

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE QUESTIONING ROOM - DAY

SKYLER BECK and NICK RAYBURN sit alone, each with a cold cup of coffee.

Their faces are forlorn. Unshaven and chapped. Long hair and dirty wrinkles.

They stare at the camera as if they're staring into a one-way mirror. Waiting. Finally, THE DOOR opens --

DETECTIVE DAYER walks in and greets them. His PARTNER leaves them. DAYER warm and confident.

DAYER

How are feeling?

(off their silence)

Either of you can answer.

(still no answer)

Skyler looks a little sick. Nick is neutral.

DAYER

I understand this is hard. But I'm going to need you both to tell me how you ended up on that island.

(silence)

Tell me about the fishing boat Captain?

(moves to sit)

You're families are depending on you. They're here. Waiting for you to come home.

SKYLER

Are we being charged with a crime?

DAYER

Not yet.

SKYLER

Then, when can we go home?

DAYER

That depends.

SKYLER

On?

DAYER

On if you tell me what I need to know. On your answers.

(compelling)

Tell me how you ended up on that island.

Nick looks out the window. His expression is troubled.

SKYLER

I kept thinking to myself...

EXT. CORPORATE OFFICES - MORNING

A nondescript office park. No sign out front. Endless rows of cars in the parking lot. A random EMPLOYEE jumps out, glances at this watch, and heads for the building at a run.

SKYLER (V.O.)

Today is going to be a good day...

INT. SKYLER'S OFFICE - LATER - DAY

A tiny cubicle with a door. It's cramped. There's a half-eaten frozen dinner that's been freshly thrown in the trash. Skyler takes some GermX out of his desk, wipes his hands clean.

There's a lot going on: Skyler is watching CNN on his seven inch television, working on his laptop, and holding his desk phone to his ear.

He hangs up. Shakes off the shrapnel. Faxes. Files... repeat.

Skyler opens his top desk drawer and takes out a roll of toilet paper. The guy is prepared for anything.

INT. OFFICE BULLPEN CORRIDOR - DAY

A seemingly endless line of cubicles. The hallway is a vast living organism - loud, complex, worker bees, a symbol of the modern work world. Hundreds of EMPLOYEES work in a frenzy of interconnected phone lines and computer outlets.

Skyler knives his way through the crowds and towards the men's room.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - DAY

Skyler walks inside and checks each stall for feet. Finding that he is in fact alone, he chooses the farthest stall from the door and locks himself inside.

He lays down a generous layer of toilet paper over the loose porcelain seat before sitting down.

He sits. Pushes and, -

Like that - his CELL PHONE RINGS - harsh - sudden.

Skyler hesitates, then checks his cellular phone's caller ID. He sees who it is, though we never do. We hold on him for a minute as the phone begins to RING continuously.

SKYLER/PHONE

Hello?

EXT. A PUBLIC PARK - LATE AFTERNOON

Skyler's eight-year-old son, TEDDY, swings while Skyler waits and watches from behind. Skyler's expression is starkly different than when we saw him in the office - buoyant. A big smile.

Teddy jumps off the swing, bolts over to Skyler, smiles as he runs. Skyler lifts him, carries him.

TEDDY

First time by myself, Daddy. Did you see?

SKYLER

I did. You were awesome little man.
I'm so proud of you.

TEDDY

I didn't even need help.

SKYLER

You're getting so big. In fact,
you're getting so big that you're
not allowed to grow up any more.
What do you say?

They walk a few steps until they hear a WOMAN'S VOICE call out behind them.

JULES

Teddy?

They both look up, see JULES, Skyler's ex-wife, Teddy's mother. Her car keys are in hand - she's not lingering. Skyler's face falls, he glances at his watch, sadly realizing visiting time is now over.

As Teddy squirms free and runs over to his mother, Skyler rushes this out -

SKYLER

I'll see you in a week, okay? Be a
good boy!

But Teddy doesn't hear him. Skyler and Jules make eye contact. A decade of marriage summed up in one quick, blank expression.

JULES

Thanks for picking him up today.

SKYLER

Thanks for asking me.

JULES

I didn't have a choice.

SKYLER

Then, thanks for calling.

JULES

Take care of yourself, Sky.

Skyler waves her off. He watches as Jules and Teddy hold hands and walk away. His eyes go dead as he stands alone in the sun.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A large house in an upscale neighborhood.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The counter is LARGE. Modern. A TV above the counter BLARES morning cartoons.

Nick, stressed, enters the kitchen. Overnight bag in hand. He sees his daughters, WHITNEY (14) JUDY (11) and MARY (8).

JUDY/MARY

Hi Daddy!

Nick's transformation from stress to cherry is obviously something he's mastered.

NICK

My beautiful ladies! Good morning.

Whitney, the oldest, looks up from her cell phone's screen, she smiles out of obligation, then goes back to texting.

Nick moves in and hugs them.

Whitney

Dad, can I have some money before you leave for your trip?

NICK

How much money are we talking about?

JUDY

If she gets money, then I should get some too.

MARY

And I want a pony...

NICK

No one's getting any extra money. Grandma has been given specific instructions on what she can and cannot spend on you three tyrants while I'm gone.

MARY

What's a tyrant?

NICK

It's someone who doesn't own a pony.

WHITNEY

That's so lame.

A car horn HONKS from outside. Nick grabs his Daughters - they embrace and kiss again in a heartfelt way.

Nick walks them to the front door. He grabs Whitney by the arm just before she passes by.

He reaches into his wallet, takes out some cash, she looks at him with puppy-dog eyes.

NICK

How much?

WHITNEY

A hundred.

He hands it over. A hundred dollars. Now she hugs him. Nick SHUTS the door behind them.

Nick stands there in the silence for a moment. He reaches into his pocket, pulls out cell phone, dials...

EXT. WHARF - DAY

The calmness of the ocean.

There are fifty docked boats there. Basking in the warm sun.

Skyler's luggage has been piled up behind him. He leans up against it. He stares out to the sea, as a small fishing vessel slowly approaches over the gently rolling sea.

CAPTAIN JACK steers. He waves to Skyler, just as --

Skyler's cell phone rings. It's Nick.

SKYLER/PHONE

Hey.

INT. CAR - FRONT SEAT - DAY

Nick is driving.

NICK/PHONE

Hey buddy, I'm on my way to the dock right now. How's she look?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

SKYLER/PHONE

This is one of the best ideas you've ever had.

NICK/PHONE

Not *one* of the best - *the best*. A full weekend of fishing and booze? No women? What's not to love?

SKYLER/PHONE

(laughs)

How far are you? The boat's docking right now.

NICK/PHONE

I'll be there in ten minutes. Don't start drinking without me.

SKYLER/PHONE

Noted.

NICK/PHONE

Alright, see you in a few minutes.

They hang up. The boat comes to a stop and Skyler begins loading his luggage.

EXT. CAPTAIN JACK'S FISHING BOAT - THE BOW - DAY

Skyler and Nick are seated on bolted down deck chairs. Ice cold beer in hand. Their fishing rods tick calmly as the line draws out.

SKYLER

It's beautiful out here.

NICK

It sure is. It's calm. I haven't seen calm in so long.

SKYLER

Lots going on?

NICK

More than you know.

The coast in the distance - they take it in. Captain Jack comes up from behind. Skyler and Nick look back at him.

NICK

Something to drink for the good Captain?

CAPTAIN JACK

No, thank you.
(points to the coast)
The light is perfect.

SKYLER

Yes it is.

CAPTAIN JACK

You boys fish much?

SKYLER

Not really.

NICK

We're really just along for the ride. No offense.

CAPTAIN JACK

It's your dollar. So, it's some kind of reunion?

NICK

Reunion? Sort of. We went to college together and each year we pick a weekend and meet somewhere.

