

CAL FIRE

"Pilot"

Story By

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Teleplay By

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CBS Studios
Midwest Livestock

Revised Network Draft
1.22.22

TEASER

1 INT. LOMPOC CORRECTIONS FACILITY - PAROLE HEARING - DAY 1

BODE DONOVAN (32, so much promise, then 5 years ago it all changed. Truly remorseful for his crimes, he dares to hope he has a chance), stands next to his court appointed lawyer ANA ALDUENDA (36, not yet cynical) and nervously reads his statement. In front of him are 3 members of the Parole Board.

BODE

(reading)

Um... thank you for considering my request for parole. First, I want to say I take full responsibility for my actions and am remorseful.

2 INT. LOMPOC CORRECTIONS FACILITY - HOLDING ROOM - DAY 2

Bode doodles on the paper his remarks were on. The drawing is haunting - a car on fire, the flames turning into angels and devils. The door opens and he looks up; it's Ana. She shakes her head. A gut punch. She sits down across from him.

ANA

I'm sorry. I really thought we had a chance. But if you do the program I told you about --

BODE

No -

ANA

Bode, you can tell them that you can be a positive member of society, or you can show them.

She hands him a piece of paper.

ANA (CONT'D)

Here's the application. Cal Fire is hungry for inmates just like you --

As Bode considers the application --

3 EXT. ESTABLISHING - SONOMA COUNTY - DAY 3

Northern California's showing off. The Pacific coastline gives way to redwood forests, lush valleys and majestic tree-covered mountains.

And above one of the mountains we see something white and wispy floating out from the tree line. It's not a cloud.

CAL FIRE DISPATCH (V.O.)
Station 42, vegetation fire, Bodega
Highway.

4 INT. CAL FIRE FIREHOUSE - VINCE'S OFFICE - DAY 4

CHIEF VINCE LEONE (50s, a lovable pessimist, you see a beautiful tree, he sees a fire hazard) multitasks - doing paperwork, watching the ballgame and listening to calls. He picks up his radio transmitter.

VINCE
Battalion 1410 responding.

5 INT. CAL FIRE FIREHOUSE - LOCKER ROOM - DAY 5

EVERLY OLIVER (30s, prides herself on being fearless, but regularly sobs at commercials) hustles into her gear.

EVERLY
(on phone)
We just got a call. I'm not gonna
make it to lunch. I'm so sorry.
(gets off phone)
She's mad. Did you tell Arabella?

Also suiting up is her best friend JAKE CRAWFORD (30s, his happy-go-lucky charm masks a guilty conscience and a dark secret).

JAKE
No. Why?

EVERLY
Jake!! There's a parade being held
in her honor!

JAKE
Oh. Crap. The parade. It's been
such an insane shift I forgot.

EVERLY
We're terrible people to date.

JAKE
So, why does she put up with me?

EVERLY
 You're a firefighter. She's
 basically dating Superman.

They open the doors to the outside and start running towards -

6 EXT. CAL FIRE HELIPAD - DAY 6

Helicopter blades spin, IZZY HOGAN the female pilot (36, calm under pressure) running her last checklist, Vince hustling his team on the ship --

VINCE
 (yelling)
 Come on! Let's go!

7 EXT. HELICOPTER - DAY 7

The chopper lifts into the air --

8 EXT. HELICOPTER - DAY 8

And heads toward the billowy smoke that's grown substantially from the wisp we saw earlier.

9 INT. HELICOPTER - DAY 9

Vince sits next to Izzy, the rest of the team in back. Our team gets their first view of the fire which is quickly approaching an old farmhouse and barn.

IZZY
 I'm gonna drop you guys on the west
 side of the house.

VINCE
 (over the radio)
 Copter one-zero-four on scene. We
 have a 200 by 200 spot in the
 grass; rapid spread; multiple
 structures threatened.

In back, Jake and Everly are jittery and excited.

EVERLY
 That's Marsha Larkin's farm.

JAKE
 Who?

EVERLY

Marsha Larkin. Glasses, purple hair. You cheated off her in bio.

The helicopter lands a couple hundred feet away from the fire in a remote grassland.

VINCE

Okay guys, you know what to do.

The team starts throwing gear out of the ship and getting to work. A well-oiled crew. Meanwhile ...

10 EXT. HIGHWAY NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO - DAY 10

A bus with the insignia of the California Department of Corrections makes its way up the 101.

11 INT. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BUS - DAY 11

CORY WALTERS (40s, the real deal, a corrections officer who gives a shit) sits shotgun playing Candy Crush on his phone. Behind him are 17 guys in blue prison garb, including Bode who doodles in a small notebook. His seat mate, FREDDY MILLS (25, stole a bunch of money from the church raffle. Bad choice, good guy) watches, interested.

FREDDY

Hey Bode, draw me. I'll send it to my girlfriend.

Bode flips the page and starts to draw. He's fast.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

She's a chef. When I get out we're gonna get a food truck. That's why I'm doing this. At first I was like, "No thank you, I don't wanna leave Lancaster," that's where I was. Where were you?

BODE

I told you like 3 times already.

FREDDY

I have ADD, dude --

BODE

Lompoc. 2 years into a 3-5 year sentence.

FREDDY

Right. So yeah. I heard there was this program where you get two days off your sentence for every day you fight wildfires which like, cool, but I didn't want to leave LA because Cookie - that's my girl - visits every weekend, but then I heard we get 5 bucks a day just for showing up? And if we're actually on a fire, it's an extra 2 bucks an hour. So that's 53 bucks a day during fire season, so I can bank 3-5K easy and me and Cookie can buy a truck when I'm out.

BODE

You talk a lot, Freddy.

FREDDY

It's the ADD, bro.
(re the drawing)
I'm better looking than that.

Freddy grabs the notebook and jostles the guy in front of him, JULIO MEDINA (46, has 18 months left on a twenty year sentence. He's determined not to fuck this up).

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Julio, that look like me?

JULIO

Nah. Your face is uglier.

Freddy starts looking through the notebook. The drawings are surreal and beautiful. Freddy stops at one - it's the same image we saw earlier of the car on fire.

FREDDY

Whoa. What's this?

BODE

Gimme that.

Bode reaches for it, but Freddy pulls away.

JULIO

We going to Middletown?

Bode looks up startled to see the bus turning off at an exit to Middletown, California.

CORY

Looks that way doesn't it?

BODE

(upset)

My lawyer said we'd be going to a different camp.

FREDDY

Who cares where it is? It's better than where we've been. Here you go, Picasso.

Freddy hands back the notebook, but Bode barely registers. He stares out the window, his expression haunted, as the bus passes a sign that says, "Middletown - 23 miles."

12

EXT. MIDDLETOWN, CA - DAY

12

A ragtag parade makes its way down Main Street. Majorettes lead the Middletown High School Band who manage to play a decent version of "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas and the Papas. Right behind the band is the parade's main event - a vintage firetruck with a banner reading, "ARABELLA ROBLES, MIDDLETOWN'S OLYMPIAN", driven by MANNY ROBLES (45, exudes the hard-earned wisdom of a guy whose life sucked before he turned it around). Riding on top of the truck and waving to the gathered crowds is ARABELLA ROBLES (24, Middletown's reluctant golden girl and Manny's daughter). Manny calls out to neighbors and friends as he drives by.

MANNY

Hey Julia!/ Tom, glad you could make it!/ Proud papa moment for sure./ Mr. Mayor ...

The truck passes the corrections van, stuck in traffic, waiting for the parade to pass by.

13

INT. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS VAN - DAY

13

The inmates watch the parade pass --

CORY

(explaining)

She got fourteenth place in the Olympics last summer in diving. She lives in Florida and is heading back so they wanted to give her a big send off.

FREDDY

(incredulous)

You get a parade for 14th place in this town?

JULIO

When you don't even live here?

CORY

Her dad lives here so we claim her as our own. He's the guy driving the truck. He's also your Fire Captain.

