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9-1-1

STORY #E09250

"IN A FLASH"

#6LAY10

WRITTEN BY  
JUAN CARLOS COTO

DIRECTED BY  
BRAD BUECKER

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RYAN MURPHY TELEVISION

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CAST LIST

Athena Grant

Bobby Nash

Maddie Buckley

Evan "Buck" Buckley

Henrietta "Hen" Wilson

Howie "Chimney" Han

Eddie Diaz

May Grant

Denny Wilson

Jee-Yun Buckley Han

Josh Russo

Albert Han

Han Sang-Hyo "Sang" (from Ep. 212)

Han Myung-Soon "Myung" (from Ep. 212)

Margaret Buckley (from Ep. 405)

Phillip Buckley (from Ep. 405)

Carrie Walsh (from Ep. 609)

Dwight Meyerson

**Eldon Jaffurs (omitted)\***

Ely Roberts (fka Rodriguez)

**Gerald Jaffurs (omitted)\***

Ibrahim

Nathaniel Green (from Ep. 203)

Omar

Rasha

Sergei

Tamara Wiles

Trey Walsh (from Ep. 609)

LOCATION LIST

Athena & Bobby's House

- Kitchen

Call Center

- Main Floor

Chimney & Maddie's House

- Dining Room
- Entryway
- Family Room
- Hallway
- Kitchen
- Living Room

Firehouse

- By the Cubbies
- Loft Area
- Vehicle Area

Ext. Beach

Ext. Crash Site

Ext. DTLA Streets

Ext. L.A. Streets

Ext. Streets

Int. Ambulance -- Moving

Int. Crashed Sedan

Int. Engine -- Moving

Int. Flower Shop

Int. Uber Car -- Moving

Hen & Karen's House

- Denny's Room
- Living Room

**Jaffurs Apartment (omitted)\***

- **Bathroom\***
- **Family Room\***

Apartment Building

- Ext.
- Top of Ladder

Rehab Facility (from Ep. 609)

- Ext. Courtyard & Rooms
- Reception/Waiting

1

EXT. BEACH -- DAY

1

Blue skies. COME DOWN on the iconic, SoCal coast. Packed with BEACHGOERS having a grand ol' day. The Stones' *Jumpin' Jack Flash* kicks in, and an eager family of three enters -- IBRAHIM (40s), his daughter RASHA (13) and his son, OMAR (10). Eager except for Rasha, who trails.

OMAR

Come on.

RASHA

This is stupid. I can't believe you dragged us out here.

They've got the cooler and the blanket and the umbrella and anything else they can carry -- a walking Frontgate catalog -- and Dad finds the perfect spot. He sticks the umbrella in the sand like a triumphant astronaut, and --

IBRAHIM

Who's ready for a killer day?!

OMAR

Yay! Let's do this!

Ibrahim CHEERS with Omar, Rasha frowns, and SLAM TO --

Ibrahim fast asleep. On his back. On a blanket. Rasha and Omar stare at him.

OMAR (CONT'D)

How'd he do that so fast?

RASHA

He doesn't wanna be out here, either.

OMAR

That's not true! He's tired from work.

RASHA

He doesn't care.

OMAR

Stop! Why do you always have to be mad at him? You didn't used to be. We used to have fun. We used to bury him in the sand and stuff.

(CONTINUED)

RASHA  
(waits a second)  
I'm down for that.

She motions to nearby shovels and a bucket. Omar gets where she's going -- and likes it. SMASH TO --

A SERIES OF SHOTS. The Stones go hard as the kids dig a two-foot-deep trough next to their sleeping Dad. Once the hole is made, they pull on the towel to tug him into the hole. As this is happening, he starts to wake up...but he keeps his eyes shut and plays along. THUNK! They pull him into the hole and in JUMP CUTS bury him until he is fully covered, only his head protruding.

Something else has happened during this -- a carpet of light gray clouds has moved in, like a super-high marine layer. But it's still pretty bright out here. Omar sees his father fully buried and suddenly starts to panic.

OMAR

Wait. What if we can't get him out?

RASHA

It's just sand, dude.

Ibrahim takes this as his cue to "wake up."

IBRAHIM

What's this...oh no! I'm buried  
alive! I'm buried alive! Nooooooo!  
Nooooooo!

The kids LAUGH and so does Dad -- but then he chin nods to the water. It seems kinda close.

IBRAHIM (CONT'D)

Hey, guys...did you check when high  
tide was coming in? Oh no! I'm  
gonna drown!

He fakes choking and drowning, while Rasha laughs --

OMAR

Stop it! Stop!

RASHA

Relax. He's just teasing.

And that's when Rasha's hair stands up, as if by electricity.  
Omar's eyes widen and he gasps.

OMAR

Rasha?

SHRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACK! A blinding CLUSTER OF LIGHTING strikes all around the family, EXPLODING the umbrella and, ahem, shocking everyone (though not literally).

Rasha and Omar cower as the LIGHTING goes for another half-beat, followed by a VIOLENT CRACK OF THUNDER. The lightning finally WHITES OUT our view, then we SMASH TO --

THE BEACH -- Beachgoers run away. Leaving all their crap.  
Mass panic.

WITH RASHA AND OMAR -- It is suddenly deathly quiet, except for the sound of the waves. They rush to Dad, SCREAMING for him, intent on digging him back out, but as they start, they reach...the sand around his head, which has been turned into a large oddly shaped area of dark glass, the size of a large buffet platter. The glass "reaches" in a line from the fried umbrella, and continues across Ibrahim's buried body in a series of shimmering tendrils.

Rasha gets closer. When she touches the edge of the ring, the glass breaks, like peanut brittle. And under it, blood flows.

IBRAHIM

Call...nine...one...

2 OVER BLACK:

2

MADDIE (V.O.)

9-1-1, what's your emergency?

RASHA (V.O.)

The beach is trying to eat my Dad!

3 EXT. BEACH -- DAY

3

The 118 Engine and Ambulance land and our people make their grand, midseason entrance -- BOBBY leads, with HEN and CHIMNEY on the medkits and BUCK and EDDIE on shovels. But here's the thing --

It's an eerie, deserted beach. Umbrellas, picnic baskets and remnants of everyone's happy day, still there, as if a neutron bomb obliterated all the humans.

(CONTINUED)

The Stones are gone, too, btw -- there is only an odd cacophony of mixed source music playing from abandoned bluetooth speakers. Rasha and Omar rush around an umbrella --

RASHA

Help! Help! We buried my Dad and then lightning came outta nowhere.

OMAR

It's our fault! We shouldn't have done it!

BOBBY

It's all right. We'll get him out.

OMAR

How? It got him in the neck!

CHIMNEY

The lightning?

BUCK

The glass...

Buck, slightly ahead, just past the charred umbrella -- and steps on the glass between the umbrella and Ibrahim. Hen and Chimney kneel and get to work.

BOBBY

Let's get him out!

Buck and Eddie dig out his legs, where there is no glass.

HEN

Can you tell me your name, sir?

IBRAHIM

Ibrahim.

HEN

Are you in any pain, Ibrahim?

IBRAHIM

Neck...hurts. Really dizzy.

HEN

Could be blood loss...

Hen notices the blood pool under the glass that surrounds him. Chimney checks his pulse on the upper part of his neck, just below the jaw.

(CONTINUED)



CHIMNEY

Pulse is elevated. Breathing's shallow, though that could be the weight of the sand.

Hen begins to gently break away the glass around Ibrahim, as--

WITH BUCK AND EDDIE -- Buck and Eddie are now carefully BREAKING the tendril-like glass. Buck looks to the sky.

BUCK

No rain. Where the hell did it come from?

EDDIE

I don't know, but let's hope it really doesn't strike twice.

OMAR

Why is this happening?! I'm sorry Daddy!