SKYLER

More of a tradition than anything.

CAPTAIN JACK

That's nice.

(sighs)

If there's anything you boys need, feel free to ask.

SKYLER

You got it, thank you.

Waves SLAP against the hull of the boat. Captain Jack starts to head back -

CAPTAIN JACK

I best be headed in. You boys take it easy with the alcohol.

NICK

I think we'll be alright.

CAPTAIN JACK

Seen a lot of guys come out here, drink too much - they end up pale and throwing up over the railing.

NICK

That's good advice.

CAPTAIN JACK

Enjoy, gentleman.

Skyler and Nick watch as Captain Jack disappears into the cabin. Nick looks at Skyler, indicates the cabin door.

NICK

Stick in the mud, isn't he?

SKYLER

He's just doing his job.

NICK

Speaking of jobs, what's going on with yours?

SKYLER

Same old stuff. Nothing too spectacular. Yours?

NICK

Work is good. The girls are getting so big.

SKYLER

I got the pictures. They're really beautiful. Hard to believe you ever did something so well.

NICK

They look like their mother.

Skyler smiles. Absolved.

NICK

How's Teddy?

SKYLER

He's growing up. Fast. Saw him this afternoon before I left.

NICK

Jules?

SKYLER

She was there.

Nick stares at his friend. Wants to say something. Doesn't know what to say. Then, he takes a long drink, looks out at the ocean. The sun beginning to set.

NICK

Well, that's what we came here for.
To forget all that.

Nick puts his hand on Skyler's shoulder, relating his love for a man he's known all his life.

SKYLER

Do you believe in second chances?

NICK

Are you asking me if I believe in them, of if they exist?

SKYLER

What's the difference?

NICK

Actually, I don't know.

Nick forces and awkward grin. Skyler nods - understood.

EXT. OCEAN - SUNSET

The boat chugs along slowly, making its way to farther from the shore.

EXT. MAIN DECK - LATER - NIGHT

Skyler and Nick are sleeping under a canopy. The waves and rocking motion must have lulled them under.

Captain Jack watches them with a mixture of curiosity and concern as he leans up against the rail.

Skyler's eyes flutter open and he sits up. He checks on Nick and sees that's seriously out cold. A can of beer still in hand. Skyler takes it, as -

Captain Jack walks up to him and offers him a cup of coffee.

CAPTAIN JACK
Try this one?

SKYLER
What's in this one?

CAPTAIN JACK
Coffee.

Skyler takes the coffee mug. Examines it. It's hand-made. He sips, and --

SKYLER
You made this?

CAPTAIN JACK
My granddaughter.

SKYLER
That's nice. It must be special to you.

CAPTAIN JACK
I never sail without it.

SKYLER
My son once made me a key chain out of that lanyard stuff.
(quiets himself)
How long you been a fisherman?

CAPTAIN JACK
Longer than I care to remember.

SKYLER
Not a bad way to spend your time.
(sips)
You married?

CAPTAIN JACK
Was. She died ten years ago.

SKYLER
I'm sorry. How did she pass?

CAPTAIN JACK

Suddenly.

Skyler looks in Captain Jack's eyes, tries to absorb the words.

SKYLER

My wife left me a year ago this fall.

And here it is -

CAPTAIN JACK

Is that why you came out here? To hide?

SKYLER

Hide?

(taken back)

I'm not hiding from anything. We do this every year. It's like a birthday. We spend eleven months waiting around for this weekend.

CAPTAIN JACK

And yet you chose the ocean.

SKYLER

What's wrong with the ocean?

CAPTAIN JACK

I've been sailing for long enough to know that people only come out here for two reasons. To fish, or to hide from something.

(beat)

And you boys told me earlier you don't fish much.

And off Captain Jack's look - Skyler knows he's busted. He doesn't respond. Drinks the coffee.

Captain Jack leaves. Skyler watches, moves to the railing, looks out at the ocean. Nick wakes up. Joins him at the edge.

NICK

What the hell happened?

SKYLER

What do you think happened? You got drunk and passed out.

NICK

Pass out? Now I know you're full of shit. When have you ever known me to pass out.

SKYLER

When you can't handle your alcohol.

NICK

I can *always* handle my alcohol. I'm Irish.

SKYLER

You're half Irish...

NICK

Half more than you.

Nick reaches for the nearby cooler and CRACKS open a beer.

NICK

(the coffee mug)

What's this? I thought we said alcohol and water only. Don't start breaking rules on the first night.

SKYLER

Good ol' Captain Jack gave it to me while you were asleep.

NICK

(stretches)

He tell you some old naval stories? Creep you out a little bit? Did you happen to ask him if he knows he's named after a Billy Joel song?

SKYLER

I don't even think he knows who the fuck Billy Joel is.

They LAUGH.

NICK

Let's go in. It smells like fish out here.

Nick heads into the cabin. Skyler dumps what remains of his coffee over the rail and follows him back.

EXT. MAIN DECK - MORNING

Captain Jack, shirtless, flips a steak over a hibachi style charcoal grill. He puffs on a chewed up cigar. He's HUMMING some sailor tune as he cooks.

Skyler and Nick emerge from the cabin to see him this way. The look at one another. Then -

CAPTAIN JACK

Morning! Hungry?

SKYLER

A little bit, yeah.

CAPTAIN JACK

I hope you like steak and eggs?

SKYLER

That's great, thanks.

CAPTAIN JACK

Sleep well?

NICK

We slept fine.

CAPTAIN JACK

Grab a seat. Breakfast will be served in a minute.

Captain Jack goes back to HUMMING. Flips the eggs. Nick and Skyler find two seats on deck. They sit.

SKYLER

Hey Captain, how far out are we?

CAPTAIN JACK

About forty-five miles off shore by now.

NICK

What kind of fish can you catch out here?

CAPTAIN JACK

Tuna. Wahoo. Marlin. Swordfish - last week I hooked one just about eight miles out from the inlet.

SKYLER

Think we'll have any luck hookin' us a trophy fish?

Captain Jack serves them up. They glance down at breakfast - it looks great. Nick digs right in.

CAPTAIN JACK

First things first. Meat fishing early, trophy fishing later.

Nick lifts his face off his plate. A concerned look on his face - Skyler grins.

SERIES OF SHOTS - THE MEN FISH

- Captain Jack shovels out a chum slick. Nick looks on in disgust.

- Nick fiddles with his hook and egg sinker, but it's half-hearted. He never lets go of his beer.

- Captain Jack adds feather jigs to the hooks. Skyler then drops his hook and locks the reel. Nick sits back, drinking.

- Captain Jack teaches Skyler to count to seven before setting the hook. Again, Nick doesn't participate.

- A bite. Skyler, with the help of the Captain, reels the tuna as he braces himself against the rail, he reels in the slack.

- Nick watches as Skyler and Captain Jack celebrate the small victory.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. CABIN - LATER - DAY

Skyler rests on his cot. An empty beer bottle on the small table next to him. Nick wanders inside and SHUTS the door behind him.

NICK

What are you doing?

SKYLER

What does it look like I'm doing?
I'm resting.

NICK

Resting? What'd you do, eat a big turkey dinner?

SKYLER

My hands hurt.

NICK

Your *hands* hurt...

SKYLER

Yes, my *hands* hurt.

NICK

Can I talk to you about something?
(off his silence)
We didn't come all the way out here so that you and the skipper could play the deadliest catch all morning.

Skyler, senses the attack, sits up for the discussion.

SKYLER

We're on a fishing boat.

NICK

I don't even like fish!

SKYLER

Here we go...

NICK

We came out here to get away from everything back home and to drink as much alcohol and to smoke as much marijuana as humanly possible in the span of three days. That's it!

