat
out there. Small world! Anyway,
when you see him, tell him he's ten
months behind, it's up to \$4500, so
we're gonna need that whole amount
in a week or we'll have to take it.

(claps Jimmy's shoulder)

Good to see you, man! Welcome back!

Carl leaves. Jimmy sighs, pays his check to Bouncy.

JIMMY

Am I invisible, yet?

BOUNCY

(staring out window)

Yeah, you are, because I don't see
anyone but her.

Jimmy looks OUT THE WINDOW to the street -- and freezes at what he SEES: driving into town in a convertible (**SLO-MO**) is the beautiful GWEN DANIELS (Jimmy's age, looks younger, moneyed and mysterious, a knockout). Jimmy is really thrown.

JIMMY

Gwen Daniels...

BOUNCY

Duke Daniels' daughter? I thought she was a myth. I've lived here six years, never seen her in town.

Gwen pulls to the curb, across the street, and lets a hard-looking male STRANGER out of the car, with a bag.

BOUNCY (CONT'D)

Him, either. You know that one?

As Gwen drives off, Jimmy keeps his narrow eyes on the stranger: Jimmy definitely knows him.

EXT. BEL GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

School's letting out. As Deputy Katie waits in line in her Sheriff Dept. vehicle, she's on a SPEAKER-CALL.

KATIE

(to speaker)

Deb, let me talk to Larry, okay? I want to get his verbal report on Rory Boone before he writes it up.

As Katie gets put on hold, her passenger DOOR opens and her son CHIP (11, adopted Asian, a regular kid) gets in.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Hey. You have your homework?

CHIP

Yep. We need to go to the store.

KATIE

(starts to drive)

Okay why?

CHIP

I need stuff to build a project about Florida, it's due Monday.

KATIE

Monday? Chip, how long have you --

The dull VOICE of the MEDICAL EXAMINER comes on the speaker.

MEDICAL EXAMINER (ON SPEAKER)
Medical Examiner.

KATIE
Oh! Hey, Larry, sorry, I'm with my
son now, so --

MEDICAL EXAMINER (ON SPEAKER)
Hi, Katie, you wanted my report on
the condition of that boy's body?

KATIE
Yes, but like I said my son is in
the car --

MEDICAL EXAMINER (ON SPEAKER)
(doesn't hear; overlapping)
It was discovered floating face up,
which points to a minimal rate of
tissue decomposition as well as off-
gassing from bacterial cavity bloat --

CHIP
What's cavity bloat?

KATIE
Nothing. Larry, can we --

MEDICAL EXAMINER (ON SPEAKER)
-- and water temperature is a big
factor in decay, plus the scavengers
tissue-feeding, but his being in
salt water helps me narrow the frame --

KATIE
Wait, what?

MEDICAL EXAMINER
(ON SPEAKER)
--to the death occurring 24
hours prior to discovery --

KATIE
Larry! Stop. You said salt water?
He wasn't in the Gulf, he was in
the woods, in a freshwater spring.

MEDICAL EXAMINER (ON SPEAKER)
Well, he definitely had salt water
in the lungs. Want me to call
Sheriff Ward with a verbal?

KATIE
No. No, write it up and send it to
me. I'll give it to him. Thank
you.

She hangs up. Okay, there is a case here. But now what?

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - DAY

A cute old bungalow that Jimmy's fixing up. There's some LUMBER and TARPS, and beside the steps CEMENT and a TROWEL. A faded pair of plaster SEAHORSES are mounted by the door. Jimmy exits his truck, waves to the OLD WOMAN who's lived next door for 40 years, MS. LEE -- who's putting a little homemade DRESS on the plaster GOOSE STATUE by her porch.

JIMMY

(calling over; re goose)

Hey, Ms. Lee. Lady Featherstone's looking sharp today.

Jimmy starts to go up his new concrete steps, fresh-poured this morning -- and stops. There are little ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS dried into the steps. Jimmy sighs: dammit.

GUY HILL (PRE-LAP)

"What is a Murder of Crows?"

INT. GUY HILL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Family dinner at the old beach house where Jimmy grew up and his dad -- Guy Hill, now 69, gruff and difficult -- still lives, with Jimmy's divorced younger sister MISSY (34, a kind and hopeful mess). Jimmy and Guy are at the table as Missy starts to clear dishes. ON THE TV in the other room, *Jeopardy* is on MUTE, and Guy occasionally watches.

JIMMY

Dad, turn off the TV. I want to know how you got \$4500 behind on your boat loan.

GUY

I'm not.

JIMMY

Carl Chambers enthusiastically disagrees.

(re dishes)

Missy, sit down, I'll do those.

MISSY

No, you finish up. I have to go in and do a shift for Ella Newly, she has her social worker home visit tonight to maybe get her kids back.

GUY

(to TV)

"What is the Northwest Passage?"

Jimmy TURNS OFF THE TV.

JIMMY

You never said the business was in trouble. You just said it would be nice if I came home and helped out.

GUY

Then help out. Line up charters. Get a salvage contract. You still looking for the *Santa Bella*?

JIMMY

No, because it's not out there, which I seem to be one of the few humans on Earth that understands.

GUY

IT IS OUT THERE!

MISSY

(eye roll)
And, here we go.

GUY

You saw the treasure yourself, you squeezed it in your hand like it was your own tiny dick!

MISSY

Daddy!

JIMMY

And then after that one coin, no other piece of it was ever found!

MISSY

Oh my GOD can we just have one dinner without y'all fighting over that stupid boat?!

GUY

STUPID? 300 million dollars sits right there in the Gulf no farther away than you could take a piss at --

MISSY

And I said stop! I can't hear this tonight, I am trying to keep my thoughts clear and positive for Ella Newly and her beautiful kids, so you two just get along RIGHT NOW!

Pause. Jimmy feels bad.

JIMMY

Sorry. Yes. Change of topic.

MISSY

Thank you. You hear about that boy
found drowned in the spring?

JIMMY

I did.

MISSY

Sad. Oh -- and someone told me
they saw Gwen Daniels back in town --

GUY

NEVER SAY THAT NAME IN MY HOUSE!

MISSY

Dammit, Daddy, I said GWEN Daniels,
I didn't say Duke!!!

GUY

I have asked you to not utter that
name. Duke Daniels ruined my life!

JIMMY

It's been twenty years, for God's
sake -- if any Daniels ruined your
life, it's Jack.

Missy GIGGLES, smacks Jimmy's shoulder.

GUY

Very nice, a comedian in the family.
Laugh it up, but he didn't do your
life such a good turn, either.

JIMMY

Difference is, I got over it. It
reminds me, though, I saw a man get
out of Gwen's car. Birdy Childs?

He watches Guy for a reaction. But Guy offers none.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You remember Birdy Childs, right?
Must've gotten his release, though
I doubt it was for good behavior.
Any idea why he'd be here?

GUY

None whatsoever.

JIMMY

No? Really? A man who you got
into all kinds of trouble with in
the day, gets out of prison and
shows up here without a phone call?

GUY

I said no, and I resent your tone,
boy! You can't come into my house,
up on your high horse. Not
anymore. Not after New York.

Jimmy's jaw clenches: now a subject he doesn't like.

MISSY

Why, what about New York?

Guy sees his punch has landed. Gives a mean smile.

GUY

He didn't tell you? Seems your big
brother's "retirement" from New
York's finest wasn't his idea. Mr.
Clean got some dirt on his hands.
Crossed a line. Got people killed.

JIMMY

One person, and it's not that simple --

GUY

It never is. And now you know it.
And now you know who you are. Which
is no different than me.

Worst thing Jimmy could ever hear. Missy just looks at
Jimmy, hoping to hear their dad is lying.

MISSY

Jimmy...?