FREDDY

That dude?

Bode makes his way up to where Cory is sitting.

BODE

Hey Cory ... my lawyer said I was supposed to go to the camp in Eel River. It was the whole reason I agreed to do this.

CORY

Well, you'll need to take it up with her and she's not here.

BODE

Yeah, but ...

Cory's not in the mood for bullshit.

CORY

Take a seat, Bode.

OFF Bode, quietly beginning to implode.

14

EXT. GRASSLAND - DAY

14

The Cal Fire team fights the fire. The crew of six has split into two teams, one on the left flank of the fire, one on the right. Each team has one guy dousing the flames with a back pump (backpacks of water with hoses) while the others use McLeods (sharp-edged hoes) to dig a perimeter in the grass so the fire has no fuel to burn. We're with Jake, Everly and Vince who are fighting to protect the structure as the fire bears down on it. Everly comes out of the house and radios to the others --

EVERLY

(into radio)

Structure clear, homeowners vacated.

JAKE

The fire keeps jumping the line.
We need a water drop --

VINCE

(to the pilot)
Copter one-zero-four, this is
Bodega IC, what's your ETA on a
water drop?

JAKE

It's like whack-a-mole. I get one
fire out and an ember goes flying.

EVERLY

We have a minute, maybe two before
the structure's engaged --

VINCE

Copter one-zero-four, this is
Bodega IC, repeat: what's your ETA
on a water drop?

IZZY (V.O.)

Bodega IC this is Copter one-zero-
four. Look up.

Vince, Jake and Everly look up and on cue the helicopter is
soaring over the tree line and is overhead.

VINCE

Water Drop!!!

Everyone hits the deck as hundreds of gallons of water rain
down on them from above. Drenched, filthy and smoky, they
look at the fire. It's mostly out. They look at the house.
Still standing. They get up, grinning like idiots --

VINCE (CONT'D)

God, I love this job.

15

EXT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - DAY

15

The bus drives into the camp. Picture a bucolic setting in
the middle of a redwood grove. Low slung wooden buildings
surround a yard with a vegetable garden, a basketball court,
and an outdoor weight room. If it weren't for the groups of
inmates in their prison orange milling around the yard, you'd
think this was a summer camp.

16 INT. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BUS - DAY

16

Cory faces the men as the bus comes to a stop.

CORY

This is Two Rock Con Camp. As you can see there are no fences. The dorms aren't locked at night. You want to run, I can't prevent you. Main road to town is a mile from here, right through the woods. I don't say this to tempt you. I say this because I know you'll be tempted and I need you to know you won't get far. When we catch you -- not if, but when -- it's back to the concrete jungle with more time added to your sentence.

(He lets that sink in.)

You ready to see your new home?

As the men start to get off the bus, Bode stops at Cory--

BODE

Can I use the phone to call my lawyer?

CORY

Sure. You get phone privileges in 3 days.

And we stay on Bode's face, panicked as we --

17 EXT. SMOKEY'S BAR AND GRILL - EVENING

17

A beat up pickup pulls into the parking lot joining the other trucks that fill the lot. Jake and Everly, freshly showered and in street clothes, get out of the truck and walk in, past the big Smokey the Bear statue at the entrance.

18 INT. SMOKEY'S BAR AND GRILL - EVENING

18

It's a sea of Wrangler and Carhartt. This is a firefighter hangout. The jukebox plays something cool and country. They head to the bar where Arabella (our Olympic champion) is talking to the bartender MAYA THOMAS (40, a foodie transplant from San Francisco, Everly's girlfriend). Jake kisses Arabella.

JAKE

How was the parade?

ARABELLA
Mortifying.

MAYA
How was the fire?

EVERLY
Hot. I need a beer.

MAYA
How about some champagne instead?
I was gonna surprise you at lunch.
On the picnic. That you missed.
It's our anniversary.
(OFF Everly's face)
You totally forgot.

Maya's mad. She walks away. HARLAN DENBO (50s), holds court here every night, raises an eyebrow.

HARLAN
You forgot your anniversary?

EVERLY
Of course I didn't forget, Harlan --

HARLAN
Don't tell me, tell Maya.
(Everly goes, Harlan yells
after her)
And tell her I need another drink.

Jake turns to Arabella --

JAKE
I'm sorry I wasn't there today.

ARABELLA
It's okay. How long are we gonna
celebrate the fact that I choked in
Tokyo?

JAKE
You didn't choke. You're the 14th
best diver in the world!

Arabella take a sip of her beer and looks away.

ARABELLA
What are we doing?

JAKE
What do you mean?

ARABELLA

Is this -- I mean, I've been here for 5 months. That's the longest break I've taken from diving since I was like 10. Where I didn't have to train or travel and I could just ... have fun. So I guess ... is this ... are we ... just fun?

JAKE

I'm gonna visit you in Florida.

ARABELLA

I don't know if I want to go to Florida.

JAKE

But your coach is in Florida.

ARABELLA

But why am I chasing this thing I'm not even sure I want anymore?

JAKE

Because you can do something better than anyone else.

ARABELLA

Well, beside the other 13 people --

JAKE

I'm in awe of you.

ARABELLA

I don't want awe. I want ... I want ...

JAKE

What?

ARABELLA

More. A life. Every athlete gets to the point where they have to consider what's next.

JAKE

Are you at that point?

ARABELLA

I don't know. Maybe? One thing I do know is that I love it here. This town. The people. You.

Holy shit. She just said it. She looks at him, vulnerable --

JAKE
Don't stay here for me.

ARABELLA
Seriously?

JAKE
What?

ARABELLA
I tell you 'I love you' and that's
how you respond?

JAKE
No, I ... wait --

EVERLY (O.S.)
Can I have everyone's attention!

They turn and see Everly standing on the bar, Maya nearby.

EVERLY (CONT'D)
Today is my two-year anniversary
with Maya. You may know her as
your friend or your boss or the
vegetarian from San Francisco who
tried to take chicken wings off the
menu. But I know her as the person
who taught me what love means. Who
healed me after some pretty tough
years. And today ... she's the
person who thinks I forgot our
anniversary. I didn't forget.

Everly pulls a ring out of pocket. Maya's eyes get big.

MAYA
What are you ... Oh my God ...

Everly pulls Maya on top of the bar with her.

EVERLY
I wanted to wait until we got home
tonight and do this in private but
why wait? Why wait another year?
Another month? Another day or
minute to ask you to spend the rest
of your life with me? Maya, will
you marry me?

MAYA
(through tears)
Yes. Yes. Of course. Yes.

And she falls into Everly's arms as the crowd cheers them on.

JAKE

Well, I'll be damned.

Jake turns to Arabella but all he sees is her back as she walks out of the bar. OFF Jake --

19

EXT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - YARD - LATER

19

Bode and Freddy hang in the yard.

FREDDY

This place is sweet.

Bode's staring at a GUY unloading kitchen supplies from a van. Freddy's looking at 10-15 FEMALE INMATES a hundred yards away who are in the middle of some kind of drill.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

They even got girls here. Cookie's not gonna like that.

The women, dressed in fire gear: gloves, hardhat and full pack, are holding a small bag. On command they open the bag and deploy its contents - a silver mylar fire shelter (about the size of a sleeping bag), step in it, sit down and roll over so they are completely covered by the shelter. It's clumsy. Cory walks by Bode and Freddy.

CORY

Female con camp a couple miles down the road. They use the yard to train sometimes.

FREDDY

What're they doing?

CORY

Fire shelters. Last resort. If you're using it, it means you're trapped by the fire. Gotta be able to get in that thing in 15-20 seconds.

The inmates try again. It seems to take them forever.

CORY (CONT'D)

Too slow. They're toast by now.

Cory keeps walking.

FREDDY

We gonna burn up into little
Krispies? Cookie's really not gonna
like that.

BODE

Do me a favor, Freddy. That guy
unloading the truck? Put that ADD
of yours to use and go talk to him.