SKYLER

I just finished my beer.

NICK

One beer. That's all I've seen you drink today.

SKYLER

So what? You counted?

NICK

Yes, I counted!

(his beer)

I'm on number six and it's not even noon.

SKYLER

Oh, well, congratulations you're an alcoholic.

NICK

What's your deal? I'm starting to think you're forgetting why we take these trips in the first place.

SKYLER

I'm just a little bit tired is all.

NICK

(disappointed)

Too tired to sit outside and smoke
a joint with your best friend who
you only get to see once a year?
When did that start happening?

Skyler jumps out of the cot and stands close to Nick now.

SKYLER

Look, I'm sorry. I am. Just let me
lay down for an hour, and then we
can do whatever it is you want to
do with the rest of the day. Deal?

NICK

(insulted)

No deal. How about this - you get
your beauty sleep, and I'll be
outside if you need me.

(through the door)

Maybe I'll see if Captain Jackass
wants to make a bong out of a conch
shell or some crazy shit like
that...

(he trails off)

Skyler hangs his head back. He knows he has to go after him,
and he doesn't want to, but as he steps forward -

The boat is now SHAKING badly. Skyler stirs, struggles to his
feet, drowsy-like as if he's been drugged.

SKYLER

What the hell?

Something filtering from the cabin door. SMOKE. And the cabin
also TWISTS and TILTS.

Skyler frantically covers his mouth with the palm of his hand
and finds his way out of the cabin on onto the -

EXT. MAIN DECK - THEN - DAY

Captain Jack and Nick have their life jackets on. Skyler makes eye contact with Nick - his face clouded in fear, plus he's drunk.

Captain Jack tosses him a vest -

CAPTAIN JACK
Quick - put this on!

SKYLER
What the hell is happening?

CAPTAIN JACK
Engine failure!

Nick tries to blow on the mouth tubes for his life jacket. Nothing happens. Captain Jack motions frantically for him to pull on the automatic inflators on his jacket.

Nick fumbles for them.

Skyler struggles to put on his life jacket. The boat is **VIBRATING VIOLENTLY**, as -

The deck floor shifts and cracks, the luggage is banging violently against the side of the deck, spilling out it's contents all over the wooden deck floor.

Captain Jack grabs the nearest luggage chest and tosses it overboard.

NICK
Hey! What the fuck did you do that for?!

CAPTAIN JACK
Trust me, that's not the only thing about to get wet...

Captain Jack signals for Nick to jump overboard. He won't do it.

NICK

Are you crazy old man?! There are sharks in that water.

CAPTAIN JACK

Would you rather take that chance or burn to death?

SKYLER

Isn't there a radio on board?

NICK

Burn? I don't see a fire anywhere -

Almost on cue - a small **EXPLOSION** erupts from the engine block. Nick's eyes widen - Skyler leaps overboard and plummets into the deep blue ocean water.

Nick reluctantly follows him in. He crashes into the water - HARD.

INT. CABIN - THEN - DAY

Captain Jack rushes back into the cabin - finds the radio and attempts to call for help.

CAPTAIN JACK

(radio)

Mayday, Mayday, this is the vessel Wild Wind...

(then silence)

Mayday, Mayday, this is the Wild Wind. I repeat, this is the Wild Wind...

(then silence again)

Captain Jack SLAMS the radio receiver down - there's a lot more smoke filtering up through the floor. He can barely see his hand in front of his face now.

He tumbles into the fire extinguisher. KNOCKS him on the head. He goes down, semi-conscious and bleeding from the wound.

EXT. OPEN WATER - THEN - DAY

Nick and Skyler float aimlessly. All they can do is stare up at the sinking vessel. Shrouded in smoke and debris.

Through SPITTING out salt water -

NICK

Did he make it? Did he make it?

SKYLER

I don't know...

NICK

Shit! What do we do?

SKYLER

Just, wait -

Then, A life raft is tossed on the now darkened, choppy ocean surface. Inside it, semi-conscious, Captain Jack hangs on.

SKYLER

There! He made it. In the raft!

Skyler and Nick start waving their arms frantically as to point out to Captain Jack where they are. They're drifting with the current.

He maneuvers the raft to where they are.

CAPTAIN JACK

Get in!

Skyler climbs in first. The tide gently rocks him, laps at his face. He chokes, but he's pulled in to safety.

Nick is up next. He pulls himself up slowly. Vomits seawater, big heaves.

Once inside, they roll over on their backs. Dazed. Utterly confused. What just happened?

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. BEACH - DUSK

Calm. Waves lap gently. The life raft, bruised and torn, lays dormant on the crest. Further up on the sand we see, face-down, half-buried in sand, three life jackets.

Standing to the side - Captain Jack. He checks the position of the sun with his fingers. Turns to Skyler and Nick who sit behind him. Half-aware of what they've just been through.

Captain Jack looks around and we look with him.

A rocky barren ridge. Palm trees and heavy brush thickets surround the beach.

CAPTAIN JACK

You boys alright?

But they don't answer. Maybe they can't speak - maybe they don't want to.

CAPTAIN JACK

Maybe the distress call went through. Someone may have heard it in time.

(off their silence)

You should get into the shade. Try and find some water.

Skyler and Nick rumble to their feet. They don't make eye contact - do they blame the Captain for this happening?

Captain Jack wraps the wound on his head with a piece of fabric from his shirt.

Skyler licks his lips, he's thirsty. But something he sees is even more important right now. We stay with him as he WALKS towards the trees.

He comes to a TRUNK. He picks it up, brushes off the sand - Nick notices, joins him.

CAPTAIN JACK

Is there food in there? Water?

NICK

Well, we're about to find out.

Skyler opens the trunk's top to find the luggage is packed full of liquor bottles and baggies. Nick forces a grin. Skyler hangs his head.

SKYLER

Seriously? Of all the bags.

CAPTAIN JACK

A lot good that stuff will do us out here.

NICK

Oh, because it's the worst thing in the world to have a smoke and a few drinks while we wait for the coast guard to come out and pick us up? I mean, what are we talking here? A day? Maybe two?

CAPTAIN JACK

If they heard the distress call...

Captain Jack looks away.

SKYLER

What happens if they didn't?

CAPTAIN JACK

Then, we're stranded here on this island.

SKYLER

Stranded?

NICK

I don't understand, what do you mean stranded? Don't you know where we are?

CAPTAIN JACK

Sure. We're a hundred miles off shore with no radio, no food and no fresh water to drink. *That* is where we are.

The levity of his statement settles in. Skyler and Nick look at each other.

NICK

I don't believe this. You call yourself a charter boat captain?

CAPTAIN JACK

Excuse me?

NICK

You heard me!

CAPTAIN JACK

My vessel was in perfect condition until you showed up two days ago -

NICK

- oh, so now you're going to say this is my fault -

CAPTAIN JACK

- you and your drinking and your smoking! There's no room for that kind of bad karma on a fishing vessel -

NICK

- oh, please, spare me the bad vibes-cockamamie bullshit. The only one to blame here is you. With your steak and eggs and your tuna fishing...

Captain Jack approaches Nick as if he's about to slug him. Skyler quickly steps in.

SKYLER
(enough of this)
Easy guys. Take it easy. Just
relax, alright.

NICK
He's the one who needs to relax.

SKYLER
Both of you. Pointing the blame
isn't going to solve anything right
now.

CAPTAIN JACK
He's right. We should be sorting
through everything that we can find
and looking for shelter.

SKYLER
Shelter?

CAPTAIN JACK
For the night.

NICK
You really think we're going to be
out here that long?

Captain Jack doesn't answer. He just walks away towards the
water - picking up the water logged life jackets.

NICK
I don't get it. Why can't he just
give us a straight answer. It's not
that hard.