Jimmy can't look at her.

JIMMY

Thanks for dinner.

Jimmy leaves. Missy glares at Guy.

GUY

You're the one that brought up Duke
Daniels.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

TIGHT ON A FACE -- in vintage MOTORCYCLE GOGGLES. Eyes
intense behind the lenses. This is DUKE DANIELS (70, larger-
than-life, Hemingway-esque, rich), RACING on a classic 1930s
MOTORCYCLE through the hot night as fast as he can go, as if
chased by a demon out of Hell itself.

SUNNY DANIELS (PRE-LAP)

It's awful lot of blood.

INT. DANIELS HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

We're looking at STEAKS, on a platter. One of them blood-rare. REVEAL we're at the dining table in this elegant old-money Southern home, with Gwen Daniels and Duke's second wife SUNNY (50, elegant and genteel but with a sharp eye and tongue to match). *(No love lost between Sunny and Gwen, but in the Southern way they're smiles and honey to each other.)*

SUNNY

But that's how Duke likes it,
barely one foot in the grave. I
did yours medium because I haven't
seen you in so long and don't know.

GWEN

I saw you two just last summer.

SUNNY

But up in Boston, not home.
(calling off)
Duke, is that you? Come on and
eat, we're waiting!

Duke enters, still in his vintage helmet, speaks to Gwen --

DUKE

Sorry I'm late, Princess. I hated
running out so soon after you got
here, then my meeting went long...

SUNNY

Helmet off in the house, please.
And I'm sure Gwen doesn't expect us
to alter the structure of our lives
just because she dropped in.

GWEN

Not at all. And I debated calling
first, but I decided a surprise
would be more fun.

SUNNY

Oh and it is! And how nice for you
to have a job that lets you just
pick up and leave!

GWEN

Well, it's my own company, so.

SUNNY

Decorating motel rooms, is that it?

GWEN

Designing for luxury hotels, yes.

SUNNY

Oh right. And how is that husband
of yours surviving without you?

GWEN

(takes a breath; here it is)
I really couldn't say, Sunny.
Douglas and I aren't together.

DUKE

Goodness, you didn't mention a word!

GWEN

(painful to discuss)
It was sudden. We're not in touch.
And I just needed to take a breath
and clear my head, so here I am.

SUNNY

Well. I only got to meet Douglas
once, but I remember saying to your
father, now this is not a good
match. I said if there is the
opposite of a match made in Heaven,
this is certainly it. You remember
that, Duke?

DUKE

(more diplomatic)
I think we know he would not have
been my choice.

SUNNY

I wish we'd known, I would have put
away the pictures of you two from
your wedding. It's a shame, you
had such a flattering haircut then.

DUKE

I'm very sorry, Princess. However --
if there is a silver lining, this
visit can give the two women in my
life a chance to finally get to
know each other. You were nearly
off to college by the time Sunny
and I married, so I know you two
have never been that close.

GWEN

Only in age!

Gwen and Sunny LAUGH, but not really. Change of subject:

SUNNY

So Duke, how was your meeting?

(MORE)

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(to Gwen)

Your father is hoping to expand his Spring Water business.

Duke's grip on the knife tightens as he cuts. Gwen notices.

DUKE

Onto some swampland outside town. But our state "representative" says the legislative climate is "poor" right now for a private sale of public land. Just my luck -- for a hundred years, the State of Florida sold itself off like a whore for no more than the price of a Waffle House coupon, but the second I need a taste, it gets religion.

(angry; re steak)

Mine's too goddamned done, I'll make another.

Duke tosses his knife down and storms out; Gwen's concerned.

EXT. BEACHFRONT ROAD - NIGHT

After the disastrous dinner with his dad, Jimmy drives home up a lonely coastal road. The faraway LIGHTS of shrimp boats peer over the Gulf horizon like eyes. Now, FLASHING COP LIGHTS in his mirror. Jimmy pulls over. Waits. The cop approaches, just an ominous SILHOUETTE in the headlights. Then we see it's Deputy Katie Collins.

KATIE

License and registration, please.

JIMMY

What was I doing, Deputy?

KATIE

Failed to signal a lane change.

JIMMY

Right. Listen, if we could forego the small-town speedtrap bullshit, I'm a local, and also a cop, so...

KATIE

Mind showing me your badge, officer?

JIMMY

...Okay, I was a cop. NYPD. I forget sometimes that I'm retired.

Jimmy smiles charmingly, but Katie's busy writing a ticket.

KATIE

Well, I hope you're enjoying our area's many retirement activities. But me, I'm not retired, so here.
 (hands him ticket; firmly)
 Don't throw it away. I can see it in you, this strong desire to ball it up and toss it. Do NOT do it.

Having made herself clear, she walks back to her vehicle. Jimmy sighs, and is about to toss the ticket on the seat -- when he sees that Katie has clipped her CARD to the back of the ticket. That's very weird. On the back of the card she's hand-written a WEBSITE ADDRESS. And two other NUMBERS. And her CELL. This is even weirder. Jimmy starts to look back to Katie -- but she's already passing him in her vehicle, not looking at him. Huh. What's this about?

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jimmy's at his computer. Working from the writing on the card. In JUMP CUTS --

A WEBSITE opens: the BEL GROVE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT. Off the card, Jimmy types in a PASSWORD. Logs in. A CASE FILE NUMBER brings up PHOTOS of RORY BOONE: one from the morgue... one from his driver's license... and one smiling, in the woods somewhere, wearing sunglasses. And now here's the MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT. As Jimmy reads...

INT. DANIELS HOUSE - GWEN'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Gwen is in bed asleep, when she hears VOICES talking low outside. She creeps to her second-story window, looks out... and sees SHERIFF WARD slip Duke a big MANILA ENVELOPE. Off Gwen -- what's all this about...?

EXT. DOCKS - NEXT MORNING

Gorgeous day. Dolphins offshore. Pelicans. Jimmy heads for his boat, with scuba tanks. Finds Deputy Katie waiting. She flashes a smile: hello. Jimmy just glances at her, goes about his work. After a beat, Katie looks at the NAME on the back of his boat.

KATIE

"Long Nap?"

JIMMY

My dad won her in a New Orleans poker game. Told the painter to write "*lagniappe*," which means "small gift." He misunderstood and wrote "long nap," which means death. Dad liked it.

Another pause. Then Katie is tired of waiting.

KATIE

I saw you logged in, I know you read the M.E.'s report on Rory Boone.

JIMMY

You also knew I was a cop before you even pulled me over.

KATIE

I keep up with who's new in town. Learned you were Homicide and filed it away in case this day came.

JIMMY

The day you needed my help.

KATIE

Yes.

JIMMY

With?

KATIE

Mysteries in this town go unsolved.

JIMMY

Always have.

KATIE

And you're okay with that?

JIMMY

I'm not one way or another.

KATIE

No? Why did you become a Detective?

JIMMY

The patrol uniform made my ass look fat.

KATIE

To stop bad guys. And I don't think that's a want that ever goes away.

That lands. She hands Jimmy a PHOTO, of Rory in sunglasses.

KATIE (CONT'D)

The mysteries were always adults, at least. A Realtor disappears in the
(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)
 mangroves, a hunter "accidentally"
 shoots himself in the back... And I
 played my part in it -- I needed the
 job, I looked away. But this...
 this is a teenager. A boy.
 Someone's son. I have a son.

JIMMY
 So why not tell someone?

KATIE
Because I have a son. And I don't
 know why things are being covered
 up or for whom, so if I tell the
wrong someone I might end up one of
 those unsolved mysteries myself.

JIMMY
 Maybe I'm the wrong someone.

KATIE
 No. I did my research. Your NYPD
 records show exemplary service,
 medals for bravery, fast rise to
 Detective, a great cop.

