

# **A PINCH**

by

-----

**FADE IN**

**EXT. LOG CABIN - SUNSET**

The cabin is set in Bridger-Teton mountains of Wyoming. A jagged Rocky Mountain skyline reflects the last alpenglow of a beautiful sunset.

The aspen trees around the cabin have the brilliant yellow leaves of autumn.

In front of the cabin, CODY (30) and LANDER (28) sit next to a campfire. Parked behind them is a two-person all terrain vehicle with two rifles strapped to the hood's gun rack.

They laugh hardily as they smoke cigars and take shots of whiskey. Both are dressed in blaze orange hunting clothes.

CODY

No shit, the sign in the bar said  
'Poker in front and liquor in the  
rear'!

Lander laughs so hard he sprays the shot of alcohol into the fire and a ball of green flame erupts.

CODY

Dude! Don't be wastin' the whiskey,  
man! We still have another five  
days up here!

LANDER

Sorry, Cody. Too funny, man. You're  
killin' me!

CODY

Yeah, well, you won't think I'm too  
funny when I kick your ass!

Cody balls up a fist like he's going to punch Lander and then flicks him in the nuts with the other.

Lander doubles over more out of reflex than pain.

LANDER

Dude! So uncool!

CODY

Ah, Lander. You fall for it every--

From the distant dark, an Elk begins to bugle for a mate.

LANDER

Shhh! Quiet. Did you hear that?

CODY  
Damn, Sam, that sounded close.

LANDER  
That's the first bugle we've heard  
all week.

CODY  
C'mon, man! Let's go get 'em!

LANDER  
I dunno, Cody. The sun's down. We  
could get in big trouble.

The bull elk bugles again. This time it's louder and  
followed shortly by another, and another.

CODY  
Dude, come on! Don't be chicken  
shit. There ain't no one around  
here for thirty miles. Grab the  
spotlight and let's go!

Lander is hesitant. He pulls another shot of whiskey,  
contemplates, then nods his head.

LANDER  
Alright. Let's do this.

They fist-bump each other and scramble to the ATV. They slam  
into each other on the driver's side.

CODY  
No way, man. I'm driving. You're  
spottin'.

LANDER  
Whatever. Let's go.

They jump in and the ATV kicks up gravel as they drive into  
the night without turning on the headlights.

**INT./EXT. ATV - NIGHT**

Cody stops the ATV at the crest of a hill and takes his  
rifle from the rack.

Lander turns on a high-power spotlight and scans a clearing.

LANDER  
I don't see anything... Wait...  
THERE!

Two eyes reflect the light and a huge bull elk goes rigid.

LANDER  
Geez, he's HUGE!

**BANG!**

The gunshot was unexpected and Lander drops the spotlight.

CODY  
Shit, man! Get the light back on!

Lander turns the light back on and scans the area with no sign of the elk.

LANDER  
I think you missed.

CODY  
No way, man. Hold on!

Cody stomps on the accelerator and speeds towards where the bull elk was last seen. Lander quickly puts on his lap belt.

CODY  
Get the light! Look for a blood trail!

Lander searches the right side and Cody the left. Cody doesn't slow down.

LANDER  
I'm telling ya, I think you missed!

CODY  
It's gotta be right up---

The ATV drops over a ledge and starts to roll. It picks up speed and then comes to an abrupt stop.

Cody, never having put on his seatbelt, gets ejected and Lander slams his head on the dashboard.

CUT TO BLACK

**EXT. RAVINE - NIGHT**

Cody is on his back with his eyes shut at the bottom of a ravine. One leg is at an unnatural angle.

Pebbles and dirt start to pepper Cody's face. He begins to wake. He blinks his eyes, winces and looks up.



the greatest shock.

LANDER

No! My legs! I can't feel my legs!

He looks frantically around. The ATV on its side blocks the view of his lower legs.

LANDER

Cody? Where---

He cranes his neck to look behind him. He sees Cody with a crushed chest and glassy eyes. Death is obvious.

LANDER

No, no, no!

He tries to reach for Cody but he's just beyond his touch.

LANDER

HELP! ANYONE, HELP!

Lander calls for help until his voice is almost gone. It's getting late in the day.

He reaches in his jacket and pulls out his cellphone. He's not surprised that there's no service, and tosses the phone.

Lander begins to take stock of his situation. He empties his pockets: A pocket knife; and a half-eaten granola bar.

He searches within reach: A half-bottle of whiskey; and a fixed-blade knife.

Lander puts his head back and cries himself to sleep.

**SNAP!**

Lander wakes and looks about.

LANDER

Hello? Someone there? Can you help me?!

More rustling of leaves. It starts to get louder.

LANDER

Hello!?

From around the back of the ATV comes a WOLF. And then another.

Lander gasps and the wolves emit a low GROWL.

LANDER  
Hee-yah! Git! Beat it!

The wolves are hesitant and back off. But only for a moment.  
Not interested in Lander, they approach and sniff at Cody.

LANDER  
Git outta here!

Lander pulls out the fixed-blade knife and starts to wave it about wildly.

Again, the wolves back off until they realize that Lander is no threat. The larger of the two wolves pounces on Cody and starts to drag him away.

LANDER  
No!

Lander throws the knife and misses the wolf.

The wolf drags Cody out of view to the other side of the ATV where the wolves begin to tear into Cody's flesh.

The wolves make guttural sounds of satisfaction as they feed on Cody. The ripping and tearing of flesh is maddening.

LANDER  
Go away, dammit! Leave him alone!

Lander places his palms over his ears to mute the sound but it's useless.

The wolves begin to howl. And the howls are answered by another and another.

Lander's own howls of sorrow and anguish are no competition with the wolves.

In defeat and on the verge of hysteria, Lander grabs the bottle of whiskey in a last attempt to drown out the misery.

**EXT. RAVINE - DAY TWO**

Lander wakes with a wicked headache. He clutches his head in his palms and winces.

LANDER  
Fuck.

He grabs the granola bar and takes a bite. His face scrunches as he chews and tries to swallow. He gags.

LANDER

Gah!

He pounds the ground with his fist.

LANDER

Stupid, stupid, stupid!

Lander starts to sob. Complete despair. And then he looks to the sky.

Clouds slowly drift past the golden aspens above him. The beauty and grandeur brings peace. He calms down and begins to relax.

The wind causes the leaves to twitch on the branches. A leaf falls and drifts down towards his face.

He catches it mid-air and holds it up close. He turns it around in his hands and smiles.

He looks back up to the trees and listens to the wind and the rustle of leaves.

He begins to frown. The rhythmic fluttering of the wind in the leaves has changed to a rhythmic panting. It gets louder. And closer.

Lander jerks his head quickly around to see a wolf crouched directly behind him, just out of reach.

LANDER

Ah! Beat it! Git outta here!

He waves his arms behind him but he can't reach the wolf. It just stares at him and pants.

He grabs the empty bottle and throws it. The wolf bobs its head and the bottle misses.

Suddenly, the ears of the the wolf perk up. It rises to a sitting position and GROWLS.

LANDER

GO...AH...WAY!

The wolf gets up and slowly backs away with ears laid back.

LANDER

That's right, back the fuck away,  
asshole!

The growls are not directed at Lander.



A SNAP of a branch and shuffle of leaves. Unseen heavy plodding steps approach from beyond the ATV.

LANDER

I'm down here! Help me! Down here!

The wolf is postured to attack, it hesitates, then turns and runs away.

Lander pumps his fists in celebration.

LANDER

Woohoo! Thank you, thank you, thank you! You got here just in---

From around the ATV comes a massive GRIZZLY BEAR. It sniffs the ground as it plods slowly towards him.

The bear sees Lander, stops, and lets out a deafening ROAR.

LANDER

Shit.

FADE TO BLACK