SKYLER
Just do what he says and start
looking around.

NICK
You're on his side now?

SKYLER
I'm not on anybody's side. All I
care about is getting back home.
(MORE)

Back to Teddy, that's it. Think
about your girls.

A body blow. Nick is taking it. He looks down as Skyler
follows after Captain Jack.

LATER.

The sun setting in the distance. The three of them stand
staring at a huge pile underneath a palm tree - everything
they've collected off the beach. Everything they own.

Clothing, change, random bottles and plastic. Spare shoes.

NICK

Is this everything?
(he knows it is)
Terrific.

CAPTAIN JACK

It's getting dark. We should start
a fire.

SKYLER

How are we gonna do that?

NICK

Yeah, I don't exactly have any dry
matches on me. Or *any* matches for
that matter.

CAPTAIN JACK

Just find me some dry wood. I'll
hook some fish.

EVEN LATER.

The sun has gone down now. A half-moon shines light over the
beach. The palm trees blow through the wind as they mask the
sound of RUSTLING leaves.

Captain Jack, Skyler and Nick sit on the beach. A small fire
between them. There's a stick-rigged spit over the flame with
a couple of pale fish on it. Dinner.

The trunk is an arm's length away.

Captain Jack looks up at the stars. He's undeniably calm. Skyler and Nick wear anxious faces. They seem very, very alone.

SKYLER

What are we gonna do about water?

Captain Jack walks to beneath the palms - coconuts. He stares up at them. How does he get to them?

CAPTAIN JACK

Lend me a hand, will ya?

Skyler and Nick meet him under the trees.

SKYLER

That's gotta be twenty feet up.

CAPTAIN JACK

Twenty-five.

NICK

Now what? There's no way we climb up there.

CAPTAIN JACK

Who said anything about climbing?

Captain Jack smiles, then points to the ground - coconuts sprinkled throughout the rocky ridge. Skyler grins.

CAPTAIN JACK

The big picture, gentlemen.

(smiles)

Start collecting. Dinner is almost ready.

BACK AT THE FIRE.

They eat dinner. It's nothing to write home about - but they're starved and it will suffice. Captain Jack passes Skyler a coconut that's been cracked open at one end. Skyler takes a swig, then passes it to Nick, who also drinks.

SKYLER

How long do you think we'll be stuck out here?

CAPTAIN JACK

Hard to say. Could be a day, could be a week.

NICK

A week?

CAPTAIN JACK

It all depends on weather or not someone heard the distress call.

NICK

This is crazy. We're not that far off the inlet...

CAPTAIN JACK

Far enough.

NICK

Fuck me.

SKYLER

Is there a chance we could die?

Silence. It's deafening. Captain Jack doesn't answer, but Skyler insists -

SKYLER

Could we die out here?

Nick reaches into the trunk and opens up a bottle of rum. He takes a long swig and squints away the burning in his throat.

CAPTAIN JACK

We'll focus on finding fresh water to drink.

SKYLER

What about food?

CAPTAIN JACK

There's plenty of fish for the three of us. Tomorrow we'll collect more coconuts and look for some plantain trees further in from shore.

NICK

Bananas?

CAPTAIN JACK

That's right. If we get desperate, we'll search around for some dead ants and grasshoppers.

NICK

I'm good, thanks.

SKYLER

Shouldn't we be trying to signal someone?

CAPTAIN JACK

Water, shelter, food - in that order. If we try this any other way, then the answer to your question is yes - we die.

Skyler and Nick look at one another. Nick drinks again. Skyler stands and starts walking off towards the water. A frustrated pace.

CAPTAIN JACK

You might want to take it easy with that.

NICK

(drinks)

Should I?

(almost to spite)

Captain...

CAPTAIN JACK

I'm guessing I don't need to ask you if your life turned out the way you thought it would.

Nick's eyes are pained. That was below the belt. And Captain Jack regrets saying it.

NICK

You want to go there with me, *now*?

CAPTAIN JACK

I had wife. She was a drunk.
Beautiful girl. But live like that?
She couldn't handle it. One day,
she took a .45 to her left temple.

Nick nods - his version of sympathy.

NICK

That's not me.

CAPTAIN JACK

That's what she used to say. Now
she's gone.

NICK

No offense, but you don't know shot
about me.

Nick stands - enough of this. He's walking towards Skyler.
Captain Jack lays back on the sand. He closes his weary eyes.

Skyler sits at the water's edge. Legs crossed - looking out
to the calm ocean. Deep in thought. Nick has a seat beside
him - offers Skyler a drink.

NICK

You alright?

SKYLER

(drinks)

Not exactly what you had imagined
for the weekend? You think we'll
get out of here?

NICK

There's a three million dollar
question for you.

Nick grabs the rum. Drinks, then hands it back to Skyler. He takes a decent sized swig himself. Skyler's eyes glaze a bit.

NICK

What's on your mind?

SKYLER

I'm just... putting things into perspective.

NICK

Like what?

SKYLER

I'm getting older. I'm broke. I've been stuck in the backseat for ten years, and I still don't have anything to show for it.

NICK

I had no idea you were so unhappy.

SKYLER

Jules won't talk to me. I mean, she'll talk to me, but it's...

(quiets himself)

It's nothing.

NICK

I thought you were done with all that?

SKYLER

I was. But then I look at Teddy and he's so perfect. So beautiful. It all comes back to me.

NICK

Nostalgia. "Oh, you should've seen me back then" -- is that what this is all about? Let me give you a nickel's worth of free advice - forget about her. Chances are she was never as happy as you want to believe she was.

Nick drinks. A big gulp this time.

SKYLER

You think we'll ever see our kids again?

NICK

Of course. Between the coast guard and satellite imaging - someone is bound to see us out here.

SKYLER

Satellites?

NICK

Yeah, you know, up in space. They take like six-hundred photos per second.

(touches his shoulder)

Besides, we got the Captain in our corner.

SKYLER

You don't even like the guy.

NICK

Well, if we have to draw straws for who gets eaten first, I'm pretty sure we can take him.

They can't help but smile. LAUGH in the moonlight. Good cheer blooming.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The flame growls low. A small stack of black smoke rises through the pitch black air.

Captain Jack, Skyler and Nick sleep beside the fire. They use the life jackets as pillows.

All we hear is the sound of the gentle waves CRASHING and the dull HISS of hot wood shards.

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

The morning tide is in - it laps amidst the rocks along the sand.

The same view as the night before, only Captain Jack is missing. All that remains in his spot is an imprint in the sand and his flattened life vest.

Nick's eyes open first. The fight the morning sun. He stands as he takes in his surroundings. He licks his lips. He's thirsty and well hung over.

Skyler wakes. His eyes open wider, His lips are cracked. He notices the stack of broken coconut shells where Captain Jack lay the night before.

SKYLER

Where'd he go?

NICK

Fuck if I know. I'm starving.

SKYLER

(sitting up now)

Did you see him take off anywhere?

NICK

I just woke up and he was gone. He probably went searching for bananas. Wasn't that the plan?

SKYLER

Shit. What time is it?

NICK

Are you seriously asking me that right now?

SKYLER

Oh, right. I forgot...

Skyler stands and uses his hand to shade his eyes. The sun's reflection off the water is blinding. Nick drinks what remains of last night's coconut water.

NICK

What's wrong?

SKYLER

It's strange that he would leave like that.

NICK

Relax, will you? He's probably off climbing trees or fishing for breakfast. I'm sure he's fine.

SKYLER

(incredulous)

Without telling either of us?

Nick surveys the beach now as well. Nothing. Nick staggers over to a palm tree to take a piss.

NICK

Maybe he went snorkeling.

Skyler idly gazes out into the surf. The suddenly, not so idly. There's something's out there, something floating...

