

TRIANGLE

Written by

Jon Feldman

&

Sonny Postiglione

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FADE UP:

1 EXT. SNOWY BEACH - DAY 1

ON GIANT ICE FLOES -- drifting along the frozen ocean surface. CAMERA TRACKS ABOVE the shore... to a SNOWY BEACH... PANNING slowly across it to FIND:

A PAIR OF SUNGLASSES... a BEACH TOWEL... then a COOLER. *This isn't making sense.* But as our PAN CONTINUES, we SEE: a broken SHARD of wood... a LIFE PRESERVER... until we SETTLE on the WRECKAGE OF A SAILBOAT. *There's been a terrible accident...*

... as we FIND the body of a man, DAVID ROMAN, late 30s. Clad in SHORTS and a T-SHIRT. Handsome, even if at this moment he lies face-down -- unconscious -- in the snow. Poking from the snow next to him is a BLACK RING BOX.

We PAN down David's still body to his HAND. Suddenly... his FINGERS MOVE... slowly grasping a HANDFUL of SNOW -- stares at it. *What the fuck is this...?*

David suddenly realizes it's not simply the snow *in his hand* -- he's surrounded by it. He peers around, trying to process what happened... and where he is. And as he STARES out into the icy water, we... MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

A BLUE, PRISTINE OCEAN. WIDEN.

2 EXT. CRUISER - DAY 2

A stunning forty-foot sailboat cuts through the shimmering tropical waters. A stark contrast from our opening images. As we PRELAP: the SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER.

3 EXT. CRUISER - HELM - CONTINUOUS 3

David, looking more relaxed and substantially warmer, laughs as he attempts to coax his girlfriend, ALEXANDRA (ALEX) CASTILLO, 35 -- intelligent and kind -- to steer the boat.

DAVID

C'mon... what's the worst that can happen?

ALEX

I never told you this about me, but I totaled my Dad's car when I was sixteen. And this boat is a lot nicer than his Dodge.

DAVID

Alex, if you can excavate ancient civilizations, you can pilot a boat. Besides, there's nothing out here to hit.

Alex nods, tentatively takes the steering wheel. As she settles in, pleased and surprised by the ease of it... David beams.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(yelling, to off-camera)
Nat. She's steering!

4 INT. CRUISER - CABIN - SAME TIME

4

NATALIE ROMAN, David's 15-year old daughter -- smart, sensitive, more than a bit awkward in her teenage skin -- looks up unenthusiastically from her LAPTOP, shouts back --

NATALIE
(feigning enthusiasm)
Awesome!

Natalie turns her attention back to her FACETIME with her friend back home, BECCA (15, dying to be cool, purple hair).

NATALIE (CONT'D)
(into FaceTime)
She can do something I mastered
when I was seven.
(beat)
Anyway, I hate to break it to you,
but just because you overheard Sage
talking about Jeremy's party
doesn't mean we're invited.

BECCA (FACETIME)
It doesn't?

NATALIE
No. But, hey, college'll be
different. College we'll be invited
to every party.

BECCA (FACETIME)
Three more years.

NATALIE
Three more years.

5 EXT. CRUISER - HELM - SAME TIME

5

Alex looks skeptically at David.

ALEX
(re: Natalie)
She sounded really impressed.

DAVID
She's 15. Nothing impresses her
unless it's liked by twenty
thousand people first.
(checking the GAUGES)
Good news. We just crossed the Gulf
stream at 18 knots. By my estimate,
we should be in the Bahamas in two
hours.

ALEX
David. Am I doing something wrong?

DAVID
Kid, you're a natural.

ALEX
I don't mean the boat.

DAVID
(beat, then knowingly)
Look... it's all getting a little
real for her. And it's scary. It's
just been the two of us for a long
time, you know that...
(then, lightly)
But, hey, eyes on the road -- my
boat will not meet the same fate as
your father's Dodge. Now... hold
the course. I'm going to check the
mainsail.
(off her warm smile)
What?

ALEX
Sexy when you use nautical terms.

DAVID
(beat, as he exits)
Mast. Porthole...

ALEX
Easy, sailor.

6 INT. CRUISER - CABIN - (MOMENTS) LATER

6

David enters to retrieve the ENGAGEMENT RING, tucked away in the BLACK RING BOX we'd seen previously. He opens it, takes it in. Natalie eyes him.

NATALIE
You might not want to wave that
around if you're still going for
the element of surprise. You didn't
rent that big a boat.

David snaps the box shut, smiles, as he turns to Natalie. He slips the box into his pocket as... the BOAT LURCHES.

ALEX (O.S.)
Sorry!

NATALIE
Your new first mate is having issues.

DAVID
(reads the subtext)
Nat... sailing will always be our
thing, but maybe it's something we
can do with Alex now, too. You were
(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
so young when your Mom left, you
don't remember what it's like to be
a real family.

NATALIE
Here I thought we were a real family.

DAVID
We are. Alex... just makes us a
bigger one. Look --

NATALIE
(knows where this is going)
-- I sense a paternal origin story
coming on --

DAVID
Nat, you know I bounced between
foster homes growing up. That I
never had a real family until your
mother gave me you. But when she
left, she took something I didn't
know was missing until I met Alex.
Yes, it's only been a year. And
maybe I don't know everything about
her yet. Why she laughs at horror
movies. Why she cries during life
insurance commercials. But I know I
love her. And for reasons I can't
figure out, she loves me, too.

NATALIE
Maybe because you're awesome? All
the moms at volleyball call you the
"Hot Dad." Even some of the fathers.

DAVID
(smiles, then)
I love her, Nat. Which is something I
never thought I'd say again. So
unless there's some reason you don't
want me to do this...

We sense there is, but Natalie instead says:

NATALIE
Speak now or forever hold my peace?
(beat, softens)
Just don't cry when you propose.
That guy on "The Bachelor" did and
he never lived it down.

David beams. Pulls her in for a hug. But as we HOLD on Nat,
the smile runs off her face -- it's clear she's not thrilled.

7

EXT. CRUISER - HELM - (MOMENTS) LATER

7

Alex is steering the boat, as Natalie enters.

NATALIE

My father asked for you. In the cabin.

(off Alex)

Two lefts; stop before you hit the water.

Natalie assumes the controls as Alex steps away from the steering column. But, Alex lingers. Wanting to connect --

ALEX

I was thinking, when we get to the resort, maybe you and I could go for a hike?

NATALIE

Sorry, I'm not really a *hike-y* kind of girl.

(beat)

Alex, I'm not quite sure how to say this... but I love my Dad -- and he's about to propose to you. I think it would be best if you said... "no."

ALEX

(blown away, processing)

What? Okay, Nat... look, I know you may think we've rushed into things --

NATALIE

-- oh no, it's not that. I want my Dad to remarry, I do. I just don't think he should remarry you.

Ouch. Alex is stung. And confused.

INTERCUT DAVID, in the cabin, pacing nervously as he rehearses his proposal, the RING BOX cupped in his hand.

BACK TO THE HELM -- as Natalie turns back to the wheel only to squint unsurely at an odd DISTURBANCE of GREEN LIGHT RISING ABOVE THE OCEAN HORIZON. Natalie stares. Alarmed.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?

Alex turns to see it. Just as WINDS rise... the sea grows CHOPPIER... clouds DARKENING.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

You think it's some kind of flare?

ALEX

Not like any flare I've seen.

INTERCUT David, as he looks up to see the GREEN LIGHT, as well. Concerned, he steps out of the cabin to notice the rising weather. He flies towards the STEERING COCKPIT.

NATALIE

Dad...? What is that -- ?

DAVID

(urgent)

Don't know. No time. Squall's heading in. Convert to engines and take her starboard. Alex and I'll tack the sails.

As WIND and RAIN pummel the boat, David and Alex start to exit. We STAY with Natalie, struggling to FIRE up the engine.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Nat, I said starboard --

NATALIE

-- I'm trying. It's on full power.

As David steps towards the controls, Alex TURNS. Her eyes WIDEN, alarmed. PUSH IN ON HER... as we REVERSE to what she's seeing: an IMMENSE RISING WAVE moving quickly towards them.

ALEX

Ohmygod.

David and Natalie turn to see it. *Rain and wind pelting their faces.* David barks at Natalie and Alex:

DAVID

Hold on.

David TURNS to face the MONSTER WAVE... *on a collision course with the boat... nowhere to go.* Our family SCREAMS as the wave SLAMS into the sailboat... fully engulfing it. *And as the WATER fills the FRAME, we... SMASH TO BLACK.*

8

EXT. SNOWY BEACH - DAY

8

FADE UP... ON THE ICY WATER -- as Alex's iPhone emerges -- *plip* -- from under the surface. WIDEN.