JIMMY
 And after that?

KATIE
 After that they were sealed. So I
 go on instincts.

JIMMY
 If you're looking in my direction
 for a hero, they need recalibrating.

KATIE
 I don't need a hero, get over
 yourself. I need an extra pair of
 eyes and a decent place to raise my
 son. I adopted him so he'd have a
 better life. I'd kinda like to
 give him one.

She nods at the photo she gave Jimmy, and we see a
 silhouetted REFLECTION in Rory's sunglasses of a GIRL. Or
 woman. Blonde hair.

KATIE (CONT'D)
 Rory put this on Instagram the day
 before he disappeared. I don't
 know who the blonde is, taking the
 (MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)
 picture. Maybe she'll be at the funeral. I've been ordered not to bother people, but you could go. Watch the crowd, ask around. See if she's connected in some way.

JIMMY
 She is.

KATIE
 Why, do you know her?

JIMMY
 No, but everything in this town is connected to everything else. Like trying to untangle a ball of Christmas lights.

KATIE
 (smiles)
 I've done that. My ex, he'd get so frustrated, he'd just throw the whole thing away. And one bad bulb was all it took, to make the whole strand go dark. You find it, though... and the whole thing lights up again.
 (beat)
 Help me spot the bad bulb.
 (re his boat)
 Then you can go back to your "nap."

Beat. And Katie walks away, leaves him to think about it. Jimmy looks at the photo. Just a kid. Dammit. Jimmy calls after Katie --

JIMMY
 Would I still have to pay the traffic ticket?

KATIE
 (not looking back)
 Yep. It's the law.

Off Jimmy, his dream of being invisible on hold for now...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - MORNING

CLOSE on a TROWEL, carefully smoothing wet cement. Jimmy re-
does his concrete steps, making the shiny surface perfect.

NEXT DOOR - Ms. Lee's GOOSE is dressed in BLACK. Because of --

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

Rory Boone's FUNERAL. We find Rory's PARENTS, the MOM red-
eyed but dulled by a Xanax, the DAD stoic. They run into
Deputy Katie. Katie is awkward, but wants to say something.

KATIE

Mrs. Boone. Mr. Boone.

MR. BOONE

(to his wife)

This is the one that found Rory.

MRS. BOONE

Oh. Thank you.

Long, awkward beat, and Katie badly wants to say something.
But nearby, she sees SHERIFF WARD watching. Beat.

KATIE

I'm very sorry for your loss.

Katie hurries away. WE STAY WITH Sheriff Ward, and meet his
lovely wife, BEKAH (40). Now she grabs her arm, speaks low:

BEKAH

Galen, my fibromyalgia is acting
up. I need a painkiller.

Ward sees her glance toward a skinny high school boy, BOBBY.

SHERIFF WARD

Now? Really?

BEKAH

Yes, really. I'm the choir
director, I need my arm to conduct.

SHERIFF WARD

(sighs, slips her cash)

Your "painkillers" are getting very
expensive, especially on my salary.

Bekah gives him a kiss and goes. Ward watches her, worried.

ANOTHER ANGLE -- JIMMY, across the street IN HIS TRUCK, watching the crowd with practiced eyes. He's startled when Katie opens the passenger door and slips in. After a beat:

KATIE
Thanks for helping.

JIMMY
I'm just sitting in a truck.

Beat. She unwraps a sandwich. Offers Jimmy half. He takes it. They sit and eat, watching the townspeople. Beat.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
So why stay?

KATIE
In Bel Grove? It's a good town. Perfect? No. But I can't just run away from every place that isn't perfect. I'd never stop running.

JIMMY
(nods; beat)
And if it was perfect, it'd probably be super crowded.

KATIE
True. Crazy-high rents.

JIMMY
And the traffic.

KATIE
No thank you.

Suddenly, a bearded, wild-looking local man (CRAZY BILL) is at Jimmy's window.

CRAZY BILL
I have seen Big Foot!

Jimmy jumps, startled. Katie shoos Crazy Bill away.

KATIE
Go on, Bill. This is a funeral, don't be bothering people.

Crazy Bill walks on, muttering, as Jimmy watches him go.

JIMMY
Wait -- Mr. Lombardi...? That's Mr. Lombardi. I had him for ninth-grade Earth Science.

KATIE
Just Crazy Bill, now. Lives in the
woods. Sometimes Big Foot stops by.

Now Jimmy notices something: BEKAH WARD being sold some BLUE
PILLS by the high school boy, Bobby. Jimmy opens his door.

KATIE (CONT'D)
What? You see something?

JIMMY
Just taking a walk.

ANOTHER ANGLE -- BOBBY. Bekah's gone and Bobby has started
for the church with a GROUP OF BOYS, when Jimmy stops him.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Hi. Talk to you a sec?
(to other boys)
He'll catch up. Save him a seat.
(as the boys go; to Bobby)
It's nice school lets you all out
for this. You should wear a
jacket, though. It's a funeral.

BOBBY
Who the hell are you?

JIMMY
Oh. Sorry. I'm the guy who won't
tell about the oxy pills in your
pocket, if you answer my questions.

Beat. Bobby glances around, nervous. Jimmy shows him the
PHOTO of Rory and the girl.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Her. Who is it?

Seeing Rory, Bobby's tears well up, and he quickly swipes a
hand across his eyes, embarrassed. Shakes his head.

BOBBY
Such an idiot. He put that picture
up online, after making me swear to
not tell anyone they were hooking
up.

JIMMY
Why not?

Then they HEAR the rumble and roar of a CAR pulling up -- a
brand new, canary-yellow, loaded-up DODGE CHARGER SRT. The
DRIVER gets out -- LORETTA LONG (22, pretty, in a short
black dress and big sunglasses). The blonde.

BOBBY

Because she's a teacher.

As Loretta hurries in, Jimmy stares at the \$55,000 car, new dealer tags from *Bob Bullard's All American Motors and Fiat*.

DANIELS HOUSE - DUKE'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is empty. Gwen eases in, looks around. Goes to the desk, eases open a drawer -- where there are BUNDLES OF CASH. Lots of cash. Wow. Opening another drawer, she spots a MANILA ENVELOPE like she saw Sheriff Ward give Duke. She eases it open, peeks inside -- then is startled by --

SUNNY (O.S.)

There you are!

Gwen jumps and shoves the envelope back in, as she sees Sunny in the doorway, smiling but not with her eyes.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Thought you'd gotten lost.

GWEN

Just remembering the good times in here, me playing while Daddy worked.

SUNNY

Well. Playtime's over. Duke doesn't like people in his office.

GWEN

Oh but I'm not "people," Sunny. I'm his daughter. His blood.

That reminder delivered, she smiles sweetly as she goes.

SUNNY

I tidied up your room. Hope you don't mind.

GWEN

(stops; now what?)
Not necessary. But thank you.

SUNNY

You use your boarding pass from the plane as a bookmark. I do that, too. A boarding pass tells such a story. With the information on it you can find out, for instance, that the ticket was bought at the airport, just last night. Like you couldn't wait to get out of town.

(MORE)

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(beat)

You said you needed to catch your
breath. No wonder, dear -- you
were running so fast.

She smiles sweetly, goes. Gwen watches her, eyes narrowed.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

After the funeral. Mourners file out. Loretta Long heads
to her car -- and stops, finding JIMMY leaning against it.

JIMMY

I'm sorry for your loss.

LORETTA

Thank you, do I know you?

JIMMY

I'm not a cop, that's the main thing
to know. So you can talk to me.

LORETTA

(suddenly very guarded)

Mmm, no thanks, and can you not
lean against the paint like that?

JIMMY

Or, you could tell the actual cops
how a teacher got the money for
this car, and why she was sleeping
with a 16-year-old boy.