Buck's attention turns to Omar. The little kid is beside himself, and Rasha's too terrified to help.

BUCK

Hey, hey. Omar. Sometimes things happen that we can't explain. But this we actually can. When lightning hits sand, it's so hot, it can turn it into glass.

Buck picks up a piece of the glass, crumbles it easily.

They watch Hen finish breaking glass, which reveals his road-rashy neck, and a single, finger-sized fulgurite jutting out from the rest of the glass into Ibrahim's neck. Bobby inspects, Chimney reports --

CHIMNEY

Pretty sure that hit the carotid.

HEN

Glass came in hot. Looks like it's semi-cauterized. Instant scab.

Chimney places an I.V. in the other side of Ibrahim's neck.

CHIMNEY

Running fluids wide open.

HEN

(to Bobby)

We'll have to skip the C-collar.

BOBBY

Eddie, head block and a backboard.

IBRAHIM

(wants to crane his neck)

What about my kids, are they okay!

BOBBY

No, no! Don't move your head.

Bobby stabilizes his head as Hen and Chimney work. Eddie brings the head block and backboard. Hen carefully places the head block on Ibrahim as Bobby and Eddie hold him still.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Alright, Ibrahim. Stay as still as you possibly can.

WITH BUCK AND THE KIDS -- Omar tries not to freak out.

OMAR

It was my stupid idea to come to the beach.

RASHA

He was just trying to get my Dad and me to stop fighting.

Buck knows this drill.

(CONTINUED)

BUCK

Hey, I get it. You want to fix everything, but guess what -- sometimes stuff you don't expect comes outta nowhere.

RASHA

He means lightning.

OMAR

I know!

BUCK

But we got him now, okay? He's gonna be oka --

They are pulling Ibrahim out when -- without warning -- there's a GUSHER WOUND on his left brachial artery. It splatters Bobby (and maybe some others). At the same time --

EDDIE

Arterial bleed! Tourniquet flying in.

Eddie has the presence of mind to grab it from the medkit for Hen. She puts it on ... but this has to be a delicate procedure because of the fulgurite in the neck.

A SERIES OF CUTS as everyone looks on, tense, as Hen saves the day. Chimney and Eddie assist with gauze and bandages. The fulgurite remains in place, and --

BOBBY

On three. One, two --

FROM ABOVE -- The entire team -- like pallbearers -- lifts Ibrahim from the sand and places him on the backboard. Chimney guards the I.V. and Hen stabilizes his head. They get him on the backboard, and as they move off --

IBRAHIM

Omar, Rasha, it's gonna be fine. I'm gonna be fine.

RASHA

We love you, Daddy.

She takes Omar's hand. He finds comfort in this. And as they all move to the vehicles --

(CONTINUED)

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3

3

BUCK  
(to the kids)  
Come on, you can ride in the engine  
with us.

They move off. LINGER on Bobby and Eddie --

EDDIE  
Feel like we just dodged a bullet.

BOBBY  
(looks to the sky)  
Or something else.

And OFF the sky --

**TITLE CARD.**

4

OMITTED

4

(CONTINUED)

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5 NEWS REPORT

5

DWIGHT MEYERSON behind his Channel 8 desk. INTERCUT STOCK FOOTAGE of exploded transformers, split trees -- but no rain.

DWIGHT MEYERSON

They call it a 'dry thunderstorm,' which sounds like it makes no sense -- but in this age of extreme weather and environmental uncertainty, it might just be the new normal. A dry thunderstorm is actually a "high elevation" storm -- the clouds are so high that the rain evaporates before it hits the earth. So your eyes and ears do not deceive you. You will see lightning and hear thunder, but never any rain. At least not for a few days. The best course of action, as in any storm, is to stay inside...

PULL BACK from Dwight Meyerson to reveal he is playing on a TV inside...

6

INT. CALL CENTER -- DAY

6

Far end of the floor, opposite the elevators. JOSH watches, sipping his travel mug. That's when MADDIE blows past, purse on her arm, heading out for the day. He walks with her.

JOSH

Are you seeing this?

MADDIE

Trying not to. I'm about to walk into my own invisible storm that can strike me down any second.

(off his look)

My parents are coming to visit.

JOSH

That's this week? I thought you said Albert was coming back from Korea this week.

MADDIE

Oh, he's coming, too. It's a regular family reunion. Apparently when you get a new house, everybody wants to see it, even if it's not ready. That part is fine, though -- it means no one can stay with us.

(then)

Am I terrible for saying that?

JOSH

If I had family that wanted to stay with me, I'd take a sledgehammer to my kitchen first.

MADDIE

I'm gonna consider that Plan 'B.'

(then)

Just need to buy a sledgehammer first.

JOSH

Good luck!

MADDIE

I'm gonna need it.

She waves, a little tense. He waves, reassuring her. The elevator doors close on her, and --

7

INT. FIREHOUSE -- DAY

7

A SERIES OF SHOTS (possibly stock) of the 118 vehicles returning from a call. This takes us to...

THE CUBBY AREA. Hen, Chimney, Buck and Eddie all finish taking off their gear and arranging it in a spot. LINGER with...

Bobby. He hangs his jacket. Then moves his boots. Lines them up. Can't seem to get it right. Something's not right. Finally, he shifts his jacket again, revealing a photo he has stuck in the edge of the cubby's latticework.

It's a photo of him and Wendall, arm in arm, smiling.

CARRIE (PRE-LAP)

We don't call you an addict, and we don't subscribe to the idea that you have a disease...

8

INT. REHAB FACILITY -- RECEPTION/WAITING -- DAY

8

CARRIE and TREY WALSH at a desk. The astute viewer will remember them as the focus of Bobby's suspicion (and ire) in Episode 609. They dress for the billionaire set. Trey is bright, eager, helpful. Carrie is mature, thoughtful. Piercing eyes and intellect. She addresses an unseen patient.

CARRIE

Drug use is a continuum of behaviors, and we recognize that living with it requires a non-judgmental, non-coercive approach. Safer use, managed use and abstinence. These are all tools in the toolbox.

REVEAL the patient is MAY -- and she looks busted.

MAY

Cool. So I can manage this at home.

REVEAL ATHENA in the seat next to her. She wears a prominent Rolex, diamond rings, and an upscale handbag.

ATHENA

No, you cannot.

CARRIE

Your mother's right, Jada. That's why you're here.

(CONTINUED)

TREY

That's why we're all here. To meet  
you wherever you're at. Be it  
halfway, or only part of the way.

ATHENA

But can you get her clean?

CARRIE

Again, Mrs. Greer. Clean denotes  
that she's somehow dirty. We don't  
deal in those kinds of absolutes.

Trey fills the awkward silence.

TREY

Why don't we show you the place and  
what we can do?

MAY

Can I have my own tour?

Trey looks at Carrie for a cue, and she nods -- pointing out  
TAMARA WILES, an employee nearby re-arranging some flowers in  
a vase.

TREY

You know what? Tamara can show you  
around. She was just like you a few  
months ago. Now she helps others  
find a new path.

May can't get up fast enough. As Tamara comes over, May says  
under her breath --

MAY

Can we find a path outta here?

They dart out of there, and Trey looks Athena's purse, watch  
and jewelry up-and-down. Athena catches him doing this, and --

May walks with Tamara in a courtyard area that leads to  
several patient rooms.

TAMARA

I was here a couple of times before  
I finally found a way to get myself  
on solid ground.

MAY

So, do you use?



Tamara dodges the question. Bringing her to a garden area, where there's a small fountain and statue.

TAMARA

This garden's a great place to chill.

MAY

Cool, so I get to sit out here and pop off, right?

(off her look)

He said you guys would meet me halfway.

TAMARA

If all you're thinking about is using, then you're not living.