AS WE NOW CATCH UP TO OUR OPENING SHOT -- David looks around... no sign of Alex or Nat. Just SNOW and ICE. When... *suddenly...* he SEES: Alex, lifting her head up from the snowy beach.

DAVID

Alex...

David RUNS to her as she gathers herself. *Battered, but okay.* She looks around. Stunned.

ALEX

Where are we?

DAVID

I don't know. I can't find Nat.
(beat, yelling)
Nat... Natalie...

ALEX
David... look!

Alex points to a LARGE PIECE OF THE BOAT'S HULL moored against the shoreline. *Natalie is trapped underneath. We... CUT UNDER THE HULL with Natalie.*

NATALIE
Dad, hurry. I can't breathe.

DAVID
Stay calm. Alex...

David nods to Alex to grab the side of the HULL. They try to lift it... but it's too heavy. INSIDE THE HULL -- Natalie GULPS for air.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Dammit.

NATALIE
Hurry. Please.

*

David spots the INFLATABLE SAFETY RAFT... thinking fast, he SLIDES IT UNDER THE HULL... pulls the EMERGENCY TAB. It inflates just enough to help them raise the hull. Natalie crawls out. Shaken but safe. As he hugs his daughter, Alex -- relieved and impressed -- looks at David, who smiles.

DAVID
How do you think I made Eagle Scout? Use what you got.

Alex shares the smile, as Natalie pulls away, peers around.

NATALIE
We're not in the Bahamas, are we?

Off David and Alex's looks we're --

9 INT. CRUISER - CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

9

Alex hurriedly pores through the remains of the overturned boat's cabin. She checks the SAT phone: STATIC. The radio: DEAD.

10 EXT. SNOWY BEACH - CONTINUOUS

10

CLOSE ON A MAP OF THE CARIBBEAN -- as David lowers it to REVEAL a icy tableau that is anything but tropical. Natalie SORTS through their luggage strewn across the snowy beach.

DAVID
(urgent)
Pack anything we can use, Nat. Warm clothes. Flare gun...

NATALIE
... *snowmobile?*
(beat)
So, we gonna talk about what the hell just happened? The laser light
(MORE)

NATALIE (CONT'D)
show, the epic tsunami, the detour
to Santa's workshop...

DAVID
(unconvinced)
I'm sure there are explanations,
Nat. Just too cold to think of any
right now.

ALEX
(emerging from the boat)
Radio's dead. No signal on the SAT
phone. Any luck on where we are?

David looks down to see: the RING BOX. Before Alex notices, he
quickly slips it into his pocket... then points to the map.

DAVID
Not sure. But there are over 700
islands in the Bahamas...

ALEX
Any of them look like Iceland?

Off David, unsure, we're --

11 EXT. SNOWY FOREST - LATER

11

Our family trudges through the rugged terrain. They're
carrying backpacks and wearing slightly-warmer clothes,
although they're clearly still under-dressed.

NATALIE
Silver lining, we have plenty of
sunscreen.

DAVID
Once we get to higher ground, we'll
shoot the flare.

NATALIE
Great plan... if there's anyone
here to see it.

ALEX
She's right. Not every land mass in
the mid-Atlantic is inhabited.

Natalie -- cold, tired and hungry -- looks at Alex.

NATALIE
Fascinating. Anyone ever tell you
you sound like a textbook sometimes?

Natalie. DAVID

ALEX
Not to my face.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You know when I sound like that?
When I'm nervous about trying to
impress someone who clearly doesn't
seem to like me.

Natalie says nothing. After a beat, Alex -- clearly not getting an apology -- exhales and walks up ahead. Needing some space. David turns to Natalie.

DAVID
Nat, enough already. You've been on
her since we left Miami. Whatever
it is, let it go...

Natalie nods. But whatever truly bothers her about Alex, we know that she can't let it go. As we HEAR:

ALEX (O.S.)
(wondrous)
Do you see this...?

David and Natalie catch up, look around with a growing sense of wonder. It's no longer snowy and cold; in fact, the forest is dense with a lush greenery.

ALEX (CONT'D)
The topography. It's completely
changed.

DAVID
It's hot. It's actually hot.

NATALIE
(to Alex)
Okay, textbook, how do you explain
this?

ALEX
I can't, except to say... it's amazing.

Natalie begins peeling off layers, as David laughs. Incredulous.

DAVID
That sunscreen's gonna come in
handy after all.

David and Alex share a perplexed -- yet enraptured -- look at what they are seeing.

ALEX (PRELAP)
It defies explanation...

12

EXT. TROPICAL FOREST/JUNGLE - (MOMENTS) LATER

12

The trio walks along, heavier clothing wrapped around their waists. Trying to make sense of the topography.

ALEX

Polar. Sub-tropical. I've never seen extreme micro-climates in such close proximity.

(off David and Natalie)

What?

DAVID/NATALIE

Text book.

Alex smiles as they emerge into a CLEARING -- TALL GRASS, almost like America's heartland. Yet another wondrous new topography. As they take it in, David squints at an OBJECT in the DISTANCE.

DAVID

What's that...?

SLIGHT TIME CUT... and we're ON the JUNKED REMAINS of an OLD U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE FIGHTER PLANE. Insignias faded, guns stripped. They take it in.

ALEX

Those markings... must be from World War Two.

Just then... a DUST CLOUD rises from over the horizon. Accompanied by a LOW RUMBLE. David's EYES WIDEN hopefully.

DAVID

Hear that? Could be help...

Just then... FIVE BENGAL TIRES rise over the horizon. Growling and bearing their teeth.

NATALIE

Uh... care to revise your statement?

Our family is frozen in fear. Alex turns, sotto, to the others.

ALEX

This is crazy. Bengal tigers are indigenous to South Asia, not --
(beat, realizing)
My God. I really do sound like a textbook.

As the tigers move closer...

NATALIE

Anything in that text book about what to do next?

DAVID

(looks at Alex)

I'm guessing... run?

Our TRIO SPRINTS... followed by the charging TIGERS. But the plains offer NO REFUGE unless they can OUTPACE the tigers and reach the FOREST ahead. As they RUN... Natalie trips and falls.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Nat!

David stops... tries to pull her up. But the tigers are closing fast. Too fast. David, knowing they can't outrun them, pulls his daughter close. Awaiting their fate. The tigers near them. Closer. Tension building. When...

BANG. A *GUNSHOT* scatters the charging tigers... our family is safe. They look up to see: ULYSSES, 30s -- canvas drawstring pants, white tattered shirt -- holding a smoking MUSKET. Our family, shaken yet relieved, takes in their strange benefactor.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Uh... I guess there are people here.

And off this breathless realization... SMASH TO TITLE CARD:

TRIANGLE

13

EXT. GRASSY PLAINS/EDGE OF FOREST - CONTINUOUS

13

RESUME. As our family faces Ulysses. Grateful.

ALEX

Thank you. For that.

Ulysses stares, says nothing.

DAVID

Our boat crashed on the beach. *The snow.* We were looking for help.

ALEX

Can you tell us where we are?

Ulysses still stares silently at them.

DAVID

Man of few words.

NATALIE

Maybe he doesn't speak English.

ULYSSES

(beat, with a West Indian lilt)
I speak English. And French. If you want help, come with me.

Ulysses turns and walks off. Our family exchanges an unsure look, considering whether to follow or not, we're --

14

INT. WOODED AREA - LATER

14

Ulysses walks fast, our family trailing behind --

ULYSSES

Antilles. Just west. Off the
Leeward Islands.
(off their confused looks)
You asked where we were.

DAVID

The Leewards? No, that's impossible --
we'd be a thousand miles off-course.

ULYSSES

Then you're a thousand miles off-
course.

Ulysses quickens his pace. As the family exhales, trudges on.

15

EXT. CABIN - DAY

15

ON A SMALL WOODEN CABIN -- that appears ripped from a Laura
Ingalls novel. REVERSE as Ulysses leads our family towards it.

NATALIE (O.S.)

You actually live here?

ULYSSES

We *both* do.

GRACE, 30s with an unspoken strength, greets our family on
the PORCH. She speaks with a vaguely English accent. Like
Ulysses, she's outfitted in somewhat dated clothes.

GRACE

(warmly)
Hello, I'm Grace.

DAVID

David. This is Alex. My daughter,
Natalie.

ULYSSES

They crashed on the beach. I got to
them just before the tigers did.

GRACE

Thank God you're all in one piece.
Considering. Please... come in. You
must be exhausted.

Grace motions for them to enter, which our family does. But, as
Grace STAYS behind with Ulysses, the smile runs off her face.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Why'd you bring them here?

ULYSSES

They've been through a lot.