LORETTA

I'm not a teacher. I'm still a
student teacher, up at Florida Gulf
Coast University, so.

JIMMY

Can't wait to see how this plays at
your performance review.

LORETTA

(hushed; very nervous)

Well, what, then?

Jimmy shows the PHOTO; tears well, she touches Rory's face.

JIMMY

What happened that day?

LORETTA

Me and Rory snuck off during his
Study Hall period, to the woods.

QUICK POPS - a BLANKET thrown on the ground; CLOTHES tossed.

LORETTA (CONT'D)

And while we were doing it by a pond, Rory saw this gold coin.

QUICK POPS - RORY, going at it on top of Loretta, looks down past her shoulder into the clear water below: a GOLD COIN.

LORETTA (CONT'D)

When we were done, Rory wanted to dive down and get it, but I said no, he could come back later. Then I guess he talked about it to people, because a fella came to me and said he wouldn't tell on me if I just told him where that coin was.

JIMMY

Who was this "fella?"

LORETTA

No idea, and I'll take a lie detector on that. But he must have thought I was so dumb I'd just give him the location, but I thought: he's after gold, maybe it's worth something to him, so I just picked a number, I said \$50,000. And he said yes! So who's dumb, now?

JIMMY

Then you discreetly went out and spent it on a bright yellow car.

LORETTA

It's nice, huh? It's my dream car.

(teary; genuinely sorry)

But then I never saw Rory again, so maybe this guy or someone killed him, and I didn't mean for that to happen but now I can never tell where that coin was, or what that man looked like, not to you or anyone, because they might kill me too, and I'd have to give my car back, and even lose my job, and I have plans after I graduate. I want to stay on in this town, I'm even getting baptized here this Sunday.

(beat; big smile)

You should come.

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jimmy pulls up in his truck, gets out as he gets a CALL.

JIMMY
 (into phone)
 Hey, Bouncy, what's up?

INTERCUT:

INT. BOUNCY'S BAR - NIGHT

Bouncy's peering OUT THE WINDOW of his bar toward the docks.

BOUNCY
 (into phone)
 Hey, Jimmy. Just wanted to give
 you the heads-up that those divers
 you pissed off don't seem to be the
 "bygones be bygones" types.

We SEE what he sees: out in the moonlight on the docks, Pop
 (his hand in a cast) and Enrique quietly SIPHON GAS from the
 tank of Jimmy's boat. They're not real good at it.

JIMMY
 Okay, thanks for the call.

He hangs up, heads to his door -- and freezes. In the just-
 dried cement step is a shallow FOOTPRINT. The front DOOR is
 unlocked. Now Jimmy looks around and notices what he was
 too distracted to see before: a BLACK SUV parked across the
 street. On the license plate frame: *Bob Bullard's All
 American Motors and Fiat.*

Looking around for a weapon, Jimmy chooses the old faded
 plaster SEAHORSE hanging by the front door. In he goes.

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy creeps in -- then a LAMP SWITCHES ON -- and there is
 GWEN DANIELS, waiting calmly in a chair. Jimmy stares.

GWEN
 Warm night. I could use a drink.

JIMMY
 I bet so. A girl can get awfully
 thirsty in twenty years.

Gwen nods at the plaster seahorse Jimmy still wields.

GWEN
 Mind if I grab myself a starfish?
 I want it to be a fair fight.

Jimmy puts down the seahorse, heads for the alcohol.

JIMMY
So how'd you get in?

GWEN
That's the nice thing about small towns, no one locks their doors.

JIMMY
I did.

GWEN
I know. I had a hell of a time.

Jimmy hands her a bourbon. Like in a sultry Southern noir, Gwen swirls her drink and eyes him over the rim.

JIMMY
Didn't see your convertible.

GWEN
It was a rental. That's Daddy's.

JIMMY
And that guy I saw you dropping off in town? How do you know him?

GWEN
Goodness, Detective, am I being charged with something?

JIMMY
Okay, so you know I was a cop.

GWEN
I came back home once for a class reunion. You were a topic.

JIMMY
And how do you know Birdy Childs?

GWEN
I don't. I gave him a ride down from the airport.

Jimmy's not sure he believes her. But moves on.

JIMMY
There's other places to drink.

GWEN
I need your help. I'm worried my Daddy's in some kind of trouble.

JIMMY

Why?

GWEN

Maybe nothing. But he's very upset over some land deal, then I see him get an envelope from the Sheriff under the cover of darkness, he has a desk drawer FULL of cash --

JIMMY

What was in the envelope?

GWEN

I don't know. The one I found had tickets --

JIMMY

Tickets.

GWEN

Yes, to *Dear Evan Hansen*, but --

JIMMY

Dear --

GWEN

Evan Hansen, it's a Broadway show --

JIMMY

I know what *Dear Evan Hansen* is. So you think the Sheriff of Bel Grove is secretly getting your father Broadway show tickets?

GWEN

(annoyed)

No, Jimmy, I do not think that, I think he's taking Sunny to New York for her birthday, and I had the wrong envelope. She came in before I could find the right one. I doubt Daddy's really involved in anything bad, but if he is, I want to know before the authorities do.

JIMMY

And you're asking me -- me, Jimmy Hill -- to help Duke Daniels?

GWEN

I know, and it's hard for me to ask --

JIMMY

But so easy for me to say no.

GWEN
I'll pay you \$4500.

Pause. Jimmy smiles thinly.

JIMMY
What an oddly specific number.

GWEN
Like I said. Small town.

JIMMY
Save your money, Gwen. Duke Daniels is not traditionally the one in trouble; he's the trouble other people get into.

GWEN
Not true. He's a tough businessman, but you don't know him like I do.

JIMMY
No, I know him like I do, which is plenty. So no.

GWEN
Oh my god, is that what this is? Are you actually still mad about something that happened when we were 18 years old?

JIMMY
Oh, it happened way before that, back whenever the lines were drawn: in this town, you either work for the Danels, or you are one, and I definitely was not one.

GWEN
So what do you think, Jimmy, that if Daddy had approved of us dating --

JIMMY
Hadn't forbid you from seeing me.

GWEN
-- that we'd be what, married now, three kids, cheering 'em on from the bleachers at Bel Grove High, "Go Panthers!" You blame Daddy for the death of that dream, do you?

JIMMY
No, I blame you.

Pause.

GWEN
Well that's just sad.

Gwen puts down the glass and stands and strides to the door, trying to control her emotions.

GWEN (CONT'D)
Thanks for the drink, this was fun,
let's do it again sometime.

She yanks the door open and leaves.

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

As Gwen stalks to her car, Jimmy appears at the door --

JIMMY
Better yet I'll save us the
trouble, and every 20 years just
hit myself in the head with a rock!

Fighting angry tears, Gwen gets into her car.

GWEN
I'm so sorry I thought you were
over it enough to help me, and I'm
sorry you got hurt, but it's not my
fault you fell in love and I
didn't!

JIMMY
Oh, but you did!

GWEN
(that lands)
Yeah, well... I'm smarter now!

She starts the car to drive off, angrily reverses into a U-turn -- and SMASHES into Jimmy's brand-new FRONT STEPS, before roaring away.

Jimmy looks at the ruined steps. Great. Just great.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

The usual morning rush as Katie tries to get Chip off to school, and he's trying to finish his math homework.

KATIE
Chip, let's go, I have your lunch.

CHIP
I just have one more word problem.
"How far does Mr. Brown travel --"

KATIE
No, do it in the car, come on.

CHIP
"-- if Mr. Brown is on a train
going 60 miles an hour --"

KATIE
Plug in the variables, remember?
If you know how fast something is
traveling and how long it traveled,
you can tell how far it traveled.

Then she stops, realizing something. A new idea. It energizes her.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Hurry up. And you need to go to
the library after school and wait
for me, I might be a little late.

EXT. GULF - ON JIMMY'S BOAT - MORNING

Jimmy heads out, in open turquoise waters. He glances back... and ANOTHER BOAT follows, way back. INTERCUT WITH --

THE OTHER BOAT, where the two treasure divers, Enrique and Pop, are following Jimmy.

ENRIQUE
Why hasn't he run out of gas yet?

Now their own ENGINE SPUTTERS. We see the FUEL GAUGE -- they're the ones out of gas. They slow and stop.

ENRIQUE (CONT'D)
Uh, oh.

Now up ahead, they see JIMMY'S BOAT turning around...

POP
DO IT NOW, DO IT NOW!

Enrique fumbles to grab a remote DETONATOR, and as Jimmy gets closer to them, manages to push the button.

Nothing happens. Click-click-click! Shit. Now Jimmy pulls alongside them -- and holds up some SALVAGE EXPLOSIVE with cut wires and tape dangling from it.

JIMMY
Found this onboard. Gonna keep it,
okay, this stuff is crazy expensive.

ENRIQUE
You siphon our gas?

JIMMY
Sorry. I was low. Long as you're
here, tell me about Rory Boone.

POP
WHAT'S HE SAYING?

ENRIQUE
I have no idea.

JIMMY
High school kid. Found a gold
coin. You idiots show up looking
for treasure, he finds treasure,
now he's dead.

ENRIQUE
What? No way, we ain't killed no
kid. This thing here, with you,
that was a message our boss made us
send for diving his claim. He's a
serious individual. Very clear
boundaries.

A beat, then Jimmy decides to believe them. He holds up a BOURBON BOTTLE half-filled with gasoline.

JIMMY
Okay. This is enough gas to get
you back.

ENRIQUE
Thank you.

JIMMY
But I have other plans for it.

He stuffs a RAG into the bottle.

ENRIQUE

I said we don't know anything about a dead kid!

JIMMY

I know. This is a "message," for trying to sink my boat.

ENRIQUE

Now you're just being an asshole.

JIMMY

Probably.

(takes out lighter)

See, your mistake was relying on digital technology. I'm an analog guy, myself.

And he LIGHTS THE RAG and tosses the Molotov cocktail into the stern of their boat, where it EXPLODES into a fire.

As the guys curse and frantically look for a fire extinguisher, Jimmy starts his engines... and as he motors away, ladles CHUM over the side from a BUCKET.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(calling back)

Hey, Pop! If it gets bad, you can always jump over the side!

And now Pop sees SHARK FINS in the water, and panics. Jimmy heads back in, leaving the two thugs to fend for themselves.

EXT. GRASSY SPRINGS PARK - DAY

Katie is near the spot where Rory Boone's dead body first terrified the tourists. Working on a problem. IN CUTS: she steps off a distance along the bank of the stream; tosses a STICK out into the stream and times it drifting on the slow current; writes down calculations in her NOTEBOOK; finally, she CIRCLES in the notebook the speed of the stream: 3 MPH.

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - DAY

Jimmy gets out of his truck, in time to see CRAZY BILL leaving with a half-bag of leftover CEMENT he took.

JIMMY

Watcha got there, Mr. Lombardi?

CRAZY BILL

I have seen Big Foot.

JIMMY

Cool.

Crazy Bill points to a BUCKET he left by the house: trade. Then he scoots away. Jimmy looks into the bucket, and sees four newly-caught FRESHWATER TROUT inside. Good trade.

Jimmy takes the bucket to his house -- and stops. His busted steps are completely repaired. How? Ms. Lee calls:

MS. LEE

Nice to have friends in high places.

JIMMY

What friends would those be?

MS. LEE

Coupla young men did it earlier.
Said they work for Duke Daniels.

Off Jimmy, not happy about it...

EXT. DANIELS HOME - DAY

Jimmy waits on the steps. He hears the loud WHINE of an engine... then an antique MOTORCYCLE speeds up the drive, skidding to a gravel-spewing stop by the steps. Duke Daniels takes off his vintage goggles, grinning.

DUKE

1939 Triumph Tiger 100. Built her
myself from the ground up.

Jimmy just stands, no smile, and holds out a CHECK for Duke.

JIMMY

This is for my steps.

DUKE

That was restitution.

JIMMY

It doesn't feel like restitution.

DUKE

My daughter made a mess. I made it
right. Not for the first time.

JIMMY

Feels like a reminder. The All-
seeing Eye of the town.

DUKE

You don't think much of me, do you?

JIMMY

I think a lot of you. Just that
none of it is good.

Beat. Then Duke LAUGHS, loudly.

DUKE

I like that. Walk with me.

He takes a PACKAGE from the bike and heads toward a pen of HUNTING DOGS. Jimmy hesitates, then follows.

DUKE (CONT'D)

How's your father doing?

JIMMY

After you fired him? Just swell.

DUKE

Had to. He was stealing.

JIMMY

Sounds like him.

DUKE

I had to look out for the company.

JIMMY

Plus, the self-made man never wants reminders around to contradict the narrative. Right? People who did things to get him there. People who know where the bodies are buried.

DUKE

I had to look out for the town. Because that citrus company was the town. Employed everyone in it.

At the pens Duke opens the package, tosses MEAT to the dogs.

DUKE (CONT'D)

It's why after all the citrus trees died, and the company with 'em, I re-made it through sheer will, into the Bel Grove Springs Bottling plant. So the people would have jobs, and the town wouldn't die, too. Because I love this town. I really do.

(turns to face Jimmy)

And I will do anything to protect what I love.

It's clear they're talking about Gwen, now.

DUKE (CONT'D)

I have only one child. It matters to me the man she's with. His character. What's in his blood. Gwen likes to believe she's qualified to make her own choices in this area. Evidence to the contrary. And while I'm sure you're very nice --

JIMMY

Don't bet on it.

DUKE

You made a common mistake -- you both went to the same school, lived in the same town. You imagined just because two people occupy the same universe... that they move in synchronous orbits.

Beat. Duke walks off, calls back over his shoulder.

DUKE (CONT'D)

Say hi to your daddy, now.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Deputy Katie stands next to her vehicle, in a clearing off the road, looking at a MAP spread out on the hood. She's MARKED a spot in red, along the STREAM in the woods.

IN A SERIES OF CUTS: she enters the woods; follows the map; finally comes to the spot that she marked, along the stream. There's a deep POND here. She looks around -- and spots, hanging on a bush, a boy's T-SHIRT. On the ground, she sees a CONDOM WRAPPER... a BLUE PILL... and, foraging lazily in the brush, a TURTLE, its shell about 7 inches long.

Katie peers closer at the turtle. There's a tiny CRACK in the shell. And what looks like dried BLOOD on it.

JIMMY (PRE-LAP)

The murder weapon is a turtle.

INT. JIMMY'S KITCHEN/KATIE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - INTERCUT

Jeopardy is on mute on the TV in the background, as Jimmy guts the fish that Crazy Bill caught. He's ON THE PHONE to Katie, who microwaves frozen dinners for herself and Chip.

KATIE

Pending forensic analysis. Maybe.

She looks OUT THE WINDOW to where Chip is feeding lettuce to the TURTLE in a homemade PEN.

KATIE (CONT'D)

It has a cracked shell and what looks like blood on it, but to imagine I found the exact turtle, still in the same spot, means I may be trying too hard to make my theory fit.

JIMMY

Not really. A Florida Box Turtle lives its whole life within a couple hundred yards of where it was born.

KATIE

So just like everyone else in this town. Now I need to run blood and DNA, but I couldn't exactly bag the sample so I brought it home and gave it lettuce.