SKYLER

What the hell is that?

NICK

Is it a rescue boat?

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Skyler runs into the gentle surf, stumbles a few times before finally reaching the dark object.

It's a body.

Skyler quickly turns it over. **It's Captain Jack.** He's waterlogged and dead.

SKYLER

Holy shit!

Nick, sensing something is terribly wrong, comes running up from behind.

NICK
What is it?

SKYLER
It's him...

Nick glances down at the body - he's never seen one up close before. Dry heaves into the ocean water, as -

Skyler drags the body up on the beach and then collapses, absolutely exhausted. He checks for a pulse - nothing.

NICK
Is he - is he dead?

SKYLER
I'm checking...

No pulse.

NICK
(panic)
Oh Jesus - he's gone. He's dead.

SKYLER
Just... gimme a minute...

Skyler attempts CPR on Captain Jack - but it's no use. He is undeniably gone. Nick touches Skyler on the shoulder.

SKYLER
We're too late.

NICK
There's nothing we can do now.

SKYLER
How could this happen?

NICK
He drowned.

SKYLER
(skeptical)
He was a sailor.

NICK
Maybe he was sleepwalking...

SKYLER
(aggravated)
Shit...

NICK
What?

SKYLER
You can't be serious for one damn
second?

NICK
I am being serious. How the hell
should I know how this happened?

Skyler looks into Captain Jack's dead, lifeless eyes. Places
his hand over them -

SKYLER
I'm so sorry, Jack. I'm so sorry.

NICK
What are we gonna do?

SKYLER
We'll bury him. Here on the beach.

NICK
With what? A shovel? From where?

SKYLER
We'll use our hands.

NICK
You cannot be serious -

SKYLER

(his teeth)

- he's the only reason we're alive
right now!

NICK

And look where we are! Nowhere!
Stranded!

SKYLER

Fine. You don't want to help? I'll
do it myself.

Skyler finds a hollow piece of driftwood and starts digging a grave in the sand. Nick watches. Then, gives in and starts helping to dig using a nearby rock. It's a slow and somber process.

LATER.

They drag Captain's Jack limp body into the grave. Stare down at it. Revulsion.

NICK

Shouldn't we cover it up?

SKYLER

Shouldn't we say something first?

NICK

What, like a prayer?

SKYLER

Something.

NICK

I don't know any prayers.

SKYLER

Fine. I'll do it.

(clears his throat, comes
up with something)

Dear... God. We commit this man's
body and soul to you. Captain Jack.
He was a good man.

(MORE)

(thinks he done, but then)
May he rest in peace. Amen.

NICK

Amen.

They scoop some sand on top of the body. More and more until it's completely covered. It's as if no one was ever there.

SKYLER

I need a drink.

NICK

I'm way ahead of you there.

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Back at the site of last night's fire. It's long gone. Skyler lies on his belly - stares into the sea. Nothing. Nick reaches into the trunk and takes out a bottle of Vodka - uncaps and drinks. Passes the bottle to Skyler. He drinks.

SKYLER

I can't believe he's gone.

Nick doesn't offer a response.

SKYLER

He was right, we need to find some water.

NICK

I think we should eat first.

SKYLER

I think we should stick to the plan. First water, then shelter, then food.

NICK

Who's plan was that?

SKYLER

That was what we planned on doing before he -

Nick rolls his eyes in frustration.

SKYLER

You have a better idea?

NICK

I could start a fire. Find some fish to eat.

SKYLER

You know how to start a fire?

Nick drinks, then gives Skyler the "of course I do" eyes.

NICK

Just make sure you find the Goddamn fish.

EXT. BEACH - LATER THAT DAY

Nick stands in front of his failed efforts to make a fire.

NICK

Fuckin' fire...

EXT. OCEAN - THEN

Skyler stands up to his knees in salt water. He holds his sharpened stick a few inches above the surface. Patiently waits.

Then, suddenly, he thrusts the spear forward - it SPLASHES. The fish scatter. Again and again, Skyler misses the mark and comes up empty.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Skyler walks to the spot where he and Nick buried Captain Jack. He stares down at the plot, then falls to his knees and starts using his hands to dig...

Skyler finally reaches the body. Searches his pockets.

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Nick gathers a small amount of tinder and two small pieces of bamboo. He furiously saws the bamboo sticks together, but it is all too much and he finally gives up - defeated.

NICK

Sonofabitch! Sonofabitch! Piece of
shit!

Skyler walks up and exchanges a hushed glance with him. Nick already knows -

NICK

It's not my fault.

SKYLER

Try this...

Skyler tosses Nick a flint. Nick grabs it off the sand and takes a long look at it.

NICK

Where's you get this?

SKYLER

Don't ask. Use a rock.

With that, Skyler turns and begins walking back to the water. Nick watches him, then -

He rubs a nearby, jagged rock against the flint. It takes several tries, but then - a tiny flicker and smoke.

Nick bears down in the flint with every ounce of energy he has left inside. Sweat pours from his face

NICK

Come on. Come on.

And finally... smoke rises as the bamboo ignites enough for the wind to blow the fire to life. Success. Nick calls out to the water -

NICK

I DID IT! WE'VE GOT A FIRE!

He feeds in some more twigs, more tinder. The flames licks and grows larger. He blows on it some more.

EXT. OCEAN - THEN

Clouds are rolling in. Skyler sifts through what remains of Captain Jack's clothing. A stick. A safety pin with a chunk of coconut attached to the end. A shoelace - he constructs a make-shift fishing pole.

Skyler readies his pole and dips it into the warm waters. He sees something. He stands completely still. He's extremely patient.

His breath comes in anguished gasps. He dangles the pole - a fish moves closer.

There it is.

Suddenly, Skyler pulls up on the pole and sees the tiny gills of his first catch.

SKYLER

Yes! Yes! Yes!

He sees some more fish approaching. Some bigger. He unpins the fish and tosses it out on the beach to dry. Readies for another attempt.

EXT. TREES - LATE AFTERNOON

Skyler drags the deflated raft off the sand and ties the ends to separate tree trunks. He uses the palms of his hands to test the strength. There's a clear view of the beach. He nods. This will work.

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Nick is lining up the left over coconuts from earlier. He lays them out on the sand in the form of an "X." The thought being, maybe someone will see them from the sky.

Then, he drinks. Sits back down beside the fire as Skyler approaches with half-a-dozen fish in hand.

SKYLER
(the coconuts)
Nice thinking.

NICK
You did all that by yourself?

SKYLER
There's no one else here.

Skyler drops the fish. Nick starts placing a pair of them on the spit.

NICK
Did you see anything out there?

Skyler nods - no. He's utterly exhausted and sunburned. Nick notices.

NICK
You need to stay out of the sun.
You look red.

SKYLER
I set up a shelter off the beach.
We should head up there in the
morning. There's a clear view of
the water in case anyone sails by.

NICK
I thought we might make piles.
Anything that will burn. Maybe the
smoke will rise high enough.

SKYLER
Sounds like a good idea.

Nick can sense Skyler is bothered by something other than the current situation.

NICK

He was right, ya know.

(nods to where the Captain
was buried)

The other night while you were down
by the water, he saw right through
me. He told me about his dead wife.
How she drank, then how she killed
herself. He knew.

(beat)

The truth is. I didn't like him
because he could figure it out. He
could figure me out.

SKYLER

What are you talking about?

NICK

I'm talking about me. My thing. I
mean, yeah, I have my job and my
girls - but what is that, really?
I'm miserable. I'm in trouble. Real
fucking trouble.

Skyler looks at him, but never asks what kind of trouble.

SKYLER

That's the booze talking...

LATER.

Sunset. It's beautiful as the red begins to hide under the
distant horizon. The fire grows. Skyler and Nick are drunk on
the beach.