GRACE

Did you tell them?
 (Ulysses shakes his head "no")
 We'll need to inform the Council.

Ulysses nods, as we WONDER what mystery awaits our family.

16 EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

16

We're BEHIND THE CABIN as Ulysses stands before a wire PIGEON COOP. With a charcoal pencil, he SCRAWLS on a small slip of paper: "*There are three.*" He address the message to "*Highpoint Council*"... SLIPS it into a TUBE and tucks under a PIGEON'S CLAW. As the bird flies off, we're --

17 INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

17

PAN across a SHELF holding a curious ASSORTMENT of ANTIQUES... OLD BOOKS... VARIOUS DATED OBJECTS. REVERSE onto Natalie...

NATALIE

Kitschy. Looks like someone has an eBay addiction.

Meanwhile, Alex is taking in ANOTHER PART of the cabin, its interior as anachronistic as its exterior.

ALEX

Gas lanterns. A drum for rainwater. You see this? And I haven't even gotten to the green light... the tigers... the microclimates. David, something's... off here.

NATALIE

I agree with her...
 (off their surprise)
 ... *this one time.*

DAVID

(considers, nods)
 Whatever's going on, we still need their help. So let's play it cool... and maybe we'll get some.

Just then, Grace enters with a smile.

GRACE

I'm sorry. I should have warned you about our eclectic decorating tastes.

ALEX

We're very appreciative of your hospitality, Grace. But, as you can imagine, we would just like to get home. Do you have a cell phone? Or... any phone?

GRACE

We don't. But I assure you we'll
get you help first thing tomorrow.

Alex nods. Not exactly what she wanted to hear. But bubbling
with questions, she follows Grace into the kitchen area.

ALEX

Your accent... Austrian?

GRACE

By birth. Schooled in London.

Alex wants to press for more information. But Grace, eager to
change the subject, reaches for a kitchen knife.

GRACE (CONT'D)

You must be starving. I hope
everyone likes rabbit.

NATALIE

(from across the room)

Everyone doesn't. I'll stick with
veggies, thanks.

We STAY with Natalie as she approaches a DOOR. She peers
around... then OPENS it -- a CLOSET. Inside hangs a SOLDIER'S
REVOLUTIONARY WAR-ERA UNIFORM. As she takes it in, curious...
the door suddenly snaps shut. REVEAL Ulysses, behind her.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

(covering)

Uh, I was looking for the bathroom.

ULYSSES

It's out back.

NATALIE

Out back? *As in... an out-house?*

18

INT. OUT-HOUSE - LATER

18

Natalie sits unhappily on the wooden toilet. Muses to herself.

NATALIE

If you can pee in the school bathroom,
you can pee in a wooden box.

Then... she looks up to see: the PIGEONS squawking from
inside their WIRE COOP. Not exactly helping the matter...

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Nope, not gonna happen.

Just then, she looks up as a CARRIER PIGEON lands on the
outhouse window sill. She squints to spy a small TUBE tucked
under its claw. She furrows her brow, curious. As she
reaches for the tube, we're --

19 INT. CABIN - SAME TIME

19

Alex is examining some OLD BOOKS resting on the bookshelf. As she pulls one out, a PHOTO drops from it. She retrieves it:

CLOSE ON AN OLD BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTO: A WOMAN who looks strikingly similar to Grace is clad in the unmistakable grey-and-white striped UNIFORM of a CONCENTRATION CAMP prisoner.

ALEX

(to Grace, re: the photo)
Your grandmother? The resemblance
is... striking.

Grace nods, forces a smile. Seeing her lack of desire to engage, Alex shrugs and slides the picture back into the book, as Natalie re-enters, approaches David, as he and Ulysses stand over an antique MAP.

DAVID

(skeptical)
Leewards...? How's that even possible?

ULYSSES

Perhaps the trade-winds were gusting
harder than you thought.

As David considers this, Natalie surreptitiously MOTIONS to her father. Joining her, she hands him the NOTE that she took from the CARRIER PIGEON. We're CLOSE ON THE NOTE which reads: "Keep them there." David reads it, concerned.

DAVID

What is this? Where'd you get it?

NATALIE

How would you feel if I told you it
arrived by carrier pigeon?

David looks at her; she nods. David spins to confront Ulysses.

DAVID

"Keep them there." Ulysses, what
does this mean?

Ulysses exchanges a nervous look with Grace.

ULYSSES

Where'd you get that?

NATALIE

Your pigeon's off his game.

GRACE

That wasn't meant for you --

Grace REACHES for the note in David's hands. But, as she does... her blouse sleeve slips back... REVEALING the TATTOOED SERIAL NUMBER of a Holocaust survivor on her forearm.

Self-conscious, Grace quickly PULLS DOWN HER SLEEVE to cover it, but... it's too late. Alex has already seen it. She GRABS GRACE'S ARM... *gripping her tightly as she PUSHES BACK the sleeve.*

ALEX
(re: the tattoo)
My God. The photo. That was... you.
But... how?

Grace looks guiltily at her. Alex yells to David across the room.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(urgently)
David, they've been lying to us
since we got here.

DAVID
Yeah, I'm starting to realize that.

Our hosts FACE our newcomers. Tense. David looks down at *Ulysses' musket atop the table*. Ulysses LOCKS on it, too. A STAND-OFF... each man wanting to reach for it when... *Natalie grabs it...* flips it to David, who TRAINS it on their hosts.

ULYSSES
(talking him down)
Please. You don't understand.
Everything can be explained.

DAVID
Sorry. You missed your window.
(beat)
Alex. Nat. C'mon... *now*.

David trains the gun for one final beat, until our family is OUT THE DOOR. Grace, concerned, turns to Ulysses...

GRACE
Raise the alarm.

20 EXT. FOREST - DAY 20

Our family flies through the woods, running. Fast.

21 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - INTERCUT (AS NEEDED) 21

Ulysses and Grace follow in pursuit. But as they TEAR THROUGH FRAME, we see they are NOT ALONE.

TENSE INTERCUTTING continues... as OUR FAMILY reaches a FORK in the WOODS. They stop. Unsure which direction to turn.

ALEX
Why would a thirty year-old woman
have a concentration camp tattoo?

DAVID
This way.

They resume RUNNING. Until they EMERGE from the FOREST... finding themselves at a HILLTOP RIDGE. NOWHERE else to go.

Then... Grace and Ulysses EMERGE from the woods... and BEHIND THEM a handful of others dressed in somewhat anachronistic garb: a WOMAN in a Puritan-style frock, BEARDED men in dated SOLDIER HATS, a few NATIVE AMERICANS. Caught between the RIDGE and this ARMED GROUP, David lowers his musket, outgunned.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(to Grace and Ulysses)

What do you want with us? Who are these people? The same ones who said to keep us at the cabin?

GRACE

Yes. Because we're all just trying to protect you. As Ulysses said, there are explanations for everything you've seen since you arrived.

DAVID

Explanations? For Bengal tigers. And micro-climates. And --

ALEX

-- Holocaust survivors that look like her?

GRACE

Yes.

DAVID

I don't care. I just want to know -- *where the hell we are?*

Just then, Alex turns and looks OVER THE RIDGE to the SEA BELOW. She taps David on the shoulder.

ALEX

David. You need to see this...

Our trio turns and peer down at a BEACH filled with the WRECKAGE of COUNTLESS PLANES, SHIPS AND BOATS from various eras that have CRASH-LANDED below. As they process it...

ULYSSES

You asked where you are. Well... you call it the Bermuda Triangle... but we call it home.

And off our family, stunned, we... SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO22 EXT. RIDGE - DIRECT PICKUP - DAY

22

Our stunned family faces Ulysses and Grace, as the curious band of inhabitants stand in the background.

DAVID
(freaked out)
This can't be true -- the Bermuda Triangle isn't a *real place*.

GRACE
We struggled with it, too. That's why we didn't tell you at first.

ALEX
(indicates the wrecks below)
Are you saying the people we thought had died -- drowned -- in those boats and planes....? They're --

GRACE
Here... *someplace*. And likely very much alive.

ULYSSES
You see, the Bermuda Triangle is not as you thought. It's a lost continent found on no maps. That has claimed travelers throughout history.

David shakes his head. Unwilling to accept this.

DAVID
You realize what this sounds like?

ALEX
(off Grace's slow nod)
Okay. And on the off-chance everything you're saying is true -- and you did actually survive World War II -- that would make you --

GRACE
Ninety years old. Although, a baby compared to him.

ULYSSES
My fishing boat washed ashore from Port au Prince in 1804.

NATALIE
Time out -- no one here ages... ever?

DAVID
I don't think she meant ever, Nat.