FREDDY

About what?

BODE

He has access to town and I need to
get my hands on a phone.

FREDDY

So you go talk to him.

BODE

I'm a white guy. I need you to
vouch for me.

FREDDY

What's your deal, dude? This place
is like summer camp and you're
hustling a way out? I don't get it.

Bode considers. Can he trust Freddy?

BODE

I'm from here. And I left for a
reason.

OFF this admission --

END TEASER

ACT ONE

20 EXT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - YARD - DAWN 20

The new inmates each stand in front of a 50 pound backpack. Manny addresses them, Cory at his side.

MANNY

My name is Manny Robles. I'm your Cal Fire Captain. You can call me Cap. When you're here in camp, Cory here is in charge. When you're out on the fire line, I'm in charge. You work hard - do what I tell you, when I tell you, you will reduce your sentence and go home to your friends and family sooner.

He hands out sheets of paper.

MANNY (CONT'D)

These are your 10s and 18s. 10 standard firefighting orders and 18 fire watch out situations. Memorize them. They can save your life or the life of the guy next to you. Okay. Grab your packs. Let's go.

BODE

Where we going?

Manny points to a mountain.

MANNY

Up there.

OFF the stunned faces of the inmates.

21 EXT. CAL FIRE STATION - DAY - ESTABLISHING 21

Tucked up against the mountainside, and looking more like a ski lodge than a firehouse, sits the Cal Fire station. Waving in the wind is the Stars and Stripes, as well as the red and white California State Flag featuring the iconic grizzly bear.

22 INT. CAL FIRE FIREHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 22

Vince, dressed in a shirt and tie, is wiping a coffee stain off his shirt when Everly enters, nervous.

EVERLY

Hey Chief. You got a minute?

VINCE

I'm going to Sacramento to beg them for a dozer and I spilled coffee on myself.

EVERLY

You need to run it under cold water. Take it off, let me do it.

VINCE

No, I got it --

EVERLY

Sir --

VINCE

Fine.

Takes off his shirt (has a t-shirt underneath). She starts to wash it in the sink.

VINCE (CONT'D)

So what do you need?

EVERLY

Right, yeah ... um, big news ... Maya and I are getting married. I proposed and she said yes.

VINCE

Everly. Congrats. That's ... that's terrific.

EVERLY

I know. And also ...

A beat. She's a little emotional.

EVERLY (CONT'D)

I wanted to call her. I woke up this morning and I wanted to call Riley. We were gonna be each other's maid of honor. We decided in I think 3rd grade.

(laughter turns to tears)

I'm sorry, I don't mean to make you sad, but I just miss her.

Vince pulls her into a hug.

VINCE

So do I. God, so do I. And it doesn't make me sad. It makes me happy that you miss her.

EVERLY

And God ... this might be the worst idea in the world but, you know ... um ... my dad died last year and I thought maybe you could ... walk me down the aisle. I know it's a ridiculous tradition, I can walk myself down the aisle, but it would also make me feel like Riley was there.

VINCE

That would be such an honor.

They break the hug and now he's tearing up.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Now get out of here, I need to go get us a bulldozer.

She leaves. Vince puts his shirt back on. Stops. Sits down. Takes a deep breath. It never gets easier.

23

EXT. WOODS - DAY

23

The new inmates hike led by Cap. It's hot. The packs are heavy.

FREDDY

Why we doing this? How does this help me fight a fire?

BODE

Builds your stamina.

JULIO

Each step I take is one step closer to freedom.

FREDDY

Each step I take reminds me I gotta take a leak.

(yelling to Manny)

Cap, I need to take a leak.

Manny stops.

MANNY

Alright. Everybody cubby up. Go one at a time. And don't get any ideas about wandering off.

Everyone drops their packs. Freddy heads into the woods. Bode and Julio sit next to one another.

BODE

How long you been in?

JULIO

18 years.

BODE

What'd you do?

JULIO

Doesn't matter. Gotta look forward not back. See beyond your mistakes.

BODE

I robbed a liquor store.

JULIO

Bad choice doesn't make a bad man.

Bode smiles.

BODE

Gramps, doling out the wisdom.

Suddenly, Freddy runs out of the woods like a bat out of hell and down the mountain. In a shot, Cap takes off after him.

MANNY

Stop right now!!!

Freddy's no match, Cap catches him and tackles him. The other guys are excited and on their feet, gathering around where Freddy's still trying to get away --

FREDDY

Let me go man, let me go --

MANNY

Where the hell do you think --

FREDDY

I was pissing and heard a bear. I'm telling you dude, there's a bear right in there --

He's panicked and pointing and everyone looks and SEES --
A goat walk out of the woods. Munching on vegetation.

MANNY

It's a goat, Freddy. Cal Fire uses them to help manage vegetation.

Everyone's laughing.

VARIOUS INMATES

Oh my God./Dude freaked at a goat./It's a goat!

BODE

Hey, Freddy, I think you just got yourself a new nickname!

24

INT. CAL FIRE HQ - CONFERENCE ROOM - SACRAMENTO - DAY

24

Vince makes his pitch to the Cal Fire Board, overseen by CHERYL (50s, smartest person in most rooms). 2-3 other CAL FIRE EXECs are in the room, taking notes, etc. A big screen dominates one wall where Vince is showing a Powerpoint. On the screen is a slide of a bulldozer.

VINCE

With a Caterpillar D6N I can clear vegetation at a rate of eight miles an hour. Asking me to make do with a hand crew instead of a dozer is like asking me to cut down a tree with a butter knife.

CHERYL

No one's asking you to make do. You have a dozer --

VINCE

Glen Ellen has a dozer --

CHERYL

That you share --

VINCE

Glen Ellen's 45 minutes away. By the time it comes to me, the fire's out of control --

CHERYL

Vince --

VINCE

You guys gotta stop being stupid
and get more proactive about fuel
removal --

CHERYL

Vince! I'll remind you that among
the three of us on the board we
have over 30 years in the field and
several graduate degrees; I'd watch
who you're calling stupid.

Vince takes a breath. Regroups.

VINCE

Sorry. I get passionate. Look,
I'm third generation Cal Fire. You
don't remember the Hanley Fire, but
I do. My dad was gone 6 months. He
missed my high school graduation.
56,000 acres. 84 structures. 19
fatalities including 2
firefighters. That area hasn't
burned since then. Campaign fires
historically follow the same path.
This IS gonna happen. The question
is what are we gonna do about it?

His passion was clearly effective. OFF the Board members,
considering --

25

INT. MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL - POOL - DAY

25

The pool is empty except for Arabella who's on the edge of
the springboard, facing backward, her face a mask of
concentration. The stillness gives way to sudden movement,
her body twirling through the air before it slips into the
water with barely a splash. She emerges and hears clapping.
She looks to the doorway and sees Jake.

JAKE

That was perfect.

She swims over to the edge and gets out.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I wanted to see you before I have
to work tonight. I'm on for the
next 24.

ARABELLA

I'm doing a shift at Smokey's for
Maya. One of her waitresses quit.

JAKE

Have Maya give you a ride home,
your car's a piece of crap.

ARABELLA

I can take care of myself, Jake --

JAKE

Obviously you can't because you
keep driving that piece of junk --

ARABELLA

Why are we talking about my car?

He takes a breath. Here goes.

JAKE

Look ... I wanted to say, last
night I --

ARABELLA

You made my decision to quit diving
all about you. I stand alone on
that board and make dives happen.
I imagine them a thousand times in
my head before I do them. That's
how I work. I think things
through. And last night I was
thinking things through with you
because I thought we were at that
point --

JAKE

We are. And when you told me you --

ARABELLA

Don't say it. I was drunk. I
didn't mean it. Or if I did I take
it back because I don't want that
to be how I remember the first "I
love you" I've ever said.

JAKE

Can I talk now?

ARABELLA

Fine. But I have to teach in a sec.