JIMMY

You named it, didn't you?

KATIE

Not me. But yeah. "Loki."
Apparently after someone in *Thor*.
Hold on.
(calls out window)
Chip, get back in here, please, and work on your project now!

JIMMY

(to *Jeopardy* on TV)
"What is the Franco-Prussian War?"

KATIE

(back on the phone)
What?

JIMMY

Nothing. What's his project on?

KATIE

He just has to replicate the entire topography of Florida by Monday.

JIMMY

The Florida map! No! We all had to do it, and we all hated it.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(then)

So how'd you find the spot where
Rory suffered his death by turtle?

KATIE

The medical Examiner put time of
death 24 hours before Rory's body
was discovered, and the tour boats
go over the spot every half-hour,
so I used the time frame of 23.5 to
24 hours and measured the speed of
the current to figure out how far
he could have drifted in that time.

JIMMY

Wow. Nerd.

KATIE

Right? Then I traced the river,
and it widened around that spot to
a deep pond that wasn't even on the
map.

JIMMY

Sinkhole, probably, they open up
out there sometimes.

KATIE

Yeah, well, there are sinkholes in
my theory, too. The salt water in
Rory's lungs being the biggest
question, which I will answer, but
not right now because I have to feed
my kid a crappy microwaved pot pie
and yell at him about his homework.
Mother of the Year. 'Bye.

Jimmy laughs, hangs up, finishes cleaning the fish.
Expertly, he slices open the belly of the last freshwater
trout...

...and a small GOLD COIN DROPS OUT.

A Spanish Doubloon. Dated 1715. And also a RUBY. Out of a
freshwater fish. Jimmy stares at it.

JIMMY

"What is the Treasure of the *Santa
Bella*?"

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. BEACH — DAY

Another perfect day in paradise. Beachgoers and bikini bodies on the powder-white sand. Above the beach, standing on a boardwalk along the dunes, is JIMMY. Looking out at the Gulf. Now GWEN joins him. Watches the Gulf, too.

GWEN

Saw your truck. What're you doing?

JIMMY

Just trying to understand how a treasure that people have been hunting forever is not out there... but was in my dinner last night.

Gwen decides not to ask what that means.

GWEN

I'm sorry about before. Barging in like you'd be dying to see me. Twenty years is a long time.

JIMMY

Yeah. Doesn't always seem like it.

There's a chemistry between them that time hasn't erased. They feel it, and have to lightly joke it away:

GWEN

Daddy did you a favor anyway, chasing you off. I wouldn't've made a good Southern wife. Nor proper mother to little JJ and Winona.

JIMMY

JJ?

GWEN

Jimmy Junior. You know you would've wanted a Jimmy Junior.

JIMMY

Yeah. Probably. And I definitely don't see you as a cop's wife.

GWEN

No? I do. Cute little row house in Queens. "Every morning my Jimmy walks out that door, I know he might not come home, but I just drink that worry away and watch TV 'til I hear his keys."

Jimmy laughs. Now, they're quiet. Anyone else, the moment -- the water, the breeze -- would be romantic. Them too, if they'd ever let it be. But no.

JIMMY

What are you doing here, Gwen?

GWEN

(innocent)

I don't know what you mean.

JIMMY

And you can save the Tennessee Williams play, it won't work on me.

GWEN

(half-smile)

Oh, it will if I want it to.

(beat; gets serious)

My husband is missing.

JIMMY

You got married. Congratulations.

GWEN

We're getting divorced.

JIMMY

Glad I didn't send a gift.

GWEN

Douglas got involved in some things. Which I probably should have noticed earlier than I did. And now I don't know where he is. So I came here for safety.

(beat)

It was actually a tough call, weighing personal safety against having to admit Daddy was right about me marrying Douglas.

(beat)

But it's home. You're back, you know. I think I just needed to feel something real. Solid.

JIMMY

(laughs)

So you picked a state most scientists agree will be gone in a few years.

GWEN

That's true. Every time I fly over and look down, there's more holes in it, like a boat taking on water.

Jimmy hears that. An idea forms, on the way to an epiphany.

JIMMY

Exactly like that. Gotta go.

He dashes away, leaving Gwen standing alone and baffled.

GWEN

Okay then.

INT. BEL GROVE MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Outside the Mayor's closed door waits an earnest YOUNG MAN in a suit, cheerfully chatting with the pretty RECEPTIONIST.

RECEPTIONIST

The Mayor'll just be another minute.

YOUNG MAN

Thank you. I won't need long. Up in Tallahassee we heard rumors of some Spanish gold found around here.

RECEPTIONIST

That coin the dead boy had? You heard about it all the way up there?

YOUNG MAN

I have a cousin, one town over. People talk. And rumors of treasure have been known to set off a rush, so Tallahassee just wants to remind everyone that the State of Florida is entitled to 20% of the value of any Spanish treasure found.

Then the Mayor's DOOR OPENS and the MAYOR steps out to greet the young man with a smile -- and it's Sunny Daniels.

SUNNY

Hi. I'm Mayor Daniels, come in.

INT. GUY HILL'S HOUSE - ATTIC - DAY

Jimmy's looking through the attic, untouched in years -- everything from his family's life up here and forgotten.

He hears a CAR pull up outside, and he glances out a window. We hear a CAR DOOR close, and the CAR DRIVE AWAY, as Jimmy goes back to hunting through boxes. He finds some old PHOTOS. Takes out one of him and Missy as kids... with their MOM, at Christmas. Looks at it for a sec, remembering her, and then --

MISSY (O.S.)

Jimmy?

JIMMY

Up here!

As he finds a box of YEARBOOKS, Missy climbs the ladder and joins him. She's still dressed from yesterday's work.

MISSY

Hey, what're you doing up here?

JIMMY

Looking for something. I know Mom never threw anything away. Was that Dale Schenk, just now?

MISSY

He came into the restaurant last night. Gave me a ride home.

JIMMY

Must've taken the long way, then.

MISSY

Don't start, now, I mean it.

JIMMY

I'm not. Just saying there are reasons you divorced him.

MISSY

And also reasons I married him. I know you're looking out for me, and thank you, now stop.

JIMMY

Fine. Look, remember Mr. Lombardi?

In an old high school YEARBOOK, he shows her the faculty page, and a pic of BILL LOMBARDI, Earth Science teacher.

MISSY

Crazy Bill. After his son got killed, he just kinda slipped away.

Jimmy looks at the book's student section, sees the PHOTO of MISSY, at 15. A beat, then Jimmy needs to say something.

JIMMY

Missy... I never said how sorry I am that I didn't come back --

MISSY

No. Jimmy, don't...

JIMMY

-- but I am. I meant to move home after college, but instead I just left you here with Dad --

MISSY

He needed me, it's fine. He was a big enough mess after Duke fired him from the plant, but then when Mom died he just seemed to dry up as fast as the orange trees did.

JIMMY

Too much for a kid to have to carry. And I'm sorry.

MISSY

Well you're home now. So shut up.

Okay. Jimmy lets it drop. As he keeps looking around, though, Missy decides to ask him something hard.

MISSY (CONT'D)

What did Dad mean about New York?

Beat. Jimmy avoids looking at her.

JIMMY

New York?

MISSY

Why you quit.

(still hoping)

I mean, you know how he is -- the way he talked, it sounded like you were a dirty cop or something. But that's not you, so was it one of those things where you were framed? Like, for not going along with the actual dirty cops...?

Pause. Finally Jimmy makes himself look straight at Missy.

JIMMY

No.

It kills him to say it. He's her hero. She bravely waits.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

We were going after a really bad guy. Organized crime. His wife got popped for coke, so I was gonna work her against him. She worked me instead. She was everything I

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

can't resist. Damsel in distress. I fell in love. Destroyed the evidence against her, she went free. Turned out she was the head of the organization. Killed her husband before he could give her up. Then gave me up to get herself a deal.

Beat. Missy tries to play it off lightly.

MISSY

Wow. And here I was thinking it was just free hookers or something.

JIMMY

Missy, I'm sorry. You're right, it's not who I thought I was. But then one thing led to another, and then it was just an escalating series of really bad decisions, and --

MISSY

(a hand on his arm)

Jimmy. It's okay. Look at me, I'm wearing last night's clothes. Bad decisions might just run in the family.

Jimmy smiles, grateful for her tacit forgiveness. Moving on, he hands her boxes so he can dig deeper in the mess.

JIMMY

Hold these. I see what I need.

MISSY

What is it you're after, anyway?

JIMMY

My sixth-grade project. Did anyone say why the orange trees dried up?

MISSY

Nope. Theories ranged from God's Will, to America's widespread tolerance for gay marriage, but the locals don't tend toward the scientifically curious.

Finally, Jimmy digs out his PROJECT, a cross-section MODEL of Florida. He eyes it, with a gleam.

JIMMY

Because I think I have an idea.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Katie drives up with Chip, after school. Jimmy is waiting, holding his project, eager to talk. As Katie gets out --

JIMMY

Rory Boone didn't have salt water
in his lungs because he was killed
in the Gulf -- it's because the
spring water was salty.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

At the kitchen table, Jimmy uses the cross-section MODEL to illustrate his theory. **[NOTE: although the following will be clear when we see the nice colorful model, for reading purposes there is a diagram in the APPENDIX at the end.]**

JIMMY

The whole state of Florida sits on
porous limestone, under which is a
lake of fresh water.

CHIP (O.S. FROM DINING ROOM)

The aquifer!

KATIE

(calling to Chip)

You're not supposed to be listening.
Do your homework.

JIMMY

But yes. And holes -- sinkholes --
poke through the limestone to that
aquifer all the time.

QUICK POPS - TV FOOTAGE of SINKHOLES in Florida, in YARDS,
PARKING LOTS, FIELDS...

JIMMY (CONT'D)

It's where the springs come from.
And if a sinkhole opened offshore,
in the Gulf, like say where a
sunken ship was resting...

QUICK POP - BOTTOM OF THE SEA, where wreckage lies on the
sand. The sand starts to SLIP AWAY as in an hourglass...

JIMMY (CONT'D)

That ship would be swallowed up and
lie hidden in an underwater cave
for years. Where no one could find
it. Gradually being pushed along
in the dark...

QUICK POP - WOODEN DEBRIS, and JEWELS AND COINS, inching, flowing, slowly, along the bottom of an underground CAVE...

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Until it all rested under the land.

KATIE
No, but... wait. Pushed how?

CHIP (O.S.)
Water pressure!

Chip is now in the doorway.

CHIP (CONT'D)
The weight of the Gulf water is so heavy it could push the whole ship along through the caves!

JIMMY
Exactly! Smart kid.

KATIE
Yeah, but I didn't know he was paying attention in class.

CHIP
Me neither.

JIMMY
And it all just waited there under us until another sinkhole opened in the woods, like you saw on the stream, and let pieces of that ship come up.

QUICK POP - a POND, and a bit of TIMBER pops to the surface.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
It's why all the citrus trees died -- because the soil was salty. And how a gold doubloon and a ruby ended up inside a freshwater trout. And, most important, why Rory Boone had salt water in his lungs.

He rests his case, pleased with himself. Katie's impressed.

KATIE
Wow.

JIMMY
I know.

KATIE

I mean, if I walk into Sheriff Ward's office with your sixth-grade project and a turtle, how can he NOT believe me?

(then, to Chip)

Hon, we need to do our work now, so go do yours. You have a project due Monday, and if this one is any example, you have a long way to go.

JIMMY

No, here, he can just take mine.

He slides the project over.

KATIE

Of course not. Chip --

JIMMY

It's fine, why not? I got an A on it. And it's exactly the same project every kid has done forever, he obviously knows the material, and he's not going to get his done by Monday anyway. Just take it.

CHIP

Mom?

KATIE

No. Go on. Now.

Chip leaves. Katie peers at Jimmy, very troubled.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Do you really not know why that was wrong?

JIMMY

(sort of)

Yes? I mean, yes, of course I do, sorry. There are degrees, but yes.

KATIE

Degrees.

JIMMY

I screwed up, I get it.

KATIE

I know, but maybe I should take it from here.

JIMMY

What? Jesus, Katie, I said I'm
sorry --

KATIE

I know, okay, I just thought you...

JIMMY

That I what?

KATIE

Were better. Sorry! It's a
problem. With me. Always. I
expect everyone to be perfect, me
included, and that's stupid, so I
try to let up. And then I don't
know how much to let up, and soon
I'm married to an asshole and
ignoring behavior I might have seen
if I wasn't busy letting everyone
not be perfect. But with this,
where my kid is concerned... yeah, I
don't want degrees. And in my job,
I don't want grey areas. I want
crystal-clear high-definition black
and white.

She hands him his model back. Pained, but resolved.

KATIE (CONT'D)

So thank you for your help.

Jimmy wants to argue... but has none. He takes the model
and leaves.

INT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jimmy enters, wanders through to the kitchen -- to find Guy
waiting. Smiling, Guy holds up the GOLD DOUBLOON and RUBY
that were on the counter.

GUY

See, I knew you were looking for
the *Santa Bella*.

JIMMY

I need better locks.

GUY

Locks don't help. Get a dog.

Guy tosses a STACK OF CASH on the kitchen table.

JIMMY

What's that?

GUY
\$4500. Pay the boat loan.

Jimmy looks at the money, and gives a grim smile. Gets it.

JIMMY
You had it all along. So: you bring me home... you bring Birdy Childs to town. Am I right to conclude that "helping with the business" is not really what you wanted me here for?

GUY
Well, it certainly wasn't your finely-calibrated moral compass.

Jimmy absorbs the hit from his father, stays calm.

JIMMY
Sorry to disappoint. Because now you can take whatever two-bit, low-rent, con-job criminal bullshit you were hoping to drag me into, and get out.

Pause. A dry chuckle from Guy.

GUY
You always did fight it. Went to church with your mom. Off to college to study "ethics." New York City to wage the great battle between Good and Bad. Where'd it get you? Right back home. Don't you get it yet, Jimmy?
(leans in close)
There is no Good and Bad. There's only Florida.

Guy heads for the door, stops.

GUY (CONT'D)
It's hard to watch a loved one struggle against his true nature. As your father, it pains me.

And Guy exits. Jimmy sees the Florida model that he'd set down. And sweeps it hard against the wall, and into a hundred pieces.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH - MORNING

Sunday. The sign out front says, "BAPTISMS TODAY."

EXT. JIMMY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jimmy brings the project pieces to the trash can and crams them all deep inside. He's about to go back in... when he spots something at the corner of the house: the near-empty cement bag that Crazy Bill borrowed... and two cement CASTS. Footprints? Next door, Ms. Lee (she and her concrete goose now in matching Sunday dresses) heads out to church.

MS. LEE

I saw Crazy Bill drop 'em off earlier. What is all that?

Jimmy looks closer, and sees that the casts are actually of SWIM FINS. Like from scuba divers. He realizes --

JIMMY

Big Foot.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jimmy BANGS on the door. Katie opens it, sleepy, annoyed.

JIMMY

People have been scuba diving, out in the woods. In the springs. Crazy Bill's been saying Big Foot, because of their wetsuits and fins --

KATIE

Okay, stop --

JIMMY

-- but if they're treasure divers and he can tell us who he saw, that might be who killed Rory Boone --

KATIE

Stop. Jimmy. It doesn't matter.

JIMMY

What do you mean it doesn't matter?

KATIE

If the spring water is salty, like you said? Then rather than make the
(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

case, it means maybe there isn't one. All I had to go on was that Rory died in salt water. The Gulf. If the spring is salty, too, then maybe he did just dive in it for a coin, hit his head, and drown. Maybe my instincts were wrong.
(meaning Jimmy)
About everything. Excuse me, it's my day off.

She starts to close the door. But Jimmy BANGS it open.

JIMMY

No.

KATIE

Take your hand off my door, please.

JIMMY

I was FINE. You came to ME. I was perfectly fine on the bottom of the ocean, where no one bothered me, and YOU dragged me up into this, so do NOT say it doesn't matter.

He gathers himself, pleading, and surprised by the emotions.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I have let down everyone. My dead mother. My sister. The entire population of New York City. Me. And now you. I can't let down Rory Boone. I need to do one good thing. I don't need to be a hero.
(pained; raw)
But I don't want to be my father.

Off Katie, looking at him, his heart laid bare...

EXT. BOUNCY'S BAR - MORNING

As Jimmy hurries along the dock, Pop and Enrique, repairing their burned boat, glare at him.

JIMMY

Hey boys, how you been? Good?
Good. Hey Bouncy!

Bouncy's just opening up, as Jimmy reaches him.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You know everyone in this town.
Where does Crazy Bill live?

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

Worshippers arrive for morning services. We FIND SUNNY AND DUKE getting out of their car and walking toward the church.

SUNNY

Oh! I forgot to mention -- a young man from Tallahassee stopped by my office to say there's been some treasure found nearby. You heard anything about that?

DUKE

Always someone treasure-hunting out in these waters.

SUNNY

But this wasn't out in the water, it was on land. In fact, state land that just this week you were talking about buying to expand the Spring Water business.

(no reaction from Duke)

I hate coincidences. They keep me awake at night. So Duke, if you're up to something that affects Bel Grove or its citizens, I want to know about it. I am the mayor, after all.

DUKE

Yes.

(smiling but firm)

Of my town.

He goes into the church. Sunny's eyes narrow at him, not liking the sound of whatever this is.

EXT. WOODS - CANOE RENTALS - DAY

Jimmy pulls his truck over next to a creek-side CANOE RENTAL place, and he and Katie get out.

KATIE

What are we stopping here, for?

JIMMY

Bouncy said Crazy Bill's cabin can only be gotten to by canoe.

As he heads to the canoes, he sees Katie eye them, uneasily.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What is it?

KATIE

Nothing.

JIMMY

(grins, realizing)

You've never paddled one, have you?

KATIE

I'll figure it out, don't worry about it.

Jimmy continues to the canoe landing.

JIMMY

Should be interesting.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The congregation is in. ON SUNNY, as she whispers to Duke:

SUNNY

Also? Though it technically does not involve matters in YOUR town... I tried calling Gwen's husband.

As Sunny continues --

INT. DANIELS HOME - DUKE'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

-- Gwen enters the office, goes to Duke's desk, and as she looks for that manila envelope Sheriff Ward gave Duke...

SUNNY (V.O.)

I just wanted to see how he's holding up, poor thing. But his voicemail was full. And his office said he had not checked in in ages.

Gwen finds the correct MANILA ENVELOPE in a drawer, opens it... and is stunned by what she sees: SURVEILLANCE PHOTOS. Of her husband DOUGLAS and her, arguing on the street... of DOUGLAS being confronted by a shady MAN... and of GWEN handing that same man a stuffed white ENVELOPE.

SUNNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It's like he's dropped off the face of the Earth.

Gwen's reaction to these photos her dad has is, "Oh shit."

INT. CHURCH - SIMULTANEOUS

SUNNY

I do hope he's alright. For Gwen's sake.

Duke seems to be ignoring her, but she knows he heard. Now, in the front of the church, above the choir, CURTAINS part on the BAPTISMAL -- an aquarium-sided pool where a robed MINISTER now stands to his waist in water.

EXT. WOODS - STREAM - DAY

Jimmy and Katie weave their way unsteadily upstream, deeper into the swampy woods, like something out of *Heart of Darkness*. A GATOR watches them pass. Jimmy's in the back, as Katie, in the front, tries to learn to paddle.

JIMMY

Other side. Opposite from me.

KATIE

Well, I can't see you, now can I?

JIMMY

You're doing great.

KATIE

Don't patronize me.

As they continue talking --

EXT. WOODS - SIMULTANEOUS

CRAZY BILL walks along the stream with fishing gear...

JIMMY (V.O.)

I just hope when Bill talks, he tells us something half-coherent. Otherwise, you know who our only witness is, right? The one this whole thing might ride on?

INT. CHURCH - DAY

ON LORETTA LONG, in a white robe, hair pulled back in a ponytail, as the Minister announces her name:

MINISTER

Loretta Long!

Loretta solemnly steps into the water toward the Minister...

EXT. WOODS - SPRING - DAY

Crazy Bill, walking, comes up on the spring where Rory found gold -- and freezes. We see what he does, only from behind:

A DIVER emerging from the spring, tall and dripping in a black wetsuit and mask, like a sea creature. And though we haven't seen his face... Crazy Bill has.

MINISTER (V.O.)
Having come before us asking for
repentance, and for forgiveness of
all sins...

EXT. WOODS - STREAM - DAY

Jimmy and Katie paddle along, against the current.

KATIE

Jimmy. The way you said everything in this town is connected. Christmas lights. If we keep following this thing -- are you okay with wherever it goes?

JIMMY
 (grim resignation)

I think it goes the same place this river does --

EXT. CRAPPY TRAILER PARK - DAY

CLOSE ON GUY HILL walking.

JIMMY (V.O.)
Back to the source.

Guy stops at a beat-up single-wide trailer. Not very happy.

GUY

You hitched a ride down with Gwen Daniels?

REVEAL who's he's speaking to, on the step: BIRDY CHILDS, friend, ex-con, tattooed, restless, possibly psychopathic.

BIRDY

So? Hide in plain sight, right?

GUY

No, not hide in plain sight, hide in the goddamned trailer.
 (as they head inside)
 And try not to let the daughter of the man you're here to rob get a look at you, is also a useful tip. Be smart. We're this close to taking Duke Daniels for everything he's got -- come hell or high water, I will have what is mine.

As the trailer door SLAMS behind them --

EXT. WOODS - STREAM - DAY

Katie looks ahead in the stream, and her face is grim:

KATIE

Jimmy.

The clear water they're nosing through is now joined by the bright red of BLOOD, flowing to them from around a bend, and the farther they go, the more blood they meet, until they're paddling through a river of red...

MINISTER (V.O.)

*...And having been washed in His
blood upon your profession of
faith...*

INT. CHURCH - DAY

MINISTER

I baptize you in the name of the
Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

The Minister holds his hand over Loretta's nose and tilts her back, PLUNGING HER HEAD into the water...

MINISTER (CONT'D)

Buried with Christ in believer's
baptism...

EXT. WOODS - STREAM BANK - DAY

...At the bank Jimmy leaps from the canoe and runs to where Crazy Bill's BODY lies, face up, head back in the water -- throat slashed, EYES STARING UP, like Rory's were --

MINISTER (V.O.)

*...Raised to walk in the newness of
Life with Him.*

And as Jimmy and Katie look at other, knowing shit is now real --

INT. CHURCH - DAY

-- the Minister RAISES Loretta's head from the baptismal pool, and she smiles broadly, eyes wide to the heavens, and as she gasps --

LORETTA

Praise Jesus!

JUMP TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT

APPENDIX: SINKHOLES AND THE FLORIDA AQUIFER