ULYSSES

No, that's exactly what she meant.
Washing up in the Triangle does
have its benefits.

DAVID

As insane as they seem.

Our family exchanges looks of disbelief. As Ulysses points
past them, they turn to follow his gaze OVER the VALLEY OF
SHIPS... where they see a SETTLEMENT atop a small hill.

NATALIE

What's that?

ULYSSES

Our village.

As we PUSH IN on the village, we... MATCH CUT TO:

23

EXT. HIGHPOINT - VILLAGE SQUARE - LATER

23

Grace and Ulysses lead our family through the VILLAGE GATE.

GRACE

This is Highpoint.

Our family enters the village, a collection of wooden cabins
and makeshift stone structures. A BRITISH FLAG waves from a
sail mast in the village center... as INHABITANTS from
throughout history move about. All eyes turn to our newcomers.

NATALIE

Either this is some serious
cosplay... or it's all somehow real.

GRACE

It's real. Highpoint is its own
community. We have a council that
makes decisions... although,
technically, we're still part of
New Britannia, one of the most
powerful kingdoms on the continent.

DAVID

Kingdoms... plural?

Grace retrieves a crude, hand-drawn map of the Triangle.

GRACE

Seven or so. Varying by language or
culture...
(catching Ulysses' eye)
Excuse us for a moment.

As our family takes in the map, Ulysses and Grace peel off to
the VILLAGE CENTER and RING a BELL attached to the flagpole.

DAVID

(reading the map)
The French, Spanish, others. It's
unreal, this world is huge...

ALEX

Look, I know a layover on a lost
continent wasn't on the itinerary, but
from an archeological perspective,
this would be the greatest discovery
of the modern world.

NATALIE

Yet from a reality perspective, it
would be cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs.

ALEX

(nods, deadpan)
Technically-speaking.

ANGLE ON: TAMA, mid-30s, a Native American of the PAMLICO
TRIBE, who walks with Grace and Ulysses. Tama's serious and
officious -- and clearly not pleased at the moment.

TAMA

You told them? Grace, there are protocols.

GRACE

Protocols went out the window when
they nearly shot us.

Tama grudgingly nods as they approach our family.

GRACE (CONT'D)

This is Tama. She's responsible for
processing any newcomers and she
takes her job very seriously --

TAMA

Someone should. Luckily, you all
look relatively unscathed. Still...
I'd like the village doctor to take
a look at you.

DAVID

Tama. We'll need your help getting
home.

TAMA

First things first. You may not age
here, but you can die. Guns, tigers,
illness. Let's get those scrapes
checked out, then we'll talk.

DR. OWEN PATEL, 40 -- a high-energy medical doctor of East
Indian descent -- extends a hand towards our family.

OWEN

-- *Dr. Owen Patel*. Nice to meet some people from my own century for a change. A bit like the Smithsonian around here sometimes. *Come in*. Let's get a look at you folks.

As our family tentatively enters and sits...

ALEX

So... Owen... when did you get here?

OWEN

'88. I was on my way to help with disaster relief for Hurricane Gilbert... last time I hire a pilot from the Yellow Pages.

Owen smiles at his own joke, as he reaches for an old stethoscope... begins to examine them.

OWEN (CONT'D)

So... what year are you folks from...? No... don't tell me...
(taking in David)
...I see you got that whole Hasselhoff-Knight Rider thing going -- '89? '90? *You're kidding* -- '91?

Our trio exchanges a look. Alex turns to him with sympathy.

ALEX

Owen... it's 2019.

OWEN

(dazed)
2019? Time doesn't move here like it does back home. We measure its passage by new arrivals. You're the first ones to Highpoint since I got here... so I had no idea.
(sinks in his chair)
I've been gone for... 30 years?

DAVID

Why didn't you ever go back? You have access to boats --

Owen is about to respond, but stops as Ulysses enters.

ULYSSES

The council's ready.

DAVID

The council can wait. What happened, Owen? Are they keeping you here?

Owen looks at them for a beat, before breaking into a smile.

OWEN

Relax, Dave. The council's harmless. Besides, newbies are always a hot commodity. They bring news, knowledge. You're literally visitors from the future. Everyone wants to know what you know...

As our trio grudgingly rises -- none-too-thrilled -- we're --

25

EXT. SNOWY BEACH - DAY

25

FROM THE WRECKAGE of our FAMILY'S BOAT... we PAN onto a MAN with DARK EYES. This is LIAM, 30. He stands with his MOUNTED CAVALRY unit as his second-in-command, LIEUTENANT PRISCILLA, 28, turns to him...

PRISCILLA

Sir, our scouts were correct. Newcomers have landed.

Liam inspects the wreckage, then sifts through a LUGGAGE BAG left in the snow... retrieves a SMALL PHOTO of David, Alex and Natalie. He studies it with a chilling intensity before slipping it into his pocket. He nods at our family's BOAT --

LIAM

Burn it. Leave no trace. We don't want any of the other kingdoms knowing they're here.

PRISCILLA

It's too late, Sir, a rider approaches. From the north.

For Liam, this is bad news. Priscilla hands him a SPYGLASS, through which he sees: a BEARDED MAN -- in cold-weather ROBES -- galloping towards them in the distance.

LIAM

How unfortunate... for him. These people belong to New Britannia.

Liam draws his musket, squints and aims --

LIAM (CONT'D)

Besides, border incursions must be dealt with swiftly, Leftenant.

BLAM. Liam fires. The UNSUSPECTING ROBED MAN is struck, a KILL-SHOT TO THE CHEST. The man falls off his horse, dead. Priscilla blanches, but Liam merely turns his attention back towards our family's SNOWY FOOTPRINTS.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Come. Their tracks lead east.

Liam quickly mounts his horse and rides off with his unit, as remaining SOLDIERS set torches and BURN OUR FAMILY'S BOAT.

26

INT. CHURCH - DAY

26

The COUNCIL MEETING in progress. At a DAIS in the transept sit Ulysses, Grace, Tama, Owen and SARAH, a PURITAN, 25. The GALLERY is filled with TOWNSPEOPLE from throughout history. Everyone STANDS as Tama completes the loyalty oath.

TAMA

-- I swear my true allegiance to Frederick, King of Britannia, our noble ruler. So help me, Almighty God.

NATALIE

(sotto to David, sarcastic)
They have a king. This is gonna make one helluva college essay.

David nods as everyone in the room takes their seats. Tama offers our family a tight smile.

TAMA

Welcome. As you can imagine, we're all very curious to hear more about you and the world you've come from. But first, we'd like to learn what skills you have... how you can contribute... before we help you settle in.

DAVID

(shakes his head)
Look, we're happy to bring you up to speed on the past 30 years, but we're not "settling in." We're going home --

A murmur rises from the gallery. The Council members exchange concerned looks. Then Tama sighs, turns to our family.

TAMA

I'm afraid there's no easy way to say this -- once you land here, there is no way to go home.

DAVID

No. If you have *boats*, and an *ocean* there's always a way home.

ULYSSES

David. We've tried and failed many times. Boats... planes...

OWEN

Even tried a hang-glider once.

ULYSSES

No matter the vessel... once you're two leagues off-shore, the green light appears and you awaken on the beach.

HAM, 30s, his feet on the rail, a SILVER FLASK in his hand. A PIRATE -- and rogue -- in a previous life.

HAM

Tell me. What's so great about your home?

DAVID

We built lives there. Alex's parents... our friends and loved ones.

HAM

Love is overrated.
(winks at Alex, flirty)
Although if she wants to change my mind, I am open to persuasion.

David rises towards Ham, but Alex holds him back.

TAMA

Ham, *enough* --

ALEX

(to the room)
David's right. We're not trapped. In our world, we have SAT phones... tracking devices. When we don't show up in the Bahamas, they'll come looking for us. And if they don't, we'll never stop trying to find our own way home.

TAMA

I felt that way too. For my first 100 years. I arrived here from the Roanoke Colony. In 1609.

One-by-one OTHERS stand.

SARAH THE PURITAN

My family and I crashed here in 1765. We once thought as you did, too.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

1864.

An ASIAN GIRL, 10, rises.

ASIAN GIRL

1973.

HAM

1720 or thereabouts. First half of the century's a bit... rummy.

TAMA

(rolls her eyes, to Alex)
We've all tried and failed. If there was a way out, don't you think we would have found it by now?

Natalie, distraught, runs out of the room. David rises to follow, but Alex -- desirous of the opportunity to connect with her -- stops him.

ALEX
No, let me.

But before Alex goes, she addresses the room --

ALEX (CONT'D)
One more thing. Every archaeologist knows that if there's a way in, there's a way out. You said there's a lot about this place even you don't understand -- just because you haven't found a way home yet, doesn't mean one doesn't exist.