SKYLER

You know what this place reminds me
of? When I was young I went up into
our attic and found an old photo
album filled with pictures from
when my father was in Vietnam.

(beat)

He never talked much about it, so I
guess I always pictured war being
filled with guns and dead bodies.
But, these pictures were different.

(MORE)

These guys were happy. My father was smiling. They were grilling hot dogs, they were on the beach with their shirts off, arms around each other - they actually looked happy.

(beat)

It almost looked like a nice place to spend the weekend.

NICK

Sherman said, "war is hell..."

SKYLER

Not for them. Not in those pictures. Not in those moments.

NICK

Someone will come for us.

Skyler doesn't respond - rolls over on his back. Stares up at the stars.

SKYLER

I'd never taken a shit in the ocean before today.

They both uncomfortably LAUGH.

NICK

I haven't taken a shit since I saw Captain Jack toss out that raft.

SKYLER

It's liberating.

They LAUGH a little louder now.

SKYLER

(closes his eyes)

Tomorrow we look for water.

(sighs)

Goodnight, buddy.

NICK

Goodnight.

EXT. SUMMIT - MORNING - DAY

Skyler and Nick are sporting growing beards. They're getting a view of the island. It's small, without sign of habitation or anything human.

SKYLER

Make sure you keep an eye on the camp.

Waves break against steep, hostile cliffs. A reef encloses the beach.

NICK

What if someone comes by while we're out here?

SKYLER

As long as we can see the beach, we'll be able to see them.

NICK

But can they see us?

SKYLER

Let's just find some water as quickly as we can and get back down there.

TIME CUT. LATER.

They stumble over some rocky surfaces. They're using long sticks to clear the branches of the seemingly impenetrable brush before them. A cave.

TIME CUT. EVEN LATER.

Skyler and Nick are drenched in sweat now. Nick stops to rest. Skyler notices -

NICK

Where's the stream on this fucking island?

SKYLER

We gotta head back soon. This is pointless.

NICK

There's no water out here, Sky.

SKYLER

Shit. I really thought -

Skyler falls to his knees - he's taken a bad step. Nick begins to help him to his feet when their eyes widen. Skyler's fingers SQUISH into the muddy ground.

He pushes his fingers further into the dirt. There's a pool of muddy water there. He dips his hand in it, rubs his water between his fingers. Touches his tongue. It's good.

Nick joins him on the dirt. They drinks like dogs. Lapping up the water - digging deeper with their hands. Just as -

It begins to rain. At first, thick, random drops. Skyler and Nick look at one another - what do we do?

Then, the thunder clouds toil above them and it starts to rain harder, steadier. Skyler and Nick open their mouths to catch as much of it as they can at the moment.

SKYLER

Look around. Find something that we can use to collect the rain water.

They score the ground - driftwood, coconuts - palm tree leaves. Nothing of any use.

NICK

What do we do?

SKYLER

Dig!

Skyler starts digging holes with his hands and they quickly start filling up with water. A small victory. Except the wind is kicking up. Gusting. This may not be just a rain shower, and the elements are deteriorating rapidly around them.

NICK

We gotta get back, this is crazy.

SKYLER

We'll never make it back. I saw a cave.

NICK

(serious?)

A cave!?

SKYLER

You have a better idea?

NICK

Shit...

But there's not time to argue. They have to move. Lightning CRASHES. Skyler and Nick trek back through the storm. The rain relentlessly POUNDING upon them.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

It's cold and dark. Skyler steps inside first - dripping wet. Nick cautiously follows him in. They're both so uncertain, so unsure if this is the right thing to do.

NICK

Now what?

SKYLER

We should build a fire.

The thunder CRACKLES above them. The vibrations resinate deep into the cavern.

NICK

Everything's gonna be wet out there.

SKYLER

Feel around your feet for something dry...

They do. Skyler's hand reaches down and touches something - his eyes squint - not too certain of what it is. Then, he picks it up.

A dead RAT.

SKYLER

Jesus!
(tosses it away)
Scared the shit out me!

NICK

In hind sight, the cave probably
wasn't the best idea...

They glance across the cave at one another. Nick heads back into the rain.

LATER.

Nick drags in a somewhat dry log and lays it on the ground, then another. Skyler takes out the flint and uses a small rock to ignite a flame - he's burning the dead rat.

NICK

What is that?
(seeing the rat)

SKYLER

We need a fire. It'll burn.

NICK

Right...

Nick moves closer and throws places the log next to the flame. We see his face in the light of the fire. Skyler is exultant. Nick warms his hands and piles on some drier sticks.

NICK

That should work for a while.

SKYLER

We need to dry off. We'll catch
cold soaking wet like this.

NICK

It's gotta be forty degrees in here.

SKYLER

Take off your shirt and pants. We'll dry them by the fire.

NICK

What about the rest of us?

SKYLER

Just rub your chest. Keep the blood flowing.

They undress. They SHIVER in the cold - lay their clothing on some rocks beside the growing fire. Skyler and Nick huddle close to the warmth.

NICK

Fuck, it's cold.

SKYLER

Better than catching pneumonia.

NICK

Who taught you about this anyhow?

SKYLER

I saw it on one of those survival shows.

NICK

(forces a smile)

What I wouldn't give for an hour of television right now. Final Four basketball...

SKYLER

I just wanna shave. And a new pair of underwear.

NICK

We should have brought in some coconuts. I'm starving.

SKYLER

When the rain stops, we'll go on a
run -

(quiets himself)

Did you hear that?

NICK

Hear what?

Skyler has one ear to the darkness behind them. His glare has Nick on edge. Weary. There's a faint, TICKING coming from deep within the cave. They struggle to hear it, but -

SKYLER

There! Did you hear that?

NICK

I didn't hear anything...

SKYLER

Listen -

NICK

Is it a bear?

SKYLER

(seriously?)

On an island?

Silence. Then, TICKING again. Only this time, it's closer to them. Skyler looks back to Nick - he's still with him - then, back to the cave. HISSING.

NICK

It's the light. They can see the
fire.

Skyler stands. He's in nothing but his underwear. He takes a few cautious steps further. What the hell is it? Something is moving in the darkness, still too far off to see it.

NICK

What? What is it?

Thunder ROARS and lightning CRASHES - giving off just enough light to make out what comes there way.

Bats.

What looks like hundreds of them. They storm towards the flame - a hurricane of FLAPPING wings and HISSES fangs.

Nick covers his head with his arms - the bats bounce off his vulnerable skin - his torso - his thighs.

Skyler jumps closer to the wall, he too is battered by the bats as they fly in evasive patterns - attracted to the smoke. Until, a moment later - they vanish.

SKYLER

You alright?

NICK

(panic)

No I'm not alright, I just got attacked by a cyclone of ravenous bats!

SKYLER

Are you cut? Are you bleeding?

They check their bodies. Bruised, but there's not much blood. Nick is reaching for his shirt, dry or not, he's putting it back on. Skyler does the same.

NICK

We gotta get out of this cave.

SKYLER

We'll wait for the morning. We can't travel at night.

NICK

We'll make torches.

SKYLER

With what?

NICK

Fuck me!

SKYLER

Let's just keep an eye open for whatever else might be living in here and try and get some sleep.

NICK

Like that'll happen.

SKYLER

As soon as the sun comes up, we'll grab some more water and head back to the beach. We'll stay close to the shelter. Find some fish to eat...

Nick nods - understood. They rest on the floor of the cave. No pants. They are close to the fire as it burns lower now. They listen to the sound of falling RAIN.

EXT. SUMMIT - MORNING

Skyler and Nick trek onwards through the thick terrain. They stop to drink some water that's been trapped beneath one of the coconut trees.

NICK

It tastes like dirt.

SKYLER

It's keeping us alive. I wish we had some of your empty bottles from last night. They would have come in handy.

NICK

We would have, if we'd stayed closer to the beach.

SKYLER

Why are you arguing with me?

NICK

I'm not arguing. I'm just stating a fact.

SKYLER

The fact that what? That we went looking for water and it just so happened to rain? Get over it.

NICK

What about the bats? And the cave? How can you forget such luxuries...

They begin to walk once again.

SKYLER

Nobody forced you to come with me.

NICK

What was I supposed to do? Sit on the beach, alone?

SKYLER

What's wrong with being alone?

NICK

There's nothing wrong with being alone.

SKYLER

That's not what you're suggesting.

NICK

Don't put words in my mouth. What I meant was - I wasn't going to let you wander up here in the trees at night by yourself.

SKYLER

It was daytime when we left.

NICK

So what?

SKYLER

So, that's not what you said -

NICK

- you know what. I'm not having this conversation with you.

Skyler turns back to him now.

SKYLER

That's a great idea. Because, frankly, I'm getting sick and tired of your constant complaining.

NICK

Who's complaining?

SKYLER

You are. **Constantly.**

(quiets himself)

Can we please just get back down to the beach without arguing or disagreeing - or whatever you want to call it? Please?

Nick gears up for his retort, but before he can say a word. There's a new SOUND filling the air above them. It's hard to see through the trees. A bird?

NICK

Do you hear that?

SKYLER

Yes...

Louder now. Skyler moves forward through the brush - quicker now. Nick a step behind. Their pace quickens as they stop at the top of a ridge. They listen...

There's something above the trees.

NICK

Can you see anything?

SKYLER

I'm trying.

NICK

(looking up)

What is it?

SKYLER
(also looking)
I can't see anything.

They run through the trees. Branches whip at their faces. Roots tear at their feet. They stop suddenly, and that's when they see it.

An AIRPLANE.

So beautiful. So majestic as it passes above them, turns back to make a second pass.

NICK
Holy shit! It's turning around.

SKYLER
We gotta get to the beach or it won't see us.

They start running. One eyes to the sky as they race for the cliff.

EXT. CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

A good view of the beach from here. Skyler reaches the rocky point first. He YELLS into the air - flailing his arms as the plane comes back around.

Nick emerges from behind - breathing hard - heaves - his hands on his knees. He's really out of shape.

SKYLER
He can't see us...

NICK
What do we do?

SKYLER
Come on!

EXT. SUMMIT - MOMENTS LATER

Skyler and Nick keep moving - Nick is really fighting to keep up. They can see the beach entrance now - they can hear the plane - they SCREAM now out of desperation.

The airplane passes over them, but there's no way anyone would see Skyler and Nick through the trees...

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Skyler and Nick burst out from the summit and land on the beach. The airplane is gone.

Nick falls to his knees. He's barely alive from the run. Skyler pounds his fist against the white sand in frustration.

SKYLER

Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit.

Nick tries to speak, but it's just hot air - he takes a few seconds to bring himself back to his feet.

NICK

Do you see it?

(beat)

Do you see it?

SKYLER

It's gone.

NICK

Fuck!

SKYLER

We should have burned the piles.

NICK

(walking away now)

You think?

SKYLER

Where are you going?

Nick doesn't answer. He's pissed. He looks down at his feet. Red, swollen, bloody. Takes a breath, then stops walking.

NICK

(without looking back)

It's been three days. That's the first sign of a rescue we've seen since we've been here.

SKYLER

They'll be back. They're probably looking for us.

NICK

Are they?

(turns)

Are they looking for us now? We should have been *here*.

SKYLER

We had no way of knowing -

NICK

(angered)

- *we should have been here!*

Skyler walks over to him. Tries to get close, but Nick is pushing back.

SKYLER

You - you're blaming this on me?

NICK

(almost in a trance)

We should have been here...

SKYLER

This was your idea. This whole weekend was your fucking idea!

Nick doesn't answer. He backtracks to the camp. There's steam rising from the fire pit - it's long been extinguished. Nick opens his trunk.

His hands search for something specific. A bottle. Nick drinks from it - a deep swig. He looks around.

He beach is littered. Stuff that flew in with storm the night before: driftwood, crabs shells, random pieces of trash.

Skyler joins him there. Tries to be helpful.

SKYLER

Some of this will come in handy.

(a crab)

We can eat these. You want me to help gather wood for a fire?

NICK

Whatever you say.

There's an awkward silence between them. Skyler doesn't want to ask, but does -

SKYLER

Are we okay?

NICK

I'm fine.

SKYLER

I said - we?

NICK

(offers nothing)

We're fine.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Skyler waded in the water with his spear. He JABS it down into the water. A fish on the end. He adds it to his pile.

He looks back to the beach - Nick is asleep there. An empty bottle at his side.

CAPTAIN JACK (O.S.)

He's going to kill you...

Skyler spins back to find Captain Jack beside him. Fishing. Smiling wide. Is this really happening?

SKYLER

Are you...?

CAPTAIN JACK

Real?

(laughs)

No. You're probably hallucinating.

(looks up)

Too much sun.

SKYLER

What happened to you?

CAPTAIN JACK

You know.

SKYLER

You drown?

CAPTAIN JACK

Imagine that - a sailor that drowns
in the very ocean he loves.

Captain Jack jerks his hand back. He's caught a fish. He examines it - then adds it to Skyler's pile.

CAPTAIN JACK

(the fish pile)

I see I taught you well. Can't say
the same for your friend.

SKYLER

If you're not real, how can you
hear me? How can I talk to you?

CAPTAIN JACK

Because you choose to.

SKYLER

I have a choice?

CAPTAIN JACK

You've always had a choice.

SKYLER

(reaches his hand out to
feel)

But you seem so real -

CAPTAIN JACK

You're focusing on all the wrong
things.

SKYLER

What do you mean?

CAPTAIN JACK

There's something bigger going on
here. Can't you see it?

SKYLER

What does that mean?

CAPTAIN JACK

Didn't you hear what I said?

(beat)

He's going to kill you.

SKYLER

Who's going to kill me?

As serious as can be -

CAPTAIN JACK

Nick.

Skyler and Captain Jack look at one another. There's
sincerity in their eyes.

SKYLER

I don't know what you're talking
about...

CAPTAIN JACK

You can survive this. You've been
through worse - but him?

(beat)

He doesn't understand. He can't
understand. And if you never see
your boy again?

(MORE)

If you die out here?

(beat)

It'll be because of him...

Skyler somehow already knows. He looks down to the fish, then takes a glance back at Nick on the beach - waking up. As he turns back to Captain Jack -

SKYLER

There was a plane earlier -

He's gone.

Skyler stands alone in the breeze. The sun beating down on him as hot as ever. He gathers the fish and starts to head back to camp.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Skyler walks over to the camp with a few crabs and half-a-dozen fish. Dinner for the night. Nick is searching around for some dry wood for the night.

Nick adds some tinder to the small flame between them. They're not speaking and it's obviously tense. Nick is sharpening a spear of his own with a jagged rock - he SCRAPES.

SKYLER

Hungry?

No answer. Skyler places a pair of the crabs over the flame. Waits.

SKYLER

Look, I'm sorry. I had no way of knowing. I thought I was doing the right thing.

(beat)

Maybe, from now on, we split up when we go on water runs.

Nick looks at him now. His anger is wavering.

NICK

It's fine. I just got a little upset.

SKYLER

I wanna get outta here a much as you do, but we have to work as a team, right?

NICK

(nods- understood)

Maybe we should find that shelter you told me about. Get out of this Goddamn sun for a while.

Skyler reaches over and extends his hand - touches Nick's shoulder with it. They grin.

SKYLER

I need ya, buddy. Always have.

NICK

(jokes)

It doesn't look like I'm going anywhere.

Nick reaches down into his trunk - another bottle of rum. He looks at it, then offers.

NICK

Crab legs and rum. Breakfast of champions.

LATER.

Skyler removes a crab from out of the fire and breaks the claw - it steams. Thick meat. He takes a bite. Swallows. It's hot and good. Nick does the same.

NICK

It's good.

SKYLER

Who knew?

NICK

Got anymore?

Skyler adds a few more crabs to the flame. They cook over the open fire. They take turns drinking from the rum bottle.

EXT. TREES - SHELTER - NIGHT

The wind blows. The tattered life raft barely covers Skyler and Nick as they sleep underneath. They cover themselves with larger palm leaves. It's uncomfortable even to watch.

EXT. TREES - MORNING

Skyler is busy cracking off the top of a coconut shell with the jagged rock Nick had found the day before. He drinks the coconut juice, then sits the empty shell aside.

Skyler watches as Nick constructs small piles of twigs and tinder on the beach - a few feet apart from one another. A signal. Smoke rises from the heap.

Nick finishes and makes his way back. Skyler offers him a well-earned drink.

NICK

That smoke's gotta be twenty feet up. Someone will see it.

SKYLER

I'm gonna go back for water. Fill up some empty coconut shells.

NICK

Good idea.

SKYLER

We'll have to ration, but if I can fill them - it'll last us a day, maybe two.

NICK

You going alone?

SKYLER

You hold things down here. In case
that plane comes back.

NICK

Sounds good.

SKYLER

Good.

(stands)

I should be back in a few hours.

Nick hands him the empty coconut shell and sees him off.

NICK

Hey, be careful out there!

Skyler disappears into the thick summit brush. Nick stands
there alone. Thinking. Looking up at the sky.

EXT. SUMMIT - DAY

Skyler makes his way past the cave. He glances inside.
Darkness. He doesn't want to go inside. Keep moving.

He reaches the spot where they dug the water holes. He looks
disappointed - most of them have dried up.

SKYLER

Shit...

Skyler drops to his knees and begins to scoop out the water
with his cupped hand. He carefully places what he can gather
into the coconut shell. He fills it about half-way.

He hears SOMETHING in the trees.

Skyler freezes. He's doing all he can to stay completely
still, but the elements are beginning to wear on him and his
hands shake. Spilling some of the water. He's not lingering.

Skyler walks past the cave once again. Some strange
attraction to it - but, then - the NOISE again. It sounds
like FOOTSTEPS.

SKYLER

Hello?

(silence)

Who's there?

The NOISE stops. Whatever, whoever, it is - they know Skyler knows they are there. Now there's no movement.

Skyler looks around - it could be anywhere. Takes a step forward - the NOISE returns - is someone following him?

SKYLER

Nick?

Forget it. Skyler takes more determined steps forward now - into the summit brush. He's trying not to spill the water, but it's spouting out from all the hurried movement. Then he stops once again.

The NOISE is right behind him.

He has to preserve the water. He slowly bends down and places the coconut in between two logs. It's safe. He slowly stands upright and, turns -

A WILD HOG.

Massive. It's tusks protruding out from each side of his mouth. Dark eyes.

Skyler is frozen. Does he run? Should he try and scare it off? Will it even scare?

The hog lowers it's tusks. Skyler takes a step back - trips on the log - spills the water - falls to his back - HARD.

The hog wastes little time and POUNCES. Skyler fights him off as best he can - kicking - punching at it. But it just keeps coming for him. Relentless. Skyler JABS at it's mid-section. It HUFFS and digs in with it's tusks.

SKYLER

Ahhhhhhhh!!!

The tusk rips into the fatty part of Skyler's shoulder. He uses all his strength to fight the animal back - but it's no use - he's too weak and now he's bleeding.

The wild hog lowers it's front legs - it's tusks now inches from Skyler's face, when -

THUMP!

A spear comes crashing down into the warthog's head. Into the skull. Killing it instantly. It flails over.

Skyler stumbles up and finds Nick standing over the dead pig. Spear in hand. Dumb look of surprise on his face.

NICK

Holy shit that was close.

(smiles)

You still think splitting up was such a good idea?

SKYLER

How did you know?

NICK

You didn't think I was really going to let you come hiking up here by yourself, did you?

SKYLER

Thanks.

NICK

I told you I had your back.

(the wound)

We gotta clean that out.

SKYLER

(sees the coconut)

I didn't get the water... we have to go back.

NICK

Can you walk?

SKYLER

I think so...

Tries, but he can't.

NICK

Wait here.

(grabs the coconut)

I'll go back for the water and
we'll leave together, okay?

Skyler nods - understood. He sits in obvious discomfort and clinging to his shoulder.

NICK

Look on the bright side.

(pokes the pig)

The menu is changing up a little
bit.

EXT. OCEAN - LATER THAT DAY

The sky takes on the afternoon clouds. Colorful. The water is darkened a bit, but a few waves break before the shore.

Skyler runs salt water over his wound - he squints in pain - it hurts. He cleans it well and uses a scrap of his shorts to wrap around the wound. It's a daunting task when you're this exhausted.

EXT. BEACH - THEN - SUNSET

The fire grows. Nick's fingers are covered in pig's blood as he trims some fat off with the jagged rock. He then carefully handles the meat and places it on the spit above the flame. It SIZZLES.

Skyler joins him there as the sun sets -

NICK

How's that arm?

SKYLER

I'll live. How's dinner?

NICK
Pork. A welcome change.

SKYLER
(sits)
God, what I wouldn't give for a
radio right now.

Nick smiles.

NICK
Queensryche.

SKYLER
The Ramones.

NICK
Megadeath.

SKYLER
Operation Ivy.

NICK
Metallica.

SKYLER
Ride the lightning.

NICK
For whom the bell tolls.

SKYLER
(softly sings)
Time marches on...

Nick and Skyler share a smile. The first in a long time. Nick
flips the meat on the spit.

NICK
The girls make me listen to these
boy bands in the car.

SKYLER
Awful.

NICK

They make fun of me. They think my music is old. Maybe they're right.

SKYLER

You're not old. You're aged. Like wine.

NICK

Everything I used to think was cool... Just isn't anymore.

SKYLER

Jules used to hate punk rock. She always thought it was just angry men complaining about their fathers never giving them enough attention.

NICK

Remember when you had that mohawk?

SKYLER

And the studded jacket? We used to ride around town on our bikes.

(in memory)

Stealing comic books. Running away.

NICK

Those were good times.

SKYLER

You think we'll ever see those things again?

Nick takes a taste of the meat before he answers. It's not too bad. Chews.

NICK

I dunno. I look around - the beautiful beach, the food, the sky. Part of me doesn't want to know.

Skyler tastes the food. Drinks from a coconut. Leans back on his elbows.

SKYLER

You know what we need? We need to play a game.

NICK

A game?

SKYLER

Yeah, a game. To keep our minds sharp.

NICK

My monopoly board washed away at sea, sorry buddy.

SKYLER

No, I mean like a verbal game - like a brain teaser.

NICK

(finishes a mouthful)

Okay...

SKYLER

I'll start -

(thinks)

What can you catch, but not throw?

NICK

Easy. A cold.

(drinks)

My turn. What gets more wet the more it dries?

SKYLER

A towel.

NICK

Bingo. How about this one - what goes up and down the stairs without moving?

SKYLER

(thinks)

A rug.

NICK

I'm being to easy on you...

SKYLER

I can run but not walk. Wherever I go, thought follows close behind. What am I?

NICK

A nose.

(lost in memory)

I've heard that one before.

SKYLER