MAY

The more I use, the more my Mom's gotta pay, right?

Tamara tries not to be exasperated.

TAMARA

I don't think you're getting the point of this place. We're trying to get you to live with it, not fight against it.

MAY

Only thing I'm fighting is my mom.

Athena back with Carrie and Trey.

CARRIE

Absolutely she could start today. The facility only has twelve rooms, but we've got one open.

TREY

And no one will know Jada is here, Mrs. Greer. We're very private, and very exclusive.

ATHENA

Exclusive. I have a friend who runs a hedge fund. He likes to say that's French for expensive.

CARRIE

If you know the finance world, you know the value of a good investment. An investment in your daughter's future.

ATHENA

I like investments that get results.

(down to business)

So how much is this gonna cost me?

11

INT. ATHENA & BOBBY'S HOUSE -- DAY

11

A collection of evidence and research spread out on the dining room table. Bobby, Athena and May stand over it, comparing notes.

BOBBY

A hundred thousand? Are they kidding?

ATHENA

They were definitely not kidding. Also definitely not taking insurance.

BOBBY

All that money and they've had three times the amount of complaints as any other facility. More than any of those places in Malibu. At least five deaths in the last year.

MAY

But they haven't been investigated?

ATHENA

They get away with it every time. Someone O.D.'s at a place like that, it's almost considered routine.

BOBBY

(to May)

So she actually said they'd let you use on the premises?

MAY

Not in so many words. Harm reduction, she called it.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY

Then what happened to Wendall?

Good point.

ATHENA

There's no way to know. Very private, very exclusive and very happy to hide behind 'patient confidentiality.'

MAY

I'm sorry, Bobby.

(then)

I've got class in an hour. I'll see you guys.

May exits. Athena looks at Bobby, still poring over that evidence. She tries to mitigate her concern, but can't stay silent anymore.

ATHENA

Maybe this thing has run its course.

BOBBY

Run its course?

ATHENA

Wendall's family already filed a complaint with the state. Why don't we let them take it from here?

Bobby starts to gather all the stuff. If anything to distract himself from his growing frustration.

BOBBY

Can't do that.

ATHENA

Bobby, it's been four months. If you keep hanging on to this --

BOBBY

I've got to hang on to something. You don't know what it's like, Athena. To be lost like that.  
(re: Trey and Carrie pic)  
These people prey on it. They profess to offer a helping hand but they do the opposite. Keep their patients addicted and take as much of their money as they can.

(CONTINUED)

ATHENA

They clearly have a different approach.

BOBBY

I will be the first to admit -- twelve-step is not for everybody. Addiction is a hard road, and people gotta find their own way. But that's not what happened here.

ATHENA

We still don't know what happened here.

BOBBY

And I can't stop until we do.

He has gathered up his things and exits, leaving a concerned Athena.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

12 EXT. L.A. STREETS -- NIGHT 12

A SEDAN whips past, moving with purpose.

13 INT. UBER CAR -- MOVING -- NIGHT 13

SERGEI, the driver, drives hard and tries to focus on the road -- but he can't help eyeing his passenger in the rearview ...

ELY ROBERTS is pregnant. Very pregnant -- and she is currently struggling to get the seat belt around herself...while on the phone.

ELY

(into phone)

It's gonna be fine. I'll be there in...

(checks her phone)

Twelve minutes. The twins are next door with Leese. They're having a blast. Cards Against Humanity tournament. Yes! The family edition.

(re: her belly)

Pretty soon we're gonna have an extra player. How far away are you? That's perfect. I'll be there right before you. And they told me Dr. Cohen's on the way.

SERGEI

Maybe we should call nine-one-one.

ELY

(fighting impending contraction)

This isn't an emergency.

SERGEI

It sounds like one!

ELY

(checks his name on the app)

Sergei, just get me to the hospital and we'll be fine. My water already broke and I'm pretty well dilated. And this is not my first rodeo. Second, actually.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEI

Lady, I don't know how to deliver  
child!

ELY

We are going to be fiiiiiii --

It becomes a SCREAM. Hi, contraction.

ELY (CONT'D)

Just a contraction.

(off his shock)

My wife has our actual car. She's  
in Orange county --

(SCREAM)

And I just need to get to the  
hospital so she can meet us there.

(then)

That was a contraction scream not a  
scream scream.

SERGEI

I pull over and call ambulance!

ELY

No! Sergei, listen to me.

He looks at her in the rear view.

ELY (CONT'D)

Don't look. Listen. Eyes on the  
road.

(still managing come-down  
from contraction)

You know the way to the hospital,  
and if you don't, follow the nav.  
Now. We are going to sit back...

(CLICK! belt is on)

And we are going to breathe and we  
are not going to push until we're  
ready. You are a five-star driver,  
Sergei. Never forget that. Come on.  
Breathe with me. In through your  
nose, out through your mouth...

She breathes. And finally, he joins her. He takes a big  
breath in and just when he goes to blow it out --

INTERCUT -- ON THE STREET -- A MASSIVE FUSILLADE OF LIGHTNING  
hits the car, surrounding it with TENDRILS OF WHITE HOT  
ELECTRICITY and --

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2) 13

INSIDE THE CAR -- Every airbag goes off -- from front to side to curtains -- all at once. Sergei loses control of the vehicle and --

The Uber swerves and ROLLS, and --

THE UBER CAR FLIPS OVER ON ITS SIDE AND ROLLS (maybe twice) ALL THE WAY OVER, landing on its roof.

14 OVER BLACK: 14

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
911, what's your emergency?

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
The owner of this device has been involved in a crash...

15 INT. CRASHED SEDAN -- NIGHT 15

CLOSE ON Ely's phone, next to the dome light on the ceiling, which is now the floor. The screen reads: **CRASH DETECTED, calling 911.**

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)  
The emergency location is latitude one-eighteen-point-two-nine and longitude thirty-four-point-zero-nine-eight, with an estimated search radius of twenty-three meters. This message will repeat in five seconds.

COME UP and include Sergei, slumped sideways and off the seat, more toward the ceiling (floor) than his own seat (which is above him). The windows have all been smashed out and there is jellied glass everywhere. He has trouble breathing, and his breaths are raw and wet-sounding.

16 EXT. L.A. STREETS -- NIGHT 16

The 118 Engine and two ambos tear through the streets.

17 EXT. CRASH SITE -- NIGHT 17

The Engine and two ambulances land. Everyone hops off in turnouts and lamps on high. Bobby leads the way. The bottom of the car is IN FLAMES. Buck and ANOTHER 118 FIREFIGHTER hit it with CO2. Bobby arrives at Sergei's window first, slumped partially on the wheel. The driver's side window is shattered away. Sergei is in a daze, his face and arms scraped and bruised from all the airbags.

(CONTINUED)

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SERGEI  
Lightning...set off airbags...  
(re: back seat)  
Help them first.

(CONTINUED)



Sergei tries to motion to the back, but passes out. Bobby only glimpses Ely back there.

BOBBY  
(to himself)  
Them?  
(then)  
Hen, Chim, he's lost consciousness.

Hen and Chimney race over with their medkits. Bobby shifts to the back window and peers through the wreckage with his light. He finds Ely slumped against the passenger side door, her seat belt also horribly stretched. She is also sideways, her seat having given way in the crash. She is partially on the door and the ceiling/floor. Wires and other gunk hang everywhere. Then Bobby sees her belly.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Buck, other side. Passenger's pregnant and she's unconscious. Get that door open.

Buck, carrying a saw, races over to Ely's door. The other 118 firefighter follows with a crowbar.

WITH HEN AND CHIMNEY -- Chimney peels back the windshield and gets in there while Hen palpates Sergei's torso from the window. It's not good.

HEN  
Looks like the lightning strike messed up his seat belt retention, too. Steering wheel crushed him pretty good. Paradoxical chest movement.

CHIMNEY  
Flail chest?

HEN  
(yup)  
We don't get him outta here, we're gonna be playing pick-up-sticks with his ribs.

Chimney gets fluids going as Hen tries to get him breathing with the ambu bag.

CHIMNEY  
Nothing?

(CONTINUED)

HEN

Not breathing. Let's try for a  
needle decompression right here.

CHIMNEY

Unless we can get him out.  
(to Buck)  
Need that saw, Buck!

(CONTINUED)

BACK BY ELY'S DOOR -- Buck readies the saw but then -- he smells something. He looks in the back corner of the vehicle. Dripping fuel.

BUCK  
(To Chimney)  
Saw's a no-go! Too many sparks.

Buck turns off the saw and looks to the other firefighter.

BUCK (CONT'D)  
Guess we're going to have to do it  
the old-fashioned way.

INSIDE THE CAR -- Bobby works his way to Ely from the opposite window, and --

BOBBY  
Ma'am! Can you hear me?

Ely doesn't respond.

BACK BY ELY'S DOOR -- The other firefighter jams the crowbar in the wedge of the door, and --

Buck raises a SLEDGEHAMMER and pounds the crowbar into the wedge of the door. The firefighter WRENCHES the door. It is about to come loose, but Bobby calls from inside --

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Stop! Stop!

They freeze.

WITH BOBBY -- He finds something with his flashlight, dangling among cords and wires in the car. Something bloody. An umbilical cord. He follows it back to where it enters under Ely's dress.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Umbilical cord is out. Could the  
baby have been ejected?

CHIMNEY  
If she was dilated enough.

ELY  
(coming to)  
My baby...

BOBBY  
Let's get her out, but very gently.

The other firefighter WRENCHES the crowbar and Buck is there to catch the upside-down door and lower Ely onto the street.

He spots the cord coming out from under her dress, and --

BUCK

Ma'am, stay very still. And  
whatever you do don't push.

ELY

Trying not to...but I don't think  
it's up to me.

Ely hunches over and screams. Buck sees something -- the end  
of the umbilical cord is now visible.

BOBBY

Cord's separated.

Hen, working on Sergei up front, catches sight of it from the  
front seat!

HEN

Lift it up, Cap! That's the blood  
supply. You got two, maybe three  
minutes before the baby is brain  
dead.

But where does it lead? Bobby raises it and starts to follow it with his flashlight --

Other firefighters work on opening the front door with the jaws. Hen looks at the door and then back to Sergei.

HEN (CONT'D)

There's no time to extricate. We gotta do this now.

Chimney has prepped the chest needle and Hen lowers it down into the front seat and punctures the side of Sergei's torso.

ELY'S DOOR -- Buck brings Ely to the street and lowers her down to the ground. She grabs his arm in pain.

BUCK

I've got you. It's okay. Just breathe for me.

(over his shoulder)

Chim!

Hen and Chimney with Sergei.

HEN

I've got this. You go.

Chimney climbs out of the car and moves to Ely and Buck.

CHIMNEY

Need a backboard and gurney here!

Chimney bends down next to Ely.

CHIMNEY (CONT'D)

Ma'am I need to massage your uterus from the outside. I have to make sure you don't hemorrhage.

ELY

Where's the baby?

IN THE CAR -- Bobby's flashlight prowls the back seat as he follows the cord to the driver's side. The cord leads upward, to the driver's seat, which is now the ceiling.

ANGLE FROM THE FRONT -- We are at first blinded by Bobby's flashlight, but then we can make out the outline of a baby, under the seat. Keeping the cord up, Bobby grabs the baby, and tugs gently. *Oh no.*

BOBBY

Leg's jammed under the seat. Buck, need you back here.

(CONTINUED)

WITH BUCK -- Buck runs to Bobby past the other firefighters who have successfully opened the front door and --

Mechanical details of this will be worked out -- but the idea is that Bobby keeps the cord raised while Buck uses the jack to wedge up the seat so he can pull the baby out.

In essence, they're birthing the baby from the car. Finally --

WITH HEN -- Sergei starts breathing again, gasping to life.

HEN

(over her shoulder)

We got him back!

Hen quickly starts running a morphine I.V.

HEN (CONT'D)

Hang in there for me. I know it hurts to breathe but you gotta push through until the meds kick in.

Hen and other firefighters start to extract him through the open doors, just as --

Bobby finishes "birthing" the baby from under the seat.

BOBBY

Buck, I got him. It's a boy. Can't tell if he's breathing, but he's not crying.

Bobby slaps the baby in the back. The baby starts CRYING. Buck reaches out --

BUCK

Let me have the cord.

Buck clamps it. Relieved, Hen finds Ely's baby bag and zips it open. She finds blankets in there and Bobby starts to wrap the baby up. As the CRYING gets louder --

Ely smiles. She can hear her baby boy CRY.

Bobby comes around the car, where Ely is now on a backboard and gurney.

BOBBY

I'd like to introduce you to your son.

Another gurney arrives, pushed by other 118ers. Ely takes the baby in her arms, overcome with emotion, as Bobby looks on, and --

FLASH! A FLAME comes out of a sauté pan, held by Chimney at the stove -- and he is in full chef mode!

CHIMNEY

Think I finally mastered that.

MADDIE

What? Burning down our new house?

Maddie is busy setting the dining table. It's a way to deal with her restlessness.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

She's gonna hate it anyway. The rooms aren't finished, this kitchen has too much color, and the backsplash. Boy, is she gonna hate that backsplash.

Chimney takes a beat, reading Maddie's nervousness.

CHIMNEY

Hey, I know this whole fixer-upper adventure with the house has been sort of a whirlwind. Maybe even a rollercoaster. Driven by me. But we got this, right?

MADDIE

We do. I'm just not always sure I do.

CHIMNEY

Then break the glass and pull the alarm. That's what I'm here for. It's you and me against the Buckleys. Who, by the way, are not going to hate anything. They own twenty percent of the place.

(CONTINUED)



MADDIE

Okay, so you're still bothered by the fact that they helped us with the down payment?

CHIMNEY

They didn't 'help.' They put it all down. But you know what? I'm not bothered at all. We got the house. So when your Dad wants to sit at the head of the table, I'm not even gonna care.

MADDIE

You're right. We shouldn't worry about this. At least no one's dropping any deep dark family secrets this time.

CHIMNEY

That we know of. It's family. There's always an explosion.

He makes the pan FLASH again as a baby monitor CRACKLES.

MADDIE

Oh. She's up.

Maddie heads off to get Jee-Yun. After a beat, the front door opens O.S.

BUCK (O.S.)

We're here!

Buck enters with PHILLIP and MARGARET BUCKLEY.

CHIMNEY

Maddie'll be out any second. Jee-Yun just woke up.

PHILLIP

(already inspecting)  
I have to say, it has amazing bones.

MARGARET

Still some work to be done...

It's not quite judgy, but awkward enough for Chimney to cut in, and ask Buck --

(CONTINUED)

CHIMNEY

So how was the drive from the airport?

BUCK

Great. Four-oh-five was wide open. We talked about...the weather.

CHIMNEY

A more interesting topic than usual these days.

Maddie comes out of the hallway holding JEE-YUN.

MADDIE

Look who's here. It's your grandma and grandpa!

Maddie brings her over, as Chimney and Buck tense. Hope this works out. Jee looks at her grandparents for a beat...then holds out her arms.

JEE-YUN

Nana!

Margaret melts. She takes her granddaughter in her arms and it's a moment -- a special one.

MARGARET

You are just so precious, aren't you?

Whew.

CHIMNEY

You guys must be hungry. We're almost ready. I saved the best seat for you, Phillip.

PHILLIP

Oh, this is fine right here.

He sits wherever, and Chimney is floored. Another traded look with Buck. *Who are these people and where are the Buckleys?* Margaret, still holding Jee-Yun, takes in the place.

MARGARET

Maddie, this backslash! It's divine!

Jaws hit the floor. Audibly.

DING! The doorbell rings.

(CONTINUED)

CHIMNEY  
That must Albert. I'll grab it.  
(aside to Maddie)  
Explosion averted.

He gives her a quick kiss and heads to --

THE FRONT DOOR -- Chimney opens the door and ALBERT is there.

ALBERT  
Howie.

CHIMNEY  
Welcome home! How was Korea? The  
old man still a pain in the ass?

Albert glances over his shoulder. He seems very tense.

ALBERT  
Yeah. About that...  
(then)  
I brought you back something.

REVEAL HAN SANG-HYO AND HAN MYUNG-SOON, Chimney's (estranged)  
father and stepmother.

SANG  
(in Korean)  
*Hello, Son.*

Chimney takes this in, and --

CHIMNEY  
Boom.

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

19

INT. HEN & KAREN'S HOUSE -- DAY

19

Hen enters with GROCERY BAGS. She is barely inside when --  
DENNY comes racing into the room.

DENNY

Did you get 'em?

HEN

What was it again, Denny?

DENNY

Mama! I told you to get rubber  
bands! And you're supposed to call  
me D.

HEN

Ah yes. The new nickname.

Hen searches the bags, but isn't having any luck.

HEN (CONT'D)

Don't you hate it when you go to  
the store and you forget the one  
thing you went to go get?

DENNY

Mama!

HEN

Trust me. It'll happen to you. D.  
(then)  
Will these do?

(CONTINUED)

She pulls a huge BAG of rubber bands. She was playing.

DENNY

Awesome!

He goes to grab them but she makes him --

DENNY (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Denny runs to his backpack. He pulls a bottle of glove oil, a baseball -- and then a new glove -- out of his backpack.

HEN

Hey now. Where'd you get this?

Hen picks it up. Denny takes it back, rubbing oil in it.

DENNY

Careful! I gotta break it in.

HEN

Denny. You didn't answer the question.

(then)

No nickname until you answer.

DENNY

(lying)

I've been saving up my allowance. I wanna join little league.

HEN

What happened to soccer?

DENNY

Baseball's cooler.

He sticks the ball in the glove and then wraps it with bands.

DENNY (CONT'D)

This is gonna be awesome!

And he's gone. Hen watches him go. With a little trepidation.

HEN

New game, new rules I guess.

20

INT. CHIMNEY & MADDIE'S HOUSE -- DAY

20

Chimney helps settle Jee-Yun in her booster as Maddie finishes setting down two more plates at the table. Sang and Myung take their seats as the others -- Phillip, Margaret, and Buck -- join them. It's a little awkward.

MYUNG

This all looks lovely.

Albert smiles and starts to sit but Chimney grabs his arm in a death grip.

CHIMNEY

We need more drinks. Who wants drinks?

(to Albert)

Gimme a hand over here, brother.

They go to the kitchen. Soon as they're out of earshot --

CHIMNEY (CONT'D)

What the hell were you thinking?

ALBERT

I don't know. We were having dinner and he asked about you.

CHIMNEY

Asked what?

ALBERT

About Maddie and Jee-Yun and I dunno...I just blurted it out. 'Come to America and meet your granddaughter.'

(CONTINUED)

CHIMNEY

And at no point, after dinner, the next day, or during your seventeen-hour flight, did it occur to you to call me? Shoot a text or an email? Send a carrier pigeon?

ALBERT

I didn't tell you because I knew what you'd say.

CHIMNEY

No.

ALBERT

Exactly.

(then)

Better to beg for forgiveness than to ask for permission.

CHIMNEY

I taught you too well.

Chimney grabs the Brita from the fridge and some extra cups. Albert looks over at the table. Everyone serving themselves, passing around food. Welcoming Sang and Myung.

ALBERT

Look at that. Almost looks like a family, doesn't it?

(then)

Is it so bad to be all together?

CHIMNEY

There's nothing good about having Pop back in my life.

ALBERT

(a snap)

Then keep him out. We're just visiting.

CHIMNEY

Hey. I'm glad you came.

ALBERT

Well as long as you're happy.

(off his look)

What's that thing they say about becoming a parent? It stops being about you? You may not want a father, but Jee-Yun deserves a grandfather.

(CONTINUED)

Albert leaves Chimney to ponder this, and --

Lightning flutters in the top windows of the roof. There's some THUNDER, too. COME DOWN to find Chimney in a chair. High up. Not sure where.

CHIMNEY

So am I the jerk? For not wanting to have a relationship with my jerk of a father?

REVEAL Buck on a chair next to him -- on top of the engine.

BUCK

Well, when you put it that way.

CHIMNEY

Albert just showed up with him. Out of the blue.

BUCK

That tracks.

EDDIE (O.S.)

But Albert's also not wrong, Chim.

REVEAL -- Eddie, down below, tossing a baseball with someone.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

There's no reason why Jee shouldn't have a relationship with her grandfather.

CHIMNEY

Am I a jerk for having second thoughts about that, too?

REVEAL -- Hen, tossing the baseball with Eddie.

HEN

You want to protect her. Like any parent would.

BUCK

Gotta say. I'm just glad that it's not the Buckley family making the drama this time.

CHIMNEY

Your parents were on their best behavior. I don't know why.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CHIMNEY (CONT'D)

(then)

Now I have something new to worry about.

He says this as there is more lightning and THUNDER outside.

HEN

Why are you worrying about a lack of drama?

CHIMNEY

Because it's unnatural, Hen. Like the two of you down there tossing the ball.

HEN

I'm rusty. Now that Denny's become obsessed with little league, I gotta work on my form.

EDDIE

I think you've got great form.

(then)

So what happened with soccer? I thought that was all Denny cared about.

HEN

Another great unsolved mystery.

Off this, FIND...

IN THE LOFT AREA

Bobby, seated on the couch. Looking through the files we saw at his house. No one notices him up there.

MAY (PRE-LAP)

How's he doing?

May, just arrived, joins Athena, where she is on a chaise in the backyard, lost in thought.

ATHENA

On shift. Keeping his mind off things. Hopefully.

MAY

Has it been that bad?

ATHENA

Not that I see. But he doesn't  
always let me see.

(yup)

Your stepfather's never been good  
with a no-win situation, and this  
is shaping up to be a terrible one.  
Even Wendall's family has accepted  
the story that he O.D.'d

MAY

Maybe we shouldn't just yet.

(off her look)

Tamara, the girl I met at Winding  
Path Residence. She told me  
something that got me thinking. She  
said she'd been a patient there  
before she started working the  
place. So I set up a fake account  
for Jada Greer and started  
following her on insta. She  
documented her 'healing journey.'

ATHENA

Let me guess. It was all sunshine  
and roses.

MAY

And praying hand emojis. But when I  
went back through the dates, I  
realized there was a gap in there,  
when she was actually in recovery,  
probably without her phone. That  
gap covers the day Bobby found  
Wendall in that fire.

(off her interest)

You guys said you thought he died  
at that facility and they moved him  
to that field. If that's the case --

ATHENA

She was there when Wendall died.

They take in the stunning revelation, and --

**END ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

A23

INT. FIREHOUSE -- LOFT AREA -- DAY

A23

Buck is at the sink. Having just rinsed and now draining a COLANDER filled with KIDNEY BEANS. He carries the beans to the stove and dumps them into a giant STOCKPOT. Adding them to the bubbling CHILI cooking. As he stirs, there's a flicker of lightning and slight RUMBLE of thunder.

He glances over at Bobby. Who is frowning at his laptop as he runs a series of Google searches:

CARRIE TREY WALSH OHIO -CALIFORNIA  
CARRIE WALSH OHIO -CALIFORNIA  
TREY WALSH OHIO -CALIFORNIA

BUCK

Man, this storm is not budging.  
(then)

Guess that's the thing about a dark cloud, though isn't it? Just hangs over you and does not quit.

BOBBY

(without looking up)  
I'm okay, Buck.

BUCK

You making any progress?

Buck grabs a TEASPOON and tastes the chili. Not bad. But not right either.

BOBBY

Probably not. Athena said this thing about how O.D.'s at Winding Path Residence are considered routine. Made me wonder if it's an old routine.

BUCK

Like they've done this before?  
Somewhere else?

BOBBY

I've been checking other states.

BUCK

Any luck?

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY

Up to Oklahoma and still nothing.

Buck grabs another teaspoon and holds out a sample for Bobby.  
He takes a taste.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Not bad.

BUCK

But not right. What's missing?  
(off Bobby's smile)  
There's a secret ingredient, isn't  
there? C'mon. Spill.

BOBBY

Cocoa powder.

Buck moves to the cabinet triumphantly to get the cocoa.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Unsweetened. One tablespoon.

BUCK

So what happens after Wyoming?

Buck returns to add the cocoa and stir the pot.

BOBBY

I dunno. Feels like we keep running  
into dead ends no matter which  
direction we go. I'm running out of  
ideas. And I think my wife might be  
running out of patience.

BUCK

There's an answer out there, Cap.  
And you're gonna find it.

BOBBY

You seem pretty sure of that.

Buck grabs another teaspoon to taste again and shrugs.

BUCK

You've always helped me figure  
things out.  
(tastes)  
Like this chili.

Buck scoops up the teaspoons and carries them to the sink.  
Bobby watches him go with a fond smile.

(CONTINUED)

A23 "In A Flash" 2nd Pink Revisions  
CONTINUED: (2)

11/09/22 32B.  
A23

BUCK (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
Cocoa powder. Brilliant.

And then Bobby returns to his laptop with a renewed sense of purpose. A new search:

CARRIE TREY WALSH OKLAHOMA -CALIFORNIA

B23	OMITTED	B23	*
C23	OMITTED	C23	*
D23	OMITTED	D23	*
E23	OMITTED	E23	*
F23	OMITTED	F23	*
G23	OMITTED	G23	*
H23	OMITTED	H23	*

"In A Flash"

2nd Pink Revisions

11/09/22 32C.

I23

OMITTED

I23

\*

23	OMITTED	23
24	OMITTED	24
25	OMITTED	25
26	OMITTED	26
27	OMITTED	27
28	OMITTED	28
29	OMITTED	29
30	OMITTED	30
32	OMITTED	32
33	OMITTED	33
34	OMITTED	34
35	OMITTED	35
36	OMITTED	36
37	OMITTED	37
38	OMITTED	38
39	OMITTED	39
40	OMITTED	40
41	OMITTED	41
42	OMITTED	42
43	OMITTED	43
44	OMITTED	44

**END ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

45

INT. CHIMNEY & MADDIE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

45

Lightning and THUNDER outside. Maddie and Chimney are in the hallway area, in abject panic, as they look out to the family room. Phillip and Margaret sit, attempting to make conversation with Sang and Myung over coffee. Albert is setting up takeout at the table.

REVEAL -- Maddie and Chimney are going through board games.

MADDIE  
Pictionary?

CHIMNEY  
That requires teamwork. You know  
how judgy my Dad is.

MADDIE  
Yahtzee.

CHIMNEY  
Too complicated.

MADDIE  
(*really? Okay.*)  
Battleship? What's that doing in  
here?

CHIMNEY  
Albert likes to lose.

The front door opens and Buck enters with a box of pastries.

BUCK  
Hey, everyone. Sorry I'm late.

CHIMNEY  
Oh good, Buck's here. Maybe he  
brought a big tank of knockout gas  
and everyone can sleep until it's  
time to fly home.

BUCK  
(to everyone)  
I brought dessert!

CHIMNEY  
Close enough. I'll make more  
coffee.

MADDIE  
(re: soft thunder)  
I'll check on the baby.

(CONTINUED)



Chimney takes the pastry box and heads into the kitchen. Buck stops Albert, excited about something on his phone.

BUCK

Hey. Albert. Check it out.

He shows him on the DL -- a sonogram image. Albert is completely and utterly thrown.

ALBERT

You brought more than dessert.

BUCK

Chimney didn't tell you?

ALBERT

That I've been gone less than a year and you're a father now? No.

BUCK

Well, not exactly.

ALBERT

But that is -- [a baby]

MARGARET (O.S.)

A baby?

Margaret is standing right there. She sees the phone. Buck freezes. Uh-oh.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Buck? Is there something you're not telling us?

(then, a realization)

Or are you going to be an uncle again. Phillip! Maddie and Howard are having another baby!

Chimney looks up from the coffee machine.

CHIMNEY

We are?

Phillip gets up and comes over, excited.

PHILLIP

That's fantastic. I had a feeling  
when you bought this house...

MARGARET

I mean it's a little soon to be  
pregnant again, but why not?

Now Sang and Myung are on their feet.

MYUNG

This is very good news, Howard. Why  
didn't you tell us sooner?

CHIMNEY

Guys. Guys! We're not pregnant.

He tosses a look at Buck -- as in a deer buck. In headlights.

MARGARET

You're not? Then who is?

ALBERT

This is not awkward at all.

Everyone looks at Buck. He holds up the phone.

BUCK

It, um, it belongs to a friend of  
mine. An old roommate.

(then)

And it's a boy!

That didn't help. But now Chimney gets it.

MARGARET

I don't understand. He just decided  
to share a sonogram with an old  
roommate?

BUCK

I kind of helped him get pregnant.  
Him and his wife.

Oh. Sang drops his coffee cup on his saucer. Not breaking it,  
but sort of deliberately setting it down.

BUCK (CONT'D)

They were having some trouble  
conceiving. So they asked me to be  
their sperm donor.

(CONTINUED)

Phillip and Margaret take a breath.

PHILLIP

And you said yes.

MARGARET

So you're the father?

BUCK

I'm the donor. Connor's the dad.

They look at him. Unsure how to react. At first. Processing. Then Margaret smiles.

MARGARET

I think it's...great.

BUCK

Yeah?

MARGARET

You were a miracle baby yourself, Buck. Why not share that?

SANG

You're going to allow this?

PHILLIP

It's not really for me to allow.

SANG

A man cannot raise a child fathered by another man. It's unnatural.

CHIMNEY

Says the expert in child-rearing. I would think you'd relate to Buck's decision. Father 'em, leave 'em for someone else to raise.

Chimney has entered the chat.

ALBERT

Howard.

BUCK

Okay Chim --

SANG

A man who cannot control his family is not -- [a man]

PHILLIP

Or maybe a man who's too controlling forces his sons to hide from him in another country.

(CONTINUED)

BUCK

Dad --

SANG

Children must learn that actions  
have consequences.

MARGARET

How is this any of your business?

MYUNG

He did announce it to everyone.

BUCK

Wasn't exactly my choice.

It devolves into ad-lib SHOUTING. Chimney looks at Albert.

CHIMNEY

Tell me again about your brilliant  
idea to make a family?

Albert has no retort -- and then, a bolt of LIGHTNING and  
MASSIVE THUNDERCLAP outside. The lights all FLICKER AND GO  
OUT. Maddie comes out of the hallway with Jee-Yun and her  
blanky.

JEE-YUN

Dada!

CHIMNEY

Oh. Did the thunder scare you?

MADDIE

It was the yelling.

And all four grandparents have the grace to look embarrassed.

FOLLOW Hen into Denny's room. She's got his clean clothes in  
a hamper. Denny is in the bed, his rubber-banded baseball  
glove nearby. As she enters, he quickly puts his iPad down.  
She knows he's up to something, but --

HEN

Hey. What you up to?

DENNY

Baseball stuff.

HEN

What kind of stuff?

DENNY

(I'm not lying!)  
I'm learning a lot about stats.  
It's really complicated.

She starts putting away his clothes. He waits impatiently.

HEN

It shouldn't be. You have a good  
mind for math and science.

DENNY

You guys don't want me to play, do  
you?

HEN

Denny -- er, D --

Finished with the clothes, she sits down for a beat.

HEN (CONT'D)

We love that you want to try  
something new. Just feels like it  
came out of nowhere. We're a little  
surprised, that's all.

DENNY

I thought you liked surprises.

HEN

Your Mom does. Me, not so much --  
especially when it means you are  
growing up too fast.

She kisses him and exits. STAY with Denny, as he raises that  
iPad and we REVEAL --

Denny's biological father, NATHANIEL GREEN (from Episode  
203), is on a FaceTime with him.

NATHANIEL

Was that your mother?

(CONTINUED)

DENNY

Yeah.

(then)

I know what you're gonna say. We have to tell them. But not yet.

NATHANIEL

Okay. So when are we gonna meet up and break in that new glove?

DENNY

How about tomorrow?

INT. CHIMNEY & MADDIE'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Lightning and THUNDER continues outside. Candles are lit, throughout the house.

In the dining room -- Buck and Maddie set the table.

In the kitchen -- Albert and Chimney unpack the food.

In the living room -- things remain a little awkward. Sang and Myung are in one corner, Phillip and Margaret in the other. As Jee-Yun runs from one side to the other --

SANG

I apologize.  
(off their looks)  
It was not my place.

PHILLIP

It's all right. I shouldn't have fired back so hard.

MYUNG

Children should always bring joy.

CHIMNEY

Is that an actual apology that just came out of his mouth?

ALBERT

There's a lot about him you don't know.

CHIMNEY

Albert, I appreciate what you're trying to do, but --

ALBERT

But what? You're just going to continue to push him away? It's not healthy.

CHIMNEY

My health is fine.

ALBERT

He came all the way here.

CHIMNEY

No, he didn't. You brought him, remember? Not the same thing.

Fine. Albert decides to give up. Again. For now. He heads for the living room, passing --

Buck and Maddie. They look up as they hear the sound of LAUGHTER from the living room. Albert has scooped up Jee-Yun as the grandparents watch fondly.

BUCK

I think maybe Albert was right.

MADDIE

(glancing at the kitchen)  
Don't say that too loud.

BUCK

You ever wonder what it would have been like...

MADDIE

What?

BUCK

If Daniel had lived.

MADDIE

Sometimes. You?

A FLICKER and then the lights come back on. Happiness! Jee-Yun CHEERS with all her family, and Buck smiles.

BUCK

I think...I think it would've been like this.

OFF this moment of warmth and joy --

**END ACT FIVE**

ACT SIX

48

EXT. FLOWER SHOP -- DAY

48

Tamara, the rehab employee May met earlier, shops for flowers. She comes around a corner and finds...

May. Also browsing. May is not quite as busted as when she visited rehab with Athena, but also still not fully put together. They each do a double-take.

MAY

Tamara, right?

TAMARA

Hey.

(looking around, tense)

What are you doing here?

MAY

Can't a girl get some flowers?

TAMARA

Sure.

(checks phone)

Oh, man. I'm so late. I gotta go.

She tries to exit, May stops her.

MAY

Can we talk a sec? I'm still trying to figure some stuff out.

TAMARA

You should talk to Carrie and Trey.

MAY

I don't really trust those guys.

She's still trying to go --

TAMARA

Then you should find another place.

MAY

Why? Because so many people have died at yours?

TAMARA

You some kinda cop or something?  
What do you want from me?

(CONTINUED)



MAY

One of those people who died was a friend. His name was Wendall.

Tamara finally stops.

TAMARA

(still covering)

He O.D.'d. In a field. He was smoking, and --

MAY

Wendall didn't smoke. You know that. You were in the program with him.

(off her look)

What else do you know?

Tamara struggles.

MAY (CONT'D)

Tamara. Someone I love, someone who's an addict, got hooked on pills because of a back injury. He likes to say it wasn't really his back -- it's what he was carrying around. He had to let it go to finally be free.

(then)

Don't you want to be free?

She does. And OFF that -- ALARMS are PRE-LAPPED, and --

49

INT. FIREHOUSE -- BY THE CUBBIES -- NIGHT

49

On that picture of Bobby and Wendall. TONES BLARING.

WIDEN TO -- Bobby, gearing up for an emergency with Buck, Eddie, Hen and Chimney. THUNDER, lightning and RAIN can be heard outside. Bobby takes one last look at that photo as they head for the engine and ambo, and --

A50

INT. ENGINE -- MOVING -- NIGHT

A50

DOWNPOUR. Buck, Bobby, and Eddie ride in the engine. Bobby, up front, is still in his own head a little, as a conversation is going on behind him...

BUCK

It's weird but it kind of ended up being a really nice night. We felt like an actual family.

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE  
You are an actual family.

BUCK  
Never felt like it before.

BOBBY  
So maybe you've all made some  
progress there?  
(off Buck's nod)  
(MORE)

A50 "In A Flash"  
CONTINUED: (2)

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A50

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Good. Life's too short to take  
those relationships for granted.

EDDIE

And it sounds like your folks had  
your back on the whole donor thing.  
That's definitely progress.

BUCK

Oh no. They totally think that was  
an idiotic decision.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BUCK (CONT'D)

But they weren't gonna let  
Chimney's dad have the last word on  
anything.

They share a laugh at that --

50 INT. AMBULANCE -- MOVING -- NIGHT

50

RAIN. Hen drives, Chimney rides. She takes a breath, and --

HEN

Chim. I know you don't want to hear  
this but --

CHIMNEY

You think I need to work things out  
with my old man.

A statement, not a question. Hen shakes her head.

HEN

I think you need to talk to him.

CHIMNEY

What's the difference? There is  
literally nothing he can say to  
make up for a lifetime of absence.

HEN

This isn't about what he has to  
say. It's about what you need to.

(off his look)

He hurt you. Repeatedly. And you  
tend to gloss over that. Cover the  
pain with pithy one liners. But I  
know that pain, Chim. And how deep  
it runs.

CHIMNEY

One of the many things you and I  
have in common. Crappy fathers.

HEN

I'm not sure if my Dad ever  
understood how much his leaving  
hurt me. Never got a chance to tell  
him. But I've always wondered if it  
would've made a difference. That  
maybe showing him my pain would've  
let me release it.

(CONTINUED)

CHIMNEY

It'd be opening up a really old wound, Hen. Those don't always stitch back together so well.

HEN

You'll survive.

(then)

Make him hear you. While there's still time.

He takes this in. There's a sense of dread in the air.

51 EXT. DTLA STREETS -- NIGHT

51

The 118 Engine, Ladder and Ambulance tear through the streets, TONY SCOTT RAIN falling down, torrentially.

52 INT. ENGINE -- MOVING -- NIGHT

52

Bobby, Buck and Eddie ride through the RAIN. The sense of dread continues as they near...

53 OMITTED

53

54 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- -- NIGHT

54

The building is without power, as FLAMES ERUPT from several windows and SURVIVORS stream out the bottom. The 118 Engine, Ladder and Ambulance alight, and --

Bobby, Hen and Chimney, in turnouts, helmets and double lights (helmets and torsos), hop off, and--

BOBBY

Hendricks! Meyers! Perez! Make sure this building's evacuated. Buck, Chim, Eddie. You're on ladder duty. Get up to this window and hit it now.

\*

UPCUT: Chimney has the tip of the hose set, readying it at the base of the ladder. Buck is there, too, assuming he's grabbing it and heading up top.

\*

\*

\*

CHIMNEY

It's all right, Buck. I got it.

\*

\*

BUCK

No way. You got the last one.

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

CHIMNEY

Didn't realize you were keeping  
track.

\*  
\*  
\*

Buck, with his usual gusto, is already up the first steps.

\*

BUCK

Hey, it's me you're talkin' to!

\*  
\*

Traded grins, and -- Eddie moves to the ladder controls as  
Chimney hops off, and --

\*  
\*

Buck starts climbing up in his turnouts, pulling the hose. He wears a safety belt around his waist.

In a SERIES OF SHOTS Eddie raises the ladder, INTERCUT with TENANTS streaming out of the building, and --

A55 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- TOP OF LADDER -- NIGHT (INTERCUT)

Buck reaches the top of the ladder. He readies the hose but --

He senses something...and stops. SOUND and SCORE will help us here, but *if he was dry, his hair would be standing on end.*

BUCK  
The hell is tha --

Buck gets struck by lightning.

At the very top of the ladder. It is spectacular and terrifying. A single MASSIVE BOLT hits him and COURSES through everything. It BLOWS the controls near Eddie, sending him flying off the rig. He lands on the ground. \*

Bobby rushes up and looks, and can't believe his eyes... \*

Hen and Chimney look from the ambulance, and... \*

Eddie gathers himself, shakes it off and looks up, at... \*

Buck, dangling some six feet off the ladder, suspended by his waist harness. He is upright, but lifeless, his arms and legs also dangling, his helmet askew. \*

The HOSE he was holding dangles off the ladder and sprays the ground. Even in the rain, smoke rises from inside his turncoat, and from a charred hole in his right knee. \*

It is a millisecond of time, suspended...and then there is no time to waste --

Eddie leaps onto the ladder truck, SLAMS a button, locks the ladder, and charges straight up at rapid speed with a -- \*

EDDIE

Buck!

At the same time, Hen and Chimney rush to Bobby, who leaps onto the ladder truck where Eddie just was, and from his raised perch --

BOBBY

Eddie, lower him down! Chim, you're on the break bar. Hen, bring the rig back here and get ready to receive him.

\*  
\*  
\*

The following three things are INTERCUT:

\*

1) Bobby moves to the open area under Buck, and --

\*

2) Chimney leaps onto the ladder truck and works the brace bar, which will create slack for Eddie to start lowering Buck, and --

\*  
\*  
\*

3) Hen runs for the front of the ambo, calling out to several ND 118ers.

\*

HEN

Clear the area, I'm bringing her back!

\*

Hen leaps into the front seat of the ambo, starts her up and throws it in reverse, as --

On his walk, and during the above, Bobby keys his radio:

\*

BOBBY

Mayday. Mayday. Mayday. This is Captain One-Eighteen, we have a firefighter down at the MacArthur Park apartment fire. Need another task force and rescue immediately.

As he finishes, Bobby looks up to --

\*

B55 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- TOP OF LADDER -- NIGHT (INTERCUT) B55

Buck. Lifeless. Eddie reaches the top. He grabs the safety rope and starts lowering Buck, as --

\*

EDDIE

Buck! Can you hear me?! Buck!

Buck's helmet falls off and plummets to the drenched asphalt below, landing with a CRACK. It bounces away and REVEAL --

\*  
\*



C55 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT C55 \*

Bobby rushes into place. Buck descends on the rope, lowered by Eddie, who calls down -- \*

EDDIE \*

Need more slack! \*

Chimney works the break bar and gives Eddie the extra rope. Then Chimney leaves it for a 118er to handle and moves to Bobby. Buck is lowered more, and -- \*

The 118 ambo in REVERSE, pushes hard through the rain, coming straight for the open area below the ladder, the area safely cleared and monitored by two 118ers. It STOPS and Hen jumps out. Chimney joins her at the back to get the gurney. \*

Bobby receives Buck, arms out, in the rain. It recalls the baby birth scene in the car. \*

They get him onto the gurney and Hen assesses Buck, seeing that both his hands are burned. She also clocks the charred hole over his right knee. Checking his neck... \*

HEN \*

No pulse. \*

They all trade looks as Chim preps the LifePak and is just cutting his shirt open to REVEAL -- \*

Haunting, reddish, fern-like patterns creeping down his neck and all across his chest. Known as Lichtenberg figures, they are a symptom of lightning strike.

HEN (CONT'D)

No point in trying to shock him.  
He's in full cardiac arrest.

CHIMNEY

Starting compressions.

Chimney is on the gurney -- and on Buck. He starts the compressions as Hen works the ambu bag and the others wheel the gurney to the ambulance. They get him in, then -- \*

UPCUT -- THE AMBULANCE -- Eddie takes the wheel and Bobby jumps in shotgun. They slam the doors and Eddie puts it in drive. Bobby keys his radio -- \*

(CONTINUED)

C55 "In A Flash"  
CONTINUED:

2nd Pink Revisions

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C55

BOBBY

Dispatch, this is Captain 118. Need  
the Wilshire Trauma Center on high  
alert to receive a downed  
firefighter. He's been struck by  
lightning and is unresponsive. We  
are three minutes out.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

D55

EXT. STREETS -- NIGHT

D55

The 133 engine and ambo round the corner to assist in the fire as the 118 ambulance races from the scene.

As the 118 departs, we FIND Buck's discarded 118 helmet. Lying on the rain soaked asphalt.

And off that haunting image --

**END EPISODE**

ADDENDUM

55

NEWS REPORT

55

Dwight Meyerson stands in front of his video wall.

DWIGHT MEYERSON

They call it a 'dry thunderstorm,' which sounds like it makes no sense -- but in this age of extreme weather and environmental uncertainty, it might just be the new normal. A dry thunderstorm is actually a "high elevation" storm -- the clouds are so high that the rain evaporates before it hits the earth. So your eyes and ears do not deceive you. You will see lightning and hear thunder, but never any rain. At least not for a few days. The best course of action, as in any storm, is to stay inside...

(continues)

If this dry thunderstorm were a named storm, I guess we'd have to call it 'Cruel Irony,' because here we are in drought-stricken L.A., and the storm that's been sitting over us for two days now refuses to give us water. Instead, we get this.

(stock footage of lightning behind him)

The National Lightning Detection Network -- yes, that's a thing -- is reporting some thirty-three thousand lightning events across the Southland so far. Be careful out there, folks -- or, as we've been saying all day, don't go out there at all.

Another set-up.

DWIGHT MEYERSON (CONT'D)

As a so-called dry thunderstorms continue to linger over the Southland, there's been an increasing fear of wildfires. Some of these storms can produce what's called "hot lightning" -- A.K.A. "continuing current" lightning.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DWIGHT MEYERSON (CONT'D)

These are bolts of lightning that last longer than your usual cluster. Forty or fifty milliseconds -- which may not sound like a lot, but it's enough to heat up the ground and spark those oh-so-terrifying blazes.

Another set-up.

DWIGHT MEYERSON (CONT'D)

L.A. continues to sit under a slow-moving, almost stationary, dry thunderstorm. Thankfully, at this hour there are no deaths reported, but there have been several close calls. Two hikers heading down Runyon Canyon were struck this morning, but survived with minor injuries. And earlier today we reported on a blown transformer in Alhambra. A resident ran outside to bring in his pets, and the transformer was struck and exploded right above him, dousing him in hot oil. He was transported with second-degree burns and is expected to recover. There were also several downed power lines nearby, but LAFD and DWP jumped in to save the day. Remember folks, stay away from downed power lines and always wait for the authorities to arrive.