Alex exits, as we HOLD on Grace, contemplating Alex's last words.

27 EXT. HIGHPOINT VILLAGE - (MOMENTS) LATER 27

Grace is lost in thought, as Ulysses approaches her.

GRACE
Could she be right? That we gave up too easily?

ULYSSES
I would not consider two hundred years of failure "giving up easily."

GRACE
Imagine... returning home. It would be like stepping into the future. To see how the world's grown... changed. You would see Haiti again. We could build a life there. Together.

ULYSSES
We already have a life together. *Here.*

28 EXT. HILL ABOVE HIGHPOINT - (MOMENTS LATER) 28

Natalie sits alone, teary-eyed, peering out at the valley below. Alex steps in.

NATALIE
If I knew I was packing for the rest of my life, I would have brought, *I don't know, everything*. I'm stuck here forever. Stuck at fifteen forever. Which would be fine if I was, you know, Kylie Jenner at 15. But I'm not. I'm... *me*. Now I'll never grow up. Never have some cool career. Or even get married. I'm... this forever.

ALEX

I get it, Nat. I felt the same way at your age. Waiting for my life to start. And I wasn't in an alternate universe, I was in Akron. But I meant what I said back there. I'm going to get us home.

NATALIE

Just because you think you're Tomb Raider, you'll find some magic portal that no one else has found in 400 years? Cool. Hit me up by pigeon when you do.

ALEX

I always thought of myself as more Indiana Jones than Tomb Raider. But, either way, I need you to trust me --

NATALIE

And why would I ever trust you?

ALEX

Why *wouldn't* you?

NATALIE

You really want to do this here? In the bizarro world?
(off Alex)

Fine. So the thing about the internet is if you have half-a-brain and nothing to do on Friday nights, you can find anything -- old photos, divorce papers...

ALEX

Your father knows I was married.

NATALIE

But does he know why it ended? Because one of you wasn't so good at the "faithful" part... *were you?*

ALEX

I don't deny it. But I can explain --

NATALIE

Sorry, not interested. See the thing about getting left is you get really good at spotting who's gonna leave. He's already been hurt once. And I won't let it happen again...

Natalie starts to walk off.

ALEX

Nat. I would never hurt him. I've waited my whole life for someone like him. Please. Don't walk away --

Alex reaches for her, but as Natalie YANKS her arm away, the DIRT beneath her GIVES WAY... and Natalie slips OVER THE EDGE OF THE HILLSIDE. Alex GASPS, peers down to see: Natalie hugging the rocky hillside on a tiny ledge 15 feet below.

ALEX (CONT'D) Natalie... hold on.
NATALIE Alex, help me!!!

David -- with Ulysses in tow -- RUSHES over.

ALEX
She slipped... over the edge.

Ulysses quickly retrieves a ROPE, which he TIES to a tree.

DAVID
(calling down)
Nat, hang on. We're gonna lower down a rope... tie it around your waist.

The ROPE REACHES NATALIE... she does as told. David and Ulysses begin to HOIST... but the rope CATCHES on a CRAG. Suddenly... a BELL RINGS from the village center. Ulysses and Grace exchange a CONCERNED look.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What's that?

ULYSSES
The warning bell. Soldiers from the capital.

Dread washes over Ulysses' face. Preoccupied, he stops HOISTING.

DAVID
What are you doing? Pull her up.

ULYSSES
There's no time. If we continue, they are certain to see you --

DAVID
So? That's my daughter down there --

ULYSSES
David, Alex... listen to me, you both need to stay out of sight.
(off David's look)
If soldiers have come here, they've come for one purpose: to find the three of you.

ANGLE ON: *Liam and his soldiers, approaching fast.* And we know one thing: this is not good. As we... SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE29 EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

29

ON NATALIE -- rope tied around her waist... hanging from the hillside. Terrified, but safe, she talks to herself.

NATALIE

*Don't look down, don't look down,
don't look down.*

(she looks down)

Ach. Why did I do that?

DAVID (PRELAP)

Tell me again why my daughter's
safer down there...

30 EXT. HILL ABOVE HIGHPOINT - SAME TIME

30

Ulysses -- with Owen's help -- urgently leads a defiant David and Alex behind a cabin with a clear view of the town center... as Liam's mounted unit gallops through the village gates.

ULYSSES

Because the alternative is the
three of you being taken away and
never to be heard from again. That
unit is commanded by Prince Liam,
the only son of the King and Queen.

OWEN

He's like New Britannia's Gestapo --

Ulysses motions to Owen to "stay with them" as he peels off. Owen nods, huddles with David and Alex, hidden and watching.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Two things make Liam a seriously
angry dude. One -- he's heir to a
throne where the King will never die.

ALEX

Definitely a career obstacle. And
the second?

OWEN

He used to be in love with Grace.

BACK TO ULYSSES as he joins Grace and Tama as they approach Liam, who dismounts his horse.

TAMA

Tell him the truth. We don't need
trouble with the Crown.

GRACE

But if Alex is right...? If she can
help us find a way home? We can't
just hand them over to him.

TAMA

Fine. Then just don't antagonize him. Your choice in lovers should not be Highpoint's problem.

LIAM

Grace? I barely recognized you. Village life has dulled your beauty.

Tama shoots a look at Grace, who tempers her reply.

GRACE

Then I'm thankful my beauty is no longer your concern. What brings you to Highpoint, Liam?

LIAM

A small frigate washed ashore. Its passengers appear to be American.

Liam presents the PHOTO of OUR FAMILY he took from the wreckage to Tama. As Grace, Ulysses and Tama look at it... we're BEHIND THE CABIN, where David's restless, worried for Natalie --

DAVID

What would this Prince want with us?

OWEN

I told you, new people are special. Although based on the size of the welcoming committee, some more special than others...

BACK TO ULYSSES, GRACE, TAMA and LIAM --

GRACE

Why are you so interested in these newcomers?

LIAM

Ah... there's the Grace I knew. Such a fire in your belly.

Liam's smile darkens... as he reaches out and GRABS Grace by the collar. In reaction, Ulysses itches at his SHOTGUN, but exerts a superhuman effort to contain himself. Sensing the TENSION, the British soldiers draw their rifles.

ULYSSES

Let her go --

LIAM

(ignores him, to Grace)
There was a time when I found your boldness attractive, now it just comes across as insolence.

Ulysses eyes his shotgun as... Tama, steps in the middle, tries to deflate the tension --

TAMA

Prince Liam, please, tell your men to stand down. If we find the newcomers, you have my word -- we'll alert you.

Liam nods... then releases Grace and nods to his unit who lower their weapons.

LIAM

That's all I ask, as loyal subjects of the Crown.

As Liam turns to his horse, he catches Ulysses stealing a glance at the ROPE that's keeping Natalie from falling.

LIAM (CONT'D)

What's that?

ULYSSES

Rope. For pigeon traps.

But Liam has good instincts. He walks towards the rope... as BEHIND THE CABIN, David grows nervous.

DAVID

Oh, God no --

Liam strides to the hill's edge, looks down, but can't see the end of the rope. David and Alex watch with bated breath... as Liam inspects the rope... its path... then he TUGS on it --

ANGLE ON NATALIE -- terrified, as she clings to the hillside, trying to stay hidden.

LIAM

Heavy for a pigeon trap.
(turns to Ulysses)
Unless, of course, it provides another use entirely. Could that be the case, Ulysses?

Liam steps close, studying Ulysses' face for veracity. The moment is flush with subtext: it's not simply a search for the truth, but a former lover assessing the man who replaced him.

ULYSSES

Why would I lie, your Highness? I am, as you say, a loyal subject of the Crown.

LIAM

Just how loyal... I wonder?
(off Ulysses stoic look)
I'll leave you to your birds.

Liam turns, seemingly accepting the explanation. But then, in one swift move, he draws his saber... SLICES the rope in two.

DAVID
(sotto, terror-stricken)
No!

David takes a step towards the cliff, but Owen stops him. As David struggles to break free --

LIAM
(to Ulysses)
Apologies. Grace brings out the worst in me.

Liam rides off with his soldiers, as... BEHIND THE CABIN, Owen calms David.

OWEN
Wait until they clear the village --

David waits... until Liam's unit is a safe distance away. Then he shoves off Owen and bee-lines to check on his daughter. David peers over the edge. *Nothing* --

DAVID
Natalie? *NATALIE*? Oh God --

NATALIE (O.S.)
(shouts back --)
Dad. I'm okay.

31 EXT. FOREST BELOW - INTERCUT (AS NEEDED)

31

Natalie wipes herself off.

NATALIE
I landed in some mud which broke my fall. And possibly my ankle.