JAKE

This isn't just fun. Maybe it
started out like that but now ... I
mean, ever since Riley I've been
shut down.

ARABELLA

I know. I can't imagine how you got through it. And I'm sure you're not over her or still in love with her --

JAKE

Let me finish --

This is hard, but he needs to say it.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Last night watching those guys get engaged, watching Everly ... you know she and I went through that together and it was ... it was bad ... so, to see her happy ... I want that. And I am. When I'm with you. So, last night what I should have said was 'I love you', too.

Wow. This was not how she expected this to go. She's kind of speechless. Suddenly 2 little girls come in the pool area in swim suits. Fuck.

ARABELLA

I have a lesson.

JAKE

Yeah, go.

She starts to, then --

JAKE (CONT'D)

Hey. Get a ride home tonight. Seriously.

She shakes her head. OFF Jake, watching her go.

26

INT. LEONE HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

26

Vince, now dressed in sweats and a t-shirt, chops garlic and adds it to a sizzling pan. He hears the front door open. He looks up and he sees: Cheryl standing in the doorway.

Cheryl. Cheryl, the head of Cal Fire, comes over to him and kisses him. Cheryl, the head of Cal Fire, is his wife.

CHERYL

Something smells good.

He looks at her warily. He knows.

VINCE
I'm not getting it, am I?

CHERYL
(sighs)
No.

VINCE
I NEED A DOZER, CHERYL! You know I
do!

CHERYL
I know! And we want you to have
one, so --

VINCE
So, why didn't I get it?

CHERYL
The committee decided that you
didn't sufficiently do your due
diligence looking for a used dozer -

VINCE
When do I have time to go to
auctions -

CHERYL
Look, I agree with you, but we have
473 Cal Fire stations to manage and
it's the taxpayers money. After you
left we did a quick search and were
able to locate a used dozer in Utah
\$100,000 cheaper than the new
Deere, so we'd like you to resubmit
your request --

VINCE
Oh, come on, I have to get in line
again? How long's that gonna take?
And the money it's gonna cost to
get that here and we don't even
know what shape it's in -

CHERYL
You want the new shiny thing! I get
it! But you're gonna have to settle
for the perfectly fine old thing.
(puts her arms around him
and kisses him)
Like me.

He's softening.

VINCE
Just tell me one thing. Did you
vote for me?

CHERYL
Would I ever vote against you?

He stirs, resigned. Cheryl stands there watching. Then --

CHERYL (CONT'D)
Just look at some used equipment
and I'll see what I can do to fast
track it through the committee --

VINCE
(interrupting)
Everly's getting married.

Another long beat. He looks up. She's just staring at him.

CHERYL
She is?

VINCE
She wants me to walk her down the
aisle.

She sits. Grief is like this. It just hits you. Then --

CHERYL
I bet Riley would be married by
now.

VINCE
Yeah.

He takes her hand. What else is there to say?

27 INT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - BARRACKS - NIGHT 27

The inmates are asleep. Freddy quietly gets out of bed and wakes Bode.

FREDDY (PRE LAP)
The guy who runs the kitchen woke
me up and said Big Eddie'd be by at
11.

28 EXT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - WOODS - NIGHT 28

Freddy and Bode walk to the edge of the camp. There's a road.

BODE
His name's Big Eddie?

FREDDY
Well, I suspect it's not the name
his mom calls him, but yeah. We're
supposed to wait by the road.

They stand there and wait. It's dark. It's quiet. It's
creepy.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Creepy as hell out here.

BODE
I like it. It's quiet.

FREDDY
So, what's the reason? Why'd you
have to leave this place?

BODE
Long story.

FREDDY
Cause of Riley?
(OFF Bode's look)
You got the name Riley tattooed on
your arm. Guy needs to leave town,
it's usually over a girl. I got ADD
but I'm not an idiot.

Bode smiles. Hard not to like Freddy.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Here he comes.

A car approaches. It's an old beat up Mustang and it sputters
to a stop. But it's not the guy they were expecting - it's
Arabella. She tries restarting it. It sputters again then
dies.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
That's Cap's daughter. From the
parade.

29 INT. ARABELLA'S CAR - NIGHT

29

She tries restarting it again. Nothing.

ARABELLA
Dammit.

30 EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS 30

Arabella gets out and opens the hood. Stares at the engine.

31 EXT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - WOODS - NIGHT 31

Bode and Freddy watch her, whispering to one another.

FREDDY

We gotta get out of here.

BODE

We can't leave her stranded. What if some bad dude comes along?

FREDDY

We're the bad dudes, bro.

BODE

(calling to her)
Could be the ignition wire!

She turns, frightened and sees Bode and Freddy in the trees.

FREDDY

I'm out of here.

Freddy takes off running. Bode takes a step toward Arabella.

BODE

I didn't mean to scare you. I'm out for a walk and I know a lot about cars.

ARABELLA

(scared)
That's okay, so does my boyfriend.

She pulls her phone out of her pocket and walks back towards her car talking on the phone.

ARABELLA (CONT'D)

(into phone)
Hey, yeah it's me. I'm on Oak Highway behind the con camp. My car broke down, so.... Okay cool, you're on your way?

BODE

There's no way you have cell service here.

He takes a step forward. She's reached the car and grabbed her purse. She pulls a gun out of it and points it at Bode.

ARABELLA

Stop!

Bode stops. Backs up, his hands in the air.

BODE

Whoa. Jeez!

ARABELLA

Just ... please ... I'm fine and you shouldn't be here and ...

BODE

I'm not gonna hurt you. How about I talk you through reconnecting the ignition wire.

She's shaking, nervous, but considering --

BODE (CONT'D)

Or better yet, keep that trained on me while I do it.

ARABELLA

You even step into the street and you're off property. They consider that an escape.

BODE

You have a better idea?

She's looking around. It's fucking dark, she has no cell service, her car is broken. Clearly, she doesn't.

On Bode: Weighing his options. He WANTS to succeed here. But he can't leave her stranded. For better or worse, he's not that guy. So, here goes --

Bode takes a step onto the street.

BODE (CONT'D)

I guess I just escaped.

OFF Bode slowly walking towards her, we ...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

32

EXT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - WOODS - NIGHT

32

Bode is working on the car engine. Arabella stands off to the side with the gun.

BODE

You from here?

ARABELLA

I grew up in San Diego with my mom. I'd come summers to see my dad. Is it ... can you fix it?

BODE

Think so.

(beat)

We watch a lot of TV in prison. I saw you. In the Olympics. You were great. Must be cool to have that moment ... you can watch whenever you want ...

ARABELLA

I can't watch it. All I see are mistakes.

BODE

You gotta see beyond your mistakes. Or at least that's what they tell me.

(then)

Try to start it.

She gets in the car, it starts. He closes the hood and comes around to the window.

BODE (CONT'D)

You're good to go.

ARABELLA

Thank you.

(Looks at the gun still in her hand)

Sorry about this. I just got scared, and I carry this in case my car breaks down ...

BODE

... next to a prison and you run into an escaped felon?

He smiles. It's a joke. But --

ARABELLA
Is that what you're doing out here?

BODE
Nope. Just out for a walk.

She reaches for her wallet --

ARABELLA
Let me give you some money for --

BODE
No. Please --

She opens her wallet and a strip of pictures from a photo booth falls from it onto the ground. Bode picks it up. He looks at it. It's her and Jake. He's startled but covers.

BODE (CONT'D)
Your boyfriend?

ARABELLA
Yeah. He wasn't on the phone, but he ... exists.

Bode hands her back the pictures, starts to walk away.

ARABELLA (CONT'D)
(out the window)
Don't run. If that's why you're out here. It won't work. There's no escaping this place.

She drives away. OFF Bode, the truth of that statement hitting him.

33 EXT. MIDDLETOWN - MORNING - ESTABLISHING

33

The sun rises over God's country.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (PRE LAP)
The Giants took another beating
last night against the Cubs --

34 INT. VINCE'S CAR - DAY

34

Vince and Cheryl drive. Vince turns off a sports radio talk show.

VINCE
 (yelling at radio)
 Because we have a weak bullpen.

CHERYL
 Vince! I wanted to hear the
 weather.

VINCE
 It's hot, dry and windy. Anything
 else you want to know? Celebrity
 news? Everyone in Hollywood's
 getting a divorce.

CHERYL
 Maybe everyone in this car should
 get one, too.

VINCE
 No chance. You're stuck with me.

He smiles at her, she smiles at him. This is their banter.
 The car turns into -- SONOMA CEMETERY.

35

EXT. SONOMA CEMETERY - GRAVESITE - DAY

35

A beautiful spot nestled by a hillside in a grove of mature
 trees. A simple headstone reads:

RILEY LEONE - 1997-2017 - Our Sunshine Girl

Cheryl and Vince kneel at a gravesite weeding and tending.

CHERYL
 I googled him. Looking for him.

We hear the sound of a lawnmower and Vince looks up and sees
 BILLY NOONAN (61), the groundskeeper, on a riding mower.

VINCE
 You kidding me? Billy's mowing the
 lawn? In this weather?

CHERYL
 Vincent?! Did you hear me? I
 googled him, aren't you curious
 what I found?

VINCE
 We agreed. We were gonna try to
 move on.

CHERYL

Move on?? I can't move on.

VINCE

I didn't mean move on. I meant, there's been so much pain. Maybe we should just ... try to find a measure of happiness.

They look at one another. Who's he kidding? Is happiness even possible? He turns his attention back to the lawn mower.

VINCE (CONT'D)

(approaching Billy)

Stop!!

Billy stops the mower.

BILLY

Hey, Vince --

VINCE

Billy, there's a red flag warning --

BILLY

I know, but --

VINCE

You could catch a rock and throw a spark --

BILLY

I know what I'm doing --

VINCE

Remember the Bear Fire? That guy thought he knew what he was doing, too. Mowing his lawn in a red flag warning. He ended up burning down 11,000 acres and got 4 years in state prison. You want 4 years in prison, Billy?

And Vince stomps away, rejoins Cheryl.

CHERYL

That sweet man you just yelled at takes care of our daughter's grave.

VINCE

It's fire season.

CHERYL

You're mad at the world, but you
have to stop taking it out on the
rest of us.

A beat.

VINCE

What'd you find? On Google?

CHERYL

Nothing. It's like he disappeared.

OFF Vince.

36

INT. CAL FIRE FIREHOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

36

Jake's eating cereal, talking to Everly.

JAKE

I told her I love her.

EVERLY

Wow.

JAKE

It's your fault. Getting engaged
like that.

EVERLY

Look at us. All grown up.

JAKE

It feels weird though. I said it
and now I'm like, 'Ahhh, what does
this mean?' I'm not ready to, you
know, get married --

EVERLY

What it means is you love her.
That's it.

JAKE

I know, but ... you know how things
go. One thing leads to the next
and -- pretty soon I'll be renting
a hall and posing for pictures.

EVERLY

This is what you do. You fall for
women and then freak out like your
life is over and you break up.

JAKE
 (rolling his eyes)
 No I don't --

EVERLY
 Laura, Siobhan, Cathy with a C,
 Kathy with a K --

JAKE
 I'm starting to think you have no
 faith in me.

EVERLY
 Jake. Jakey Jake Jake. I have so
 much faith in you. What we've been
 through ... I'm yours for life. And
 for what it's worth? I didn't
 think all the Cathy's were worthy
 of you but Arabella is.

JAKE
 Yeah.

EVERLY
 Don't run from it. Let yourself be
 happy.

Suddenly at the firehouse the alarms start to go off. Jake
 and Everly are up and moving --

CAL FIRE DISPATCH (PRE-LAP)
 Middletown, vehicle accident with
 possible extrication --

37 INT. CAL FIRE FIRETRUCK - DAY

37

The rig speeds down the highway. There's a crew of four
 including Jake and Everly. The truck turns off onto an old
 logging road. Alongside it runs a ravine. One hundred yards
 down the road and 50 feet down in the ravine THEY SEE:

An SUV that's skidded off road, plunged down the ravine and
 plowed into a tree. The tree is damaged, but hasn't fallen.

EVERLY
 (on radio)
 Engine 1477 on scene, we have one
 vehicle, unknown amount of
 patients, 50 feet down a ravine
 into a tree. We'll be out
 investigating.

While two of the firefighters run a hose line as a precaution, Jake and Everly make their way down the ravine --

38 EXT. RAVINE - DAY

38

Jake and Everly approach the SUV and FIND:

A young mom, LINDSEY (27) and her baby son, PETER in a car seat. Lindsey is alert, if stunned. Peter is crying.

LINDSEY
(screaming)
The door won't open!

Jake and Everly try the doors, but the car is too smashed.

JAKE
Try to cover yourself up, we're
gonna knock these windows out.

OFF Everly swinging her Halligan toward the window, we --

39 EXT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - YARD - MORNING

39

Manny swings a McLEOD (like a hoe) into the grass while the rag tag group of new inmates watch.

MANNY
Cutting line. What is it?

JULIO
It's that. It's what you're doing.

MANNY
What am I doing?

FREDDY
Cutting line.

MANNY
Someone wanna not be a smartass and
give me a real answer? Bode?

BODE
Cutting line is clearing the
vegetation down to the mineral soil
so that a fire has no fuel and will
stop.

FREDDY
Teacher's pet.

MANNY

I know you did a lot of this in training before you got here, but I like it done a certain way. So -- head over to the tool room. I'll need 7 Pulaskis, 8 McLeods, and 2 guys on chainsaw.

As the inmates head toward the tool room, Freddy sidles up to Bode --

FREDDY

How'd it go?

BODE

It was her ignition.

FREDDY

She cool?

BODE

I didn't stand around getting to know her.

FREDDY

Big Eddie dropped the phone off at breakfast. I already called Cookie!

BODE

Where is it?

FREDDY

It's hidden.

BODE

Where? I need it.

MANNY (O.S.)

Donovan! Mills! A word?

Bode and Freddy turn and see Cory and Manny looking at them.

40

EXT. RAVINE - DAY

40

Jake has a Halligan (like a crow bar) and he's prying the door open, while Everly is putting a C-collar on little Peter through an open window. The following dialogue is overlapping, disjointed and punctuated by the sounds of emergency vehicles arriving on scene --

LINDSEY

He was crying and I looked back,
the next thing I know we hit a
tree.

EVERLY

Hey little man, I know you don't
like this --

CAL FIRE DISPATCH (V.O.)

Engine 1477, medics just arrived on
scene --

LINDSEY

Is he okay?

JAKE

Ma'am can you lean away from the
door. I've almost got it off --

EVERLY

(lifting baby out)
Lindsey -- I'm gonna take your son
up and he'll be waiting for you.

Everly takes the screaming baby while Jake pries the door open and cuts Lindsey's seat belt. Paramedics arrive with a backboard.

JAKE

(to paramedics)
Hey guys, this is Lindsey, she's
27, hit a tree going about 30 miles
an hour. She had no loss of
consciousness before or after the
crash, denies any head or neck
pain, I didn't have time to get any
vitals.

He turns to go back up the ravine when he hears a loud crack and turns to see --

JAKE (CONT'D)

The tree! Oh God --

The tree has cracked in two and fallen on a power line that flies through the air like a snapped whip, sparks flying, before landing in the dry grasses along the hillside and starting the grass on fire. Jake turns to paramedics --

JAKE (CONT'D)

Guys, get her out of here!!
(into radio)
Engine 1477.
(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

New incident at Buckeye Road cross of Highway 175. Vegetation fire caused by power lines down, approximately 1 acre rapid rate of spread, in the brush running uphill. Multiple structures threatened. Potential for major incident. Start a full wildland response.

41

INT. TWO ROCK CON CAMP - MAIN OFFICE - DAY

41

Manny and Cory (and the other captains and detention officers) share this office. Manny and Cory sit behind their desks, Freddy and Bode stand in front of them. Manny places Freddy's cellphone on the desk.

MANNY

Recognize this?

Bode and Freddy don't say anything.

MANNY (CONT'D)

My daughter said a couple guys fitting your description were out walking last night. The road is a common drop off place for contraband, so we searched your lockers this morning, didn't find anything. But then we searched the kitchen. People like to store things in the dry rice or the beans.

FREDDY

It's not mine.

CORY

You sure? Cause I saw you talking to Big Eddie who does our deliveries --

FREDDY

I was just conversing. I talk a lot.

MANNY

You can't have a phone. That's an extra 90 days on your sentence.

BODE

It's mine.

Everyone looks at Bode.

BODE (CONT'D)

Goat has nothing to do with it.
But the reason I have it is
personal. If I could have a minute
alone with you?

Manny looks at Bode, what's this guy's deal? Turns to Cory.

MANNY

Take Mills outta here and give us a
minute.

Freddy gives Bode a look like "WTF" and leaves.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Okay. Talk.

BODE

I'm here because I robbed a guy at
gunpoint. The owner of the liquor
store. And he ...he stood up at my
parole hearing and read a letter
saying that he forgave me. That he
hoped I could turn my life around.
It's the most generous thing anyone
has ever done for me and I don't
deserve it. But I have to believe
he knows something I don't. And
that you do, too. That the people
who tell me if I work this program
I can succeed. And I want to
succeed. But I can't do it here.
This is my hometown.

MANNY

Why didn't you tell me that on day
one?

BODE

It's ... it's complicated.

MANNY

I can handle complicated.

Bode looks pained. But he has to come clean if he wants to
get out of here. But before he can say anything --

CAL FIRE DISPATCH (V.O.)

Two Rock, vegetation fire, rapid
spread. Requesting all available
crews --

Manny is up and heading out the door.

MANNY

Let's go.

Bode stand there, uncertain. Manny looks back.

MANNY (CONT'D)

You just gave me a whole speech on how you want to succeed. So, let's go.

OFF them hustling out --

42 EXT. HIGHWAY OUTSIDE MIDDLETOWN - DAY 42

The Department of Corrections bus speeds down the pristine highway. On either side of the road is virgin forest, incredibly dry, that hasn't burned in ages. Ahead ... a whole lot of smoke forming a thunderhead reaching up to the heavens.

43 INT. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BUS - DAY 43

Somber-faced inmates listen as --

MANNY

Alright guys, this a real baptism by fire. You listen to me and I'll keep you safe. I need you to stay alert and keep your 10s and 18s in mind so risks can be mitigated. I don't even know all your names yet, but by the end of the day I'm gonna know not only your name but what kind of man you are.

They turn the corner and see THE ENTIRE HILLSIDE on fire. The 100 x 100 area has grown to at least a thousand acres and spreading fast. At least 20 fire engines are converging onto the scene.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Your first fire already has a name. Welcome to the Buckeye.

OFF the inmates staring at the hillside with fear and excitement we -

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

44 EXT. INCIDENT BASE CAMP - BUCKEYE FIRE - DAY

44

On the side of the highway - a hub of activity. A temporary command post has formed. There are trucks parked up and down the road unloading hose line, crews with hand tools heading up to cut line, a tanker flies overhead on the way to a water drop. Amidst this buzzing hive is the Queen Bee, Cheryl, walking with her very worried husband Vince --

VINCE

If this gets into Miller Canyon
it's gonna rip right into town --

CHERYL

I have three tankers and 5 water
tenders --

They've reached two men getting out of their truck. Cheryl takes out her iPad and brings up a map, pointing to neighborhoods --

CHERYL (CONT'D)

Chip, Adolfo, we need to issue
mandatory evacuation orders for
Divisions Yankee and Zulu. Vince'll
take point.

She starts to walk away, Vince follows.

VINCE

We need dozers.

CHERYL

They're coming from Glen Ellen and
Santa Rosa. I have two crews
cutting line along the ridge --

VINCE

If this gets into Miller Canyon
it's gonna rip right into town --

CHERYL

You mentioned that.
(She walking towards
another Battalion Chief)
Markes! Update me on your strike
team --

Vince turns to --

VINCE

Adolfo, take point on the
evacuation orders, keep me updated -

And heads toward his truck, pulling out his phone as he goes.

45 EXT. BUCKEYE FIRE - DAY 45

Copter one-four-zero, piloted by Izzy, flies over the fire,
banks left, and dumps water on the --

46 EXT. WOODS - DAY 46

Left Flank of the fire. The gallons of water seem to barely
make a dent as the flames keep roaring. Two crews of inmates
(about 35 in all) in their orange uniforms cut line, while
Cal Fire, in their blue uniforms, run hose line alongside.
Our con crew is in a line working, Manny walks alongside --

MANNY

Keep your dime boys, 10 feet apart.

Freddy and Bode work McLeods side by side.

FREDDY

Why you go belly up? "It's mine!"
Like some guilty white boy.

BODE

I did you a favor.

FREDDY

I told you to leave that girl alone
and now she went to daddy and we
got no phone. Stop doing people
favours.

Manny approaches, observes Freddy's work. He's cleared most
of the vegetation but not all.

MANNY

Freddy, clear everything.

FREDDY

I did, that's clean.

MANNY

What's that root?

FREDDY

It's underground.

MANNY

Yeah. And if it catches fire over there it can travel underground and start a fire over here.

FREDDY

I'm trying to go fast. Either you want me to go fast or you want me to be thorough.

MANNY

(not taking bullshit)
How about you give me both?

Right then Jake walks by with Everly. Bode sees them.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Everly, Jake. You joining the fun?

JAKE

Yeah. Gonna head up to the ridge and get eyes on the fire and a sense of the wind.

MANNY

Keep me posted.

JAKE

There's gonna be a bunch of radio traffic so listen up. My identifier's 'C one-zero-four F-one'.

MANNY

Copy that.

FREDDY

(to Bode)

Those guys take a little hike up the mountain while we do all the hard work. How's this fair?

Jake walks right by Bode who pulls his face shroud around his face. Bode and Jake lock eyes and for a split second it's tense. Is there recognition? But Jake keeps walking, Bode's troubled gaze follows him.

BODE

Nothing fair about it.

Manny approaches.

MANNY

Everything okay over here?

FREDDY
Yes, sir.

MANNY
Bode?

BODE
Yes, sir.

MANNY
Good. How 'bout we talk less and
work more?

Cap continues on his way, Bode turns back to Jake, but now he and Everly are climbing up the ridge.

47 EXT. SMOKEY'S BAR AND GRILL - DAY

47

Arabella and Maya stand with 10-15 other people outside the bar looking up at the fire in the woods to the south.

MAYA
I've never seen it get this close
to town.

ARABELLA
Jake and Everly are gonna be okay,
right?

MAYA
(convincing herself)
Totally.

Vince drives up, parks, gets out and walks toward the entrance passing Arabella and Maya --

VINCE
Harlan here?

48 INT. SMOKEY'S BAR AND GRILL - CONTINUOUS

48

Vince finds Harlan in his usual spot at the bar, well into his third drink.

VINCE
Harlan!

Harlan turns, not happy to see Vince.

VINCE (CONT'D)
Pick up your damn phone!

HARLAN

I don't want to talk to you.

VINCE

It was 10 years ago, let's bury the hatchet.

HARLAN

What do you want?

VINCE

I need your dozers.

HARLAN

No.

VINCE

You were drunk on the job. I had to fire you. Now you own a construction company, you're richer than I'll ever be, so you won. Okay? I did you a favor.

HARLAN

Cal Fire has its own dozers.

VINCE

We have two for this whole region and I need more. I want to cut a line around the whole damn town.

HARLAN

Call Tyler. He handles day to day.

VINCE

I did. He won't do anything without your okay. Cause he's a good son. You got your kids all around you. You beat me there, too.

Harlan looks at Vince --

HARLAN

If Tyler can round up his brothers and sister you can have five dozers. I got six, but I suppose you'd say I'm too drunk to operate. Text Tyler the meet up --

Vince spontaneously hugs Harlan --

HARLAN (CONT'D)

Let's not go crazy --

Vince starts to walk away. Arabella, who's been listening, walks with him --

ARABELLA

My dad was a logger before he joined Cal Fire. I spent all my summers with him. I tagged along on stuff that I probably shouldn't have.

VINCE

What are you saying?

ARABELLA

I can drive a dozer.

OFF Vince, considering --

49

EXT. RIDGE - DAY

49

Jake and Everly push on to the ridge. The smoke is thick and embers from the nearby fire fly all around them. Everly pulls out her binoculars and looks.

EVERLY

This is getting bad.
(into radio)
Command IC this is one-zero-four F-one. Spot fires surrounding left flank with heavy wind, rapid spread.

JAKE

Let me see --

He walks towards her, reaching out for the binoculars and he suddenly FALLS thigh deep into a STUMP HOLE. Flames engulf his leg. Suddenly Jake screams.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Owww. Dammmmit!!

Everly starts to run towards him to get him out.

JAKE (CONT'D)

STOP. The ground is burning underneath, stay over there --

EVERLY

I need to get you out --

Jake takes off his tool belt (including his small pack that has his fire shelter) ...

JAKE

Grab one end, pull me --

She pulls and manages to help him out of the hole. He rolls away from the burning ground.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Son of a ... my boot is melted --

She looks around.

EVERLY

If there are stump holes, this whole area is unstable.

As if on cue they hear a crack and --

A large tree nearby them comes down. They both jump out of the way but a burning branch from the tree lands on Jake. Everly quickly puts out the small flame with a hand tool.

EVERLY (CONT'D)

We gotta get out of here.

JAKE

I can't move ...

His leg is stuck under the branch. They both try to move the tree. No luck. And their hand tools aren't gonna cut it. OFF the two of them, trapped --

50

EXT. INCIDENT BASE CAMP - BUCKEYE FIRE - DAY

50

Cheryl confers with other Captains and studies a computer image taken from above the fire. She points to an area with a few spot fires.

CHERYL

Division Charlie is getting hit hard chasing down spot fires in the Canyon. Let's move everyone off the left flank, it's not safe.

(into radio)

This is Buckeye IC. Request hand crew reinforcement on Right Flank.

CAL FIRE DISPATCH

Buckeye IC, copy that. Also, we have a report of a man down on Harrison Ridge --

CHERYL
 Buckeye IC, request a direct
 channel --

OFF Cheryl --

51 EXT. WOODS - DAY

51

The inmates have made substantial progress. But it's
 grueling. They look and see the Cal Fire guys packing up.
 Manny walks over --

 MANNY
 Guys. Grab your tools, we're gonna
 move to the right flank --

 FREDDY
 You serious? We gotta hike up
 there? Toward the fire?

 MANNY
 No, we'll hike around the back end.
 Let's go.

 FREDDY
 This is crazy. We need a break.

 BODE
 Freddy --

Freddy is pissed and he throws his McLeod on the ground.

 FREDDY
 What?! I'm not going. I'm done.

 MANNY
 (angry)
 Hey. You don't throw a tool down
 like that. You hear me? That
 could hurt somebody --

 FREDDY
 I'm hungry. And hot. And tired.
 And now I gotta hike to another
 place where I cut more line? For
 5 bucks an hour?

 MANNY
 Freddy, get up.

Freddy doesn't respond.

MANNY (CONT'D)

You want me to call Cory in base camp and have him come get you? Take you back to camp and back to prison? Cause that's what's gonna happen. And in the meantime, the fire wins. The fire loves us wasting our time arguing so it can burn more fuel and burn down some houses. Think about the people who live in those houses counting on us to do our job and you're throwing tools --

FREDDY

I don't know those people --

MANNY

Yeah, you do. They're your mother or your cousin, they're your grandma. You think if your grandma's house was burning down she'd want you to be wasting your time like this --

FREDDY

I got no grandma --

Suddenly an energy bar lands at Freddy's feet.

BODE

Have my energy bar, Goat. Think of the food truck.

And another one.

JULIO

Fear is a reaction, courage is a response.

And another. And another.

FREDDY

Now you guys just throwing food at me for fun.

But he looks at the guys surrounding him and he gets up. Manny looks at the guys. Pride on his face.

MANNY

Okay. Let's go.

Then suddenly over Manny's radio we hear Cheryl's voice --

CHERYL (V.O.)

This is Buckeye IC. Request status of man down on Harrison Ridge.

EVERLY (V.O.)

Buckeye IC, this is C one-zero-four F-one. Firefighter in distress, trapped under a tree with third degree burns --

CHERYL (V.O.)

Buckeye IC, stand by C one-zero-four F-one.

BODE

Those guys just passed us -

MANNY

They're sending a rescue team.

BODE

We're close to Harrison Ridge --

MANNY

And I'm not leaving you guys alone!

Bode stands there, deciding. He grabs the chainsaw.

BODE

Then I'll go.

MANNY

You go and I send you back to prison. I'm not kidding. And there won't be any forgiveness. Or any chance of parole. You want to succeed here? You'll start by putting that down.

A moment. Bode knows that what he does next determines the direction of his life for the next few years.

BODE

Sir, rule number 6 from the 10s and 18s is. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively. I'm going up there.

And with that, Bode takes off up the mountain.

Cheryl finds Adolfo.

CHERYL

Adolfo, how's the mandatory evac coming on Yankee and Zulu. The head of the fire is turning towards town. Where's Vince?

ADOLFO

He's cutting a line through Miller Field.

CHERYL

What?

53

EXT. MILLER FIELD JUST OUTSIDE OF MIDDLETOWN - DAY

53

Vince in his truck drives alongside town to his left and a field to his right. And beyond the field, in the distance - the woods are fully on fire. Up ahead of Vince, in the middle of the field ... six dozers from Denbo Construction, lined up in a row. The first five are manned by different Denbos (Curtis, Talmadge, Clement, Lawrence and Jamie). The sixth is manned by Arabella. The dozers are moving in unison, cutting a line across the field as wide as a four lane highway.

VINCE

(on the phone)

Hey Cheryl. I'm cutting a line as wide as a highway along Route 22. There's no way this fire's gonna take down my town.

54

EXT. RIDGE - NIGHT

54

Bode heads up the mountain and reaches the ridge where he sees: Jake lies on his side, pinned by the tree, grimacing in pain. Everly is trying to shift the tree off his leg. The sound of the approaching fire is like a roaring train.

JAKE

The fire's gonna be on us any minute!

EVERLY

I'm working as fast as I can.

JAKE

Go! Save yourself!!!

We're on Bode's face: it's a split second. And in that split second he decides. He knows what he has to do.

BODE
 (yelling)
 Stand back!

Jake and Everly look up and see Bode charging toward them with a chainsaw. (Note: His face is totally obscured by goggles and the face shroud.)

EVERLY
 Thank God.

Everly stands back as Bode takes over with his chainsaw, ripping through the tree, quickly freeing Jake.

BODE
 Help me lift him.

Everly and Bode hoist Jake up to standing --

EVERLY
 Let's get the hell out of here --

They turn to leave the way Bode came in, but --

It's now a wall of fire. They look and see that there's -
 NO ESCAPE.

EVERLY (CONT'D)
 (shouting to be heard)
 We're gonna have to deploy fire
 shelters --

They all reach for theirs as the fire is -

BEARING DOWN ON THEM FROM ALL SIDES -

Bode and Everly have theirs out and are climbing into them as Jake reaches to his belt and realizes --

JAKE
 My belt. I took it off!

EVERLY
 What?

He turns and SEES - his belt 20 feet away. He WATCHES as it's engulfed in flames.

OFF Jake, no where to go, the fire bearing down on him --

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

55 EXT. RIDGE - NIGHT 55

Jake stands there as the fire bears down on them all.

EVERLY
(shouting to Jake)
Can you get over here?

He tries but it's slow moving. He's in so much pain. She starts to get out of her fire shelter to get him just as the fire MOVES over her shelter. She pulls it over herself just in time. A wall of fire is bearing down on Jake as -

Bode gets out of his fire shelter, grabs Jake and pulls him in, laying down on top of him and pulling the cover over the two of them as the fire ... BURNS OVER THEM.

56 EXT. FIELD JUST OUTSIDE OF MIDDLETOWN - NIGHT 56

The dozers continue their relentless cut. Townspeople, led by Maya, are now standing in the field between the line and the town, using garden hoses and a makeshift bucket brigade to put out spot fires as they flare up, cheering the dozers on.

57 INT. FIRE SHELTER - LATER 57

Pitch darkness. The sound of breathing. It's almost quiet. Bode is still on top of Jake.

EVERLY (O.S.)
Jake!

JAKE
Yeah!!!

EVERLY
The fire's gone.

And suddenly their fire shelter is ripped away by Everly who looks beat up and freaked out, but alive.

EVERLY (CONT'D)
Damn. That was freaking insane.
Copter's on the way.

Bode climbs off of Jake --

JAKE
(to Bode)
Thanks man. I owe you.

Jake sticks out his hand to Bode.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I'm Jake.

A beat.

BODE
I know.

Then Bode removes his goggles and pulls aside his face shroud. Jake and Everly look like they've seen a ghost. It's like time stands still.

JAKE
Bode?

And Bode rears up and PUNCHES Jake in the face.

JAKE (CONT'D)
You're crazy!

Jake staggers back up, Everly gets between them.

BODE
That's what you told Riley, isn't it? When she said she wanted to keep the baby?

EVERLY
What baby?

BODE
Oh, he hasn't told you --

JAKE
Leave it alone Bode, it's been 5 years --

EVERLY
Wait. Jake! Riley was pregnant?

BODE
I was driving her home. She was crying, she tried to get out of the car to go back and talk to him and I reached over to pull her back and I lost control. The car rolled. It kept rolling.

EVERLY

It was an accident. Everyone knows.

BODE

It was my fault. I get that. I was driving. But I lay awake at night thinking she died with a broken heart. And that's on you.

JAKE

Says the guy who skipped on the people who needed him.

BODE

No one needed me.

JAKE

I did. You were my best friend --

BODE

Looks like you're doing just fine. I met your girlfriend by the way. Does she know what kind of guy you are?

Now Jake lunges at Bode. Everly gets in between them and breaks it up. It doesn't take much, these guys are hurt and tired. They stare at each other. Breathing heavily.

JAKE

What are you even doing here?

BODE

I came to save your life. I wasn't about to let you die a hero.

And suddenly, overhead ... a helicopter. Rescue.

58

EXT. FIELD JUST OUTSIDE OF MIDDLETOWN - NIGHT

58

Vince is standing with Arabella, Maya, and the Denbos, including Harlan. The group WATCHES as ... the approaching fire burns right up to the huge line the dozers have created ... and STOPS. Two crews of Cal Fire Firefighters have hose lines along the line and are putting out spot fires.

A plane passes overhead trailing a PINK CLOUD behind it.

ARABELLA

I love that sight.

VINCE
Fire retardant?

ARABELLA
Growing up, the pink dust meant my
dad was safe.

MAYA
I hope it means Everly and Jake are
safe.

ARABELLA
Have you heard anything?

MAYA
No, I keep checking my phone.

Just then Cheryl drives up in her truck. She gets out,
surveys the scene. Looks at her husband with gratitude.

CHERYL
You saved the town. You literally
saved the town. I don't know how
you did this.

VINCE
Harlan loaned me his fleet.

CHERYL
You and Harlan on speaking terms?
That really is a miracle.

VINCE
I'm worried about my guys. Why
haven't we heard anything?

Just then Maya's phone rings. And Arabella's. And Cheryl's.
And Vince's.

OFF everyone nervously answering --

59 INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM OUTSIDE SURGICAL SUITE - NIGHT 59

Arabella sits nervously waiting, Manny approaches. She gets
up and hugs him.

MANNY
How is he?

ARABELLA
They're debriding his foot. I
don't know.

(MORE)

ARABELLA (CONT'D)

It's mostly second, some third degree all the way up to his knee.

MANNY

You okay? Cause I got a guy downstairs I need to take back to camp and deal with --

ARABELLA

Yeah --

He starts to walk away, then --

ARABELLA (CONT'D)

I'm not going to Florida.

He turns.

ARABELLA (CONT'D)

Today ... on that dozer ... I was a part of something. I want to be a part of this town.

MANNY

Baby, you don't belong here. All there is is fire. I put you in diving when you were little because I liked the idea of you surrounded by water. Fire burns everything down and water saves it. Water's gonna save you. Water's your ticket out.

ARABELLA

I don't need saving, Dad. And I don't want out.

OFF Manny, taking this in.

60

EXT. MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

60

The Inmate crew with Cory and the remaining Cal Fire crews all hike down the mountain after a long night. They're tired and hungry and quiet.

They arrive at Base Camp and SEE:

Moms, Dads and kids with makeshift signs, "THANK YOU, FIREFIGHTERS." "WILDFIRE HEROES." "YOUR SACRIFICE SAVED OUR HOMES."

FREDDY
 (to Cory)
 They're thanking the firefighters?

CORY
 They're thanking you. After today,
 you're a firefighter. And tomorrow,
 we go back at it.

OFF Goat, standing just a little taller.

61 INT. HOSPITAL - ER - NIGHT

61

Everly is leaving the hospital as Cheryl enters.

EVERLY
 You got an update?

CHERYL
 We're good. We're at 70%
 containment. We should be able to
 fully contain the fire in the next
 few days. How are you?

EVERLY
 I'm fine. Just a little smoke
 inhalation. Maya's bringing the car
 around.

CHERYL
 I hear one of the con crew inmates
 helped you out? I'm here to
 personally thank him, do you know
 where --

EVERLY
 Cheryl, is ... where's Vince? Is
 he with you?

CHERYL
 Vince is on his way. Why?

A beat. How does Everly tell this woman --

EVERLY
 Cheryl, he's back.

62 INT. ER - EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

62

Bode sits on the edge of the bed. He's got some bandages and
 bruises. Manny's at his side.

MANNY

You ready to go?

BODE

Yeah. Listen, I need to explain something to you.

MANNY

You need to explain a lot of stuff to me. But I need to get you back to camp. We can sort this all out tomorrow.

CHERYL (O.S.)

Manny. Give us the room.

Manny turns. Cheryl is in the doorway staring at Bode. Like she's seeing a ghost.

MANNY

Ma'am. I can't do that. This is my inmate, I technically can't leave him alone with --

CHERYL

GIVE US THE ROOM.

Manny stops, startled.

MANNY

Is everything --

CHERYL

(softening)

I'll take responsibility for him. Please, just --

Manny looks at Bode, at Cheryl. He gets up and leaves. A long beat, then --

BODE

Hi Mom.

CHERYL

I thought you were dead.

BODE

I should have been dead. It should have been me that died in that car and not Riley.

CHERYL

We looked for you for so long.

BODE

I didn't want to be found.

But before he can explain, or apologize, she hugs him. Hard and long, tears streaming down both their faces.

VINCE (O.S.)

Cheryl!

She turns, Vince is in the doorway, he sees his son. After his initial surprise --

VINCE (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing here?

OFF this surprising family reunion, we-

END PILOT