DAVID
Tell me what you see.

NATALIE
A big tree. Thick branches. Sorry, I can't exactly Google it right now.

ULYSSES
At the base of the hill is the Great Oak. I can take you to her.

DAVID
(shouts)
Natalie, stay put. We're coming down to get you.

OWEN
I'll join -- take a look at that ankle.

Ulysses nods. As our group moves off, Tama notices Ham. Peering back scornfully at her from a private perch. Tama moves towards him. Worried.

TAMA

I know that look. And I don't like it.

HAM

Ask yourself. Why would the Prince come to Highpoint personally... just for these newcomers? They're dangerous, Tama.

TAMA

Ham, I know how you feel about newcomers. But promise me you'll do nothing to harm them.

HAM

Of course. You have my word.

Satisfied, Tama moves off. But we HOLD on Ham's dark smile, we can't help but WONDER exactly what he's planning...

32

EXT. HILLSIDE PASS - LATER

32

Our group walks the winding mountainous path towards the Great Oak. David is lost in thought, as Ulysses steps in next to him. Alex, Grace and Owen walk behind.

ULYSSES

Faith is scarce in these parts. But try to hold onto yours just a little bit longer. We are almost to her.

David nods. Behind them, Grace turns to Alex.

GRACE

You meant what you said, didn't you? That you will find a way home.

ALEX

Or die trying.
(then lightening the mood)
Too soon?

Alex notes Grace's preoccupation.

ALEX (CONT'D)

But, Grace, when we leave, you'll go back with us, right?

GRACE

To live in a world without Nazis? I'd like that. I lost my whole family in the camp at Auschwitz. The irony of it all -- on my way to America -- *to freedom* -- my ship

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)
landed here... only to see it all
potentially happening again. Who
knows what would become of us if
Liam were to ever wear the crown?

As on cue, we SMASH TO:

33 EXT. WATERING HOLE - DAY

33

Liam and his cavalry rest their horses. Priscilla approaches
with a PARCHMENT in her hand. As she steps in...

LIAM
My family landed here in 1725 so we
weren't privy to the American
Revolution. I suppose this is how
it began -- with whiffs of treason.

Priscilla unscrolls the parchment -- a message.

PRISCILLA
We received a message from
Highpoint, sir.
(then, reading)
*"They lied to you. The Newcomers
are heading for the Great Oak."*
(beat)
It came unmarked.

LIAM
(nods, then)
Perhaps there is still *someone* in
Highpoint who's loyal to their
prince.
(determined)
We must find these Newcomers,
Leftenant. I cannot tell you why,
only that they have great value to
the Kingdom.

As Liam moves towards his horse, we HEAR:

ULYSSES (PRELAP)
It's just around this pass.

34 EXT. HILLSIDE PASS/GREAT OAK TREE - DAY

34

As Ulysses continues to lead our group, Owen moves to Alex.

OWEN
Sorry to be a bother. But... 2019.
Do you mind if I ask you a few
questions?
(off Alex's assent)
Depeche Mode... the band? They
still together?

ALEX

That's what you want to know?
(off Owen's nod)
Best guess -- no idea.

OWEN

Then how about the Chicago Cubs...?

ALEX

Now baseball I can help with. The
Cubs won the World Series in 2016.

ULYSSES

We're here.

They emerge from the forest to reach the Great Oak. But to everyone's shock... *Natalie's nowhere to be found.*

DAVID

Natalie? Nat?
(spotting her jacket)
Her jacket. What the hell happened
to her?

Ulysses looks to the ground, studies some leaves...

ALEX

What's he doing?

GRACE

Ulysses was a famous tracker in
Haiti. He helped his brother win
the war of independence.

Ulysses examines dirt marks and indentations, starting to piece together the events that took place. *A broken branch. Footprints. A drop of blood on a rock.*

DAVID

What can you tell?

ULYSSES

There was a man. She tried to fight
him off, but... he took her.

DAVID

Who? Who took her?

ULYSSES

I do not know. Out here... it could
have been anyone.

SMASH TO: HIGH ANGLE OF A POV WATCHING from a distance...

CLOSE ON: A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE perched on a horse. Hidden by a HOOD, we can't make out the WATCHER'S FACE... but we TILT DOWN to REVEAL a GLOVED HAND, *gripping a SWORD*. And as the WATCHER turns and rides off -- we... SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

35

INT. THE GREAT OAK - LATER - DAY

35

David sits alone, preoccupied, as Ulysses and the others desperately attempt to pick up Natalie's trail. Alex, sympathetic, sits down next to him.

ALEX

Ulysses said he's confident he'll be able to pick up Natalie's trail.

DAVID

(nods, then raw)

From the moment they're born, you have one responsibility as a parent -- keep them safe. Now she's out there somewhere -- helpless.

ALEX

David, she's the least helpless girl I've ever met. Thanks to you. You've been a great dad.

DAVID

A great dad who lied to her her entire life.

Alex looks to him, unsure. David exhales.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Claire -- her mother -- left -- that's the story I told Natalie. But it's not the whole story.

ALEX

Then what really happened?

Off David's heavy look, he finally starts to open up:

DAVID

It started after Nat was born. Claire's behavior... changed. Paranoia... hallucinations... people trying to hurt her... a man with a red ring trying to steal Natalie -- *crazy things*. Then one day I came home -- Nat was in her crib, crying, and Claire was... shaking her -- *screaming at her* -- to stop. It was like Claire had become someone else. The doctors told me she needed real help...

(hard for him)

I had her committed.

ALEX

David, I'm so sorry.

DAVID

Claire begged me not to, but I couldn't risk it. I visited her every day until one day I showed up and she was gone. Somehow she got herself released. Not long after, the divorce papers came in the mail.

(beat)

Maybe if I'd trusted Claire -- if I didn't hospitalize her -- she never would have left. And Natalie wouldn't have grown up without a mother --

ALEX

No, David, as painful as it was, you did what any parent would do.

DAVID

That's what I told myself. Because I'd vowed to always protect Nat from anything -- or anyone -- that might hurt her. And now, after three hours -- in this place -- I've failed at the one thing I swore I'd do...

Alex places a comforting hand on his. Then... David's EARS suddenly perk up as he hears a RUSTLING sound -- something approaching in the bushes -- *could it be Natalie?*

DAVID (CONT'D)

...hear that? Natalie? Nat?

As David and Alex watch, it's not Natalie that emerges. Instead, our GROUP peers through the BRUSH to spot: Liam's approaching unit of MOUNTED SOLDIERS. Suddenly... a GUNSHOT WHIZZES past them.

OWEN

Forgive the irony, but... the British are coming. *RUN!*

As bullets fly, our group sprints into the forest.

36

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

36

Our group runs, fast. As they do:

GRACE

We can't outpace their horses.

OWEN

Speak for yourself. I ran cross country at Dartmouth.

ALEX

How about those of us who didn't letter in track?

Running, they near a large STANDING ROCK marked with a SERIES OF PAGAN SYMBOLS on it. Ulysses clocks it, stops. As do the others. He exchanges a knowing look with Grace.

ULYSSES

The standing stones. We'd be entering the Savage Lands.

DAVID

"Savage Lands." Any chance it's one of those neighborhoods that's a lot nicer than its name?

GRACE

I'm sorry. We don't have a choice.

They resume RUNNING as we INTERCUT Liam and his men STOPPING as they reach the SAME ROCK. Cautious, perhaps even fearful.

37

EXT. RIVER SHORELINE - SAME TIME

37

We're back with OUR GROUP, arriving at the river's edge.

DAVID

Wait. Stop. We have to go back -- to pick up Natalie's trail.

ULYSSES

I'm sorry, David. It's no longer safe for us.

DAVID

And you think it's safe for her? Natalie's out here -- *somewhere* -- in this Godforsaken place. I'm going back to find her --

ULYSSES

Go back and Liam will kill you.

David slowly nods. They start to wade thru the shallow water when Owen notes a LONGBOAT tied to a WOODEN MOORING BOLLARD down-river. He squints ONBOARD we see: the DEAD BODY of a man clad in ANIMAL FURS and GRASPING A SWORD over his chest.

OWEN

Odd. That man looks... dead.

It's odd for sure. Alex's wheels turn...

ALEX

(realizing)

Savage lands? Could you mean... Vikings?

(off Grace's nod)

By the looks of it, he's their King. And this is his burial ritual. But something's missing.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Because Viking royals were buried
 at sea on --

Before she can finish her thought -- *suddenly... a FLAMING ARROW strikes the longboat... igniting it into flames.*

ALEX (CONT'D)
 -- *funeral pyres.*

Our group turns and looks to the shoreline behind them where: a dozen VIKING WARRIORS face them, carrying swords and axes. Our group is trapped. An ARROW lands between Owen's feet.

OWEN
 (deadpan)
 Huh. They seem nice.

38

EXT. VIKING RITUAL SITE - DUSK

38

Torches light the area. Pagan symbols are painted on rocks that surround a crudely-built stone altar. Our group is ushered by a few Vikings into the site.

ULYSSES
 (explaining, to the others)
 King Fredrick has long coveted the
 Savage Lands. Tensions are high
 between the kingdoms.

DAVID
 I dig the history lesson, but I
 need to find my --

NATALIE (O.S.)
Daddy?!?

They turn to see: Natalie, tied to a six-foot wooden stake... David is elated, as our group is BOUND to five STAKES nearby.

DAVID
 (pushing towards her)
Natalie! Thank God. You're alive!
 Did they hurt you?

NATALIE
 I'm okay. I got jumped by that
 Viking-in-Training over there...
 the one with the newly-acquired
 black eye.

David turns to see LEIF, 16, cute... for a Viking, walking with the Viking QUEEN NEELA, 40.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
 His mom's the Queen. She's got a
 whole "Cersei" thing going on.

Neela approaches, addresses our group.

NEELA

Greetings. As you've no doubt surmised, you have disregarded our markings and trespassed on sovereign land.

DAVID

(to Neela)

But my daughter didn't. You took her --

NEELA

True. Because I need her help.

The other Vikings laugh at this. Alex starts to think --

DAVID

Her help? For what?

ALEX

(realizing)

I think I know. We wandered into a Viking funeral. Tradition dictates that human sacrifices are often burned alive to accompany the dead to Valhalla...

NEELA

Ah... the wisdom of newcomers.

DAVID

(what the fuck?)

You want to sacrifice my daughter?

NEELA

No, not anymore.

(David sighs relief)

I want to sacrifice all of you. Search them for anything of value.

Neela moves off... as Leif searches our group's pockets... soon reaching Natalie.

NATALIE

Next. You already took my phone. Oh... and *sorry-not-sorry* about the eye.

Leif removes the BLACK RING BOX from David's pocket, opening it to reveal the ENGAGEMENT RING. Alex's eyes alight...

ALEX

David...

DAVID

I was about to propose on the boat. Before, well, you know the rest...

(off Alex's smile, then)

I love you Alex. I want you to be my wife. I know this probably isn't the destination wedding you had in mind... but will you marry me?

Alex looks at Natalie. A long beat. Then, she turns to David:

ALEX
Of course.

DAVID
(to Leif)
Can you put it on her finger?
Consider it a last request.

David turns to Alex. Then, pointedly:

DAVID (CONT'D)
As the Eagle Scouts say, *use what
you got.*

He holds his gaze. As Alex processes his "coded" suggestion, they share a knowing smile. Leif eyes them suspiciously, but then complies, placing the ring on Alex's finger as...

... the CAMERA FINDS ALEX'S HANDS... and we suddenly understand David's intentions as *she begins using the ring's diamond to cut through her bonds.*

39

EXT. VIKING RITUAL SITE - NIGHT

39

The prisoners anxiously await their fate. Alex continues to saw at her bonds to no avail. As she lets out of a frustrated sigh, Owen turns to her --

OWEN
Listen... I know this isn't the best time... what with the upcoming stake-burning and all, but one last question... 2019-wise?
(off her nod)
Have you been to the San Francisco ballet?

ALEX
Never. I gotta say, Owen, you have very eclectic tastes-- New Wave music, baseball, the ballet.

OWEN
Me? No... I can't stand any of those things.
(off Alex's confused look)
My son... he lives for the Cubs... my daughter feels the same way about Depeche Mode... and my wife... she adores the ballet. Since it's 2019 -- and I'm never going to see them again -- it's nice to know the things they love are still there, even if I'm not. Even if my children are grown... my wife remarried... and they've all likely forgotten me by now.

Owen forces a pained smile, overcome with emotion... as
CAMERA SETTLES on Grace and Ulysses --

GRACE
It may no longer matter, but Alex
truly believes there's a way home...

ULYSSES
Grace, their home is not our home.
It is a world we do not understand
and have no place in.

GRACE
This was a world we didn't understand
and we found our place here.

ULYSSES
And it is here we have a chance to
live forever.

GRACE
You're wrong. We could live forever
in their world, too.
(teary-eyed)
We could have children.

It's a touching moment... punctured by Leif's return with a
squad of VIKING GUARDS. David looks to Alex as if to ask:
"Have you cut through yet?" She shakes her head "no." When...
SUDDENLY... Leif DRAWS HIS KNIFE makes a beeline for David...

ALEX
What are you doing? Don't --

DAVID
(steeling himself)
Nat, look away --

Leif reaches him, knife-first... David's face tightens as...
Leif THRUSTS out his knife and... CUTS David's bonds.

LEIF
You're being spared.

DAVID
(shocked)
What? Why?

Once freed, the Viking guards grab David and begin to roughly
usher him off. David struggles to break loose, but the
Vikings are too strong. Alex and Natalie are distraught.

ALEX
Where are you taking him?

DAVID
Wait, please --
(as they drag him)
Nat, I love you. Both of you. I'll
come back. I promise. Alex --

ALEX
 (finishing his thought)
 -- I got her.

40 EXT. OLD BRIDGE - NIGHT (MOMENTS LATER)

40

David is escorted by Leif and the Viking Guards to a bridge, mid-span. They reach Queen Neela, her back toward us... obscuring the person she's talking to: Liam.

NEELA
 The prisoner you requested.

DAVID
You...

LIAM
 And as we agreed, I'll marshal
 Britannia's resources to find the
 person who killed your husband. How
 did he die, your Highness?

NEELA
 Shot by a coward during his morning
 ride near the snowy shores.

PUSH IN on LIAM, as we... **INSERT FLASHBACK** -- of the EARLIER SCENE in which we saw Liam shoot a ROBED MAN ON HORSEBACK... who we NOW realize was Neela's husband, the Viking King. Murdered at Liam's hand.

NEELA (CONT'D)
 Such a dishonorable death cannot go
 unpunished...

LIAM
 (covering)
 Nor should it. Trust me when I say,
 the perpetrator will be brought to
 justice.

Neela offers a tight smile, although we can tell Leif doesn't like Liam... or this arrangement. The Vikings turn, exit. Liam's men restrain David, as Liam moves to face him:

DAVID
 What the hell do you want with me?

LIAM
 (smiles)
 Revenge.

Off David -- stunned and alarmed -- we... SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE41 EXT. VIKING RITUAL SITE - NIGHT

41

Neela, Leif and the Vikings return to our group --

NATALIE
Where's my father?

NEELA
Safe. Honor him by accepting your fate.
(nods to Leif)
Place her on the altar --

Leif unties Natalie's wrists, drags her to the altar. As Alex frantically continues trying to cut her ropes.

NATALIE
Let go of me!

LEIF
(whispers to Natalie)
I'm sorry. I didn't know what she was planning.

NATALIE
(surprised, earnest)
Then you don't have to do it. And okay... I legit apologize for the eye.

But, as DRUMS begin pounding, Leif knows he has no choice. He places Natalie on the altar. Neela draws a KNIFE as the Vikings CHANT in their native tongue. Alex panics, yells --

ALEX
Wait -- my life for hers! Take me!
(off Natalie, shocked)
She deserves to live. To one day leave this place... and live the life she wants.
(off Natalie's touched look)
Set her free. Set them all free. Take me instead.

Neela considers this, approaches Alex.

NEELA
In another time we might have been kin sisters, but my husband will be doomed to walk the earth unless enough souls can guide him to Valhalla.

ALEX
Okay, in that case... how 'bout we start with yours?

Alex -- having CUT THROUGH her bonds -- JUMPS NEELA, wrapping the rope around her neck and dropping Neela to her knees.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(to Leif and the Vikings)
Release her or bury your Queen.

Leif is frozen, looks to his mother --

NEELA
Leif, continue the ceremony.

Alex tightens her grip on Neela. Leif raises his knife to kill Natalie... but he STOPS... unable to do it. A STAND-OFF.

NEELA (CONT'D)
(to Alex)
In the old world, were you trained
as a warrior?

ALEX
No...

NEELA
Pity. Because I was.

Neela then FLIPS Alex to the ground hard... drawing a SWORD.

NEELA (CONT'D)
I'll now grant your wish to die
first.

Neela is about to STRIKE Alex when... she's distracted by the SOUND of a BRAYING HORSE. All eyes turn to see: the MOUNTED RIDER who was watching them earlier galloping into camp... armed with a SWORD. *His face obscured by the shadows and the speed at which he moves.* Neela scrambles to her feet, directing the Vikings --

NEELA (CONT'D)
Kill him.

But the Rider is too quick. *WHOOSH!* The whipping-sword falls one Viking. *WHOOSH!* Then another Viking is sliced, dropping to the ground... as the Rider finally settles into the torchlight to REVEAL his face: *Ham*. Our people REACT as...

The frightened Vikings turn and run from the site. *All except Leif*, who TRAINS HIS BOW on Ham, who sighs and tosses his SWORD to the ground. *Is he surrendering?* No, instead Ham REACHES into his side-pouch to pull out a RIFLE. Aims it at Leif. Natalie looks sympathetically at the young Viking.

NATALIE
Don't be an idiot. He'll kill you.

HAM
She's right. Although, technically, I haven't killed anyone since the plundering of New Providence in 1718.
(taking in the slain Vikings)
Present company excluded.

LEIF

I'm not afraid to die.

NATALIE

Your mom just lost her husband. Do you want her to bury her son, too?

A beat, then Leif lowers his bow in surrender. He steals a last look at Natalie, who holds his intense gaze -- *a moment that tells us their story is perhaps just beginning*. Then... he turns, runs off to follow the others. Alex turns to Ham:

ALEX

Ham. Thank you.

HAM

(dismissive)

This is why I can't abide newcomers. They cause trouble.

ALEX

O-kay. Then why did you save us?

HAM

Because when I'm honest -- and sober -- I'd like to go home, too. And if you really can find a way, seems a pity to let you get barbecued.

Ham flashes Alex an unexpectedly disarming smile. Then... he gives Ulysses a look that says it's time to get moving.

ULYSSES

Alex, we must go.

As Alex grudgingly nods, the Group begins to run off. We're --

42

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - DAWN

42

Liam and his cavalry travel over a mountain pass. REVEAL David yoked via rope to the back of a horse -- essentially DRAGGED ON FOOT -- as he breathlessly tries to keep pace.

43

EXT. HIGHPOINT VILLAGE - EARLY MORNING

43

Day breaks over our village as Grace, carrying a basket of supplies, leads a pensive Alex and Natalie towards an empty cabin which will house them for the time being. As they settle in front of the cabin, Alex looks at Grace.

ALEX

Thank you, Grace. For everything --

GRACE

No... thank you. You gave us something we haven't had in a long time: hope. Now if you can hold on to some of that for yourself, I

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)
promise... we'll find out what
happened to David.

Grace hands the basket to Alex, who nods appreciatively.

44

INT. HIGHPOINT CABIN - (ALMOST) CONTINUOUS

44

Alex sets the basket down, scanning the items it holds --
food, soap, towels -- as Natalie settles onto a bed.

NATALIE
Anything to eat in there? Or is it
just bedding and fly repellent?

ALEX
A fresh mango. You deserve it...
for almost getting sacrificed.

Alex passes her the mango, then hands her a knife --

NATALIE
Emphasis on the almost... thanks to
you.
(a connection, then:)
But not to sound like a total B,
this doesn't change how I feel
about you and my dad.

ALEX
I didn't do it thinking it would.
(off Natalie's look)
You're an adult, Nat, so I'll talk
to you like one. I was 21 when I
got married. To the first guy who
thought it was cute that I was
better with books than with people.
But I mistook what we had for love.
It wasn't. And, yes, we made
mistakes. But we were trapped in a
marriage that no longer fit. You
may not understand marriage... but
I know you understand what it's
like to be trapped.

Natalie takes that in. Common ground. Natalie softens...

NATALIE
Trapped. *Forever*...

ALEX
I know you're scared you'll never
grow into who you're supposed to
be. But whether it's our world or
this one, we're all works in
progress. Our lives constantly
shaped and re-shaped by all sorts
of things...

45 EXT. HIGHPOINT VILLAGE - SAME TIME

45

As we DISSOLVE to FIND Owen, alone, staring at an OLD PHOTO of his family. Teary-eyed, he considers the loved ones that have assuredly moved on without him.

ALEX (V.O.)

By loss.

We REVEAL Tama gazing longingly, clearly harboring feelings for him. As she sits next to him to comfort him...

ALEX (V.O.)

... and love.

46 INT. GRACE AND ULYSSES' CABIN - SAME TIME

46

Grace retrieves a BOX hidden under the floorboards. She opens it -- PHOTOS of her in Austria... her family. Then... a NAZI ARMBAND... followed by a PHOTO ID CARD with Grace's face and name -- for an SS AUFSEHERIN aka a CONCENTRATION CAMP GUARD.

ALEX (V.O.)

By secrets...

And as we suddenly realize the truth about Grace -- *she posed as a camp survivor to escape her war crimes*, we DISSOLVE:

47 INT. VIKING RITUAL SITE - SAME TIME

47

On Lief, as he finds Natalie's iPhone amidst the ritual site. As he retrieves it, it turns on... to REVEAL a smiling pic of Natalie. With surprising wistfulness, he takes her in...

ALEX (V.O.)

... and desire.

BACK TO HIGHPOINT -- as Ham sits at the edge of the village, flask in hand, lost in thought. Ulysses steps in:

ALEX (V.O.)

By hope...

HAM

Something on your mind, old friend?

ULYSSES

When we left camp, I was careful to leave no trail... cover all tracks. Yet Liam knew exactly where to find us. Meaning --

HAM

-- there's a traitor in Highpoint.

ALEX (V.O.)

... and betrayal.

ULYSSES

Which also means... the newcomers
are still in danger.

As Ulysses and Ham consider the villagers -- knowing it could
be ANY OF THEM -- we're... BACK TO ALEX AND NATALIE'S CABIN:

ALEX

I guess what I'm saying, Nat, is
that maybe you can become who you're
meant to be right here. That you
don't have to grow old to grow up.

Natalie nods, touched despite herself. But not for long...

NATALIE

Not bad, textbook. But that ring
doesn't make us family or BFFs. The
only thing I need is someone to
help me find my Dad. He wasn't
gonna give up on me, so I can't
give up on him.

ALEX

(nods, then)
Then we'll find him together. Not
as family. Not as friends, as...
(extends her hand)
... allies.

A beat, then Nat smiles and shakes Alex's hand. And on these
unlikely allies, we... DISSOLVE TO:

48

EXT. RIDGE - NEW BRITANNIA - MORNING

48

Liam's cavalry comes to a stop as David drops to his knees,
exhausted. Nearby, a PRISON CART is in evidence. Liam's men
untie David, lift him to his feet. Priscilla whispers in
Liam's ear; Liam nods, approaches David, breathing heavily.

LIAM

If it makes you feel better, my
spies tell me that your daughter
and fiancé survived.
(David sighs relief)
They're back at Highpoint now,
probably wondering where you are.

DAVID

Funny. I'm wondering where I am, too.

Liam smiles, turns and gestures to a CITY in the DISTANCE:
part medieval castle, part early industrial city, part more
modern metropolis borne from the newer technologies that have
made it here over the years. David takes it in.

LIAM

Albion. Impressive, isn't it? The
capital of New Britannia. My father
and mother rule from right down
(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)
there -- but soon... I will. And
it'll all be thanks to you.

DAVID
What? Why would I ever help you?

LIAM
Because I can help you, too. As
children we all have dreams growing
up. Mine was power, obviously. What
was yours? Humor me, as if your
life depended on it.

(beat, no answer)
No? Then why don't I try? *Family?*
Am I right? Your dream...? That
which drives you? Because you lost
your true family as a child, didn't
you? In fact, you never really knew
them. They gave you up. And you've
spent the rest of your life trying
to fill that hole.

DAVID
(a little freaked out)
How do you know that?

LIAM
I know more about you than you
think, David.

Just then, a few SOLDIERS approach. Liam nods to them; they
grab David, force him to his knees, arms pinned behind his
back. David looks up at Liam, defiant.

DAVID
I don't care. Because I'll never help
you... rule this place or whatever
you want from me. I just want to get
Alex and Natalie and go home.

LIAM
Go home? Why? When I went through
so much trouble to bring you here?
(off David's shocked look)
This is your home, little brother. It
appears your dreams have come true.

Then... Priscilla approaches with an IRON MASK... snaps it
over David's face... his SCREAMS muffled as the mask is
locked in place. David is lifted up... as we MATCH CUT TO:

David -- FACE HIDDEN behind the IRON MASK -- as the GATE to
the PRISON WAGON snaps shut by Liam's hand.

CLOSE ON LIAM'S hand. As we see for the first time, his RING -
- **his RED RING**. And we can't help but remember the story told
by David's ex-wife. About the man with the red ring. And as
we wonder -- if it was all real -- we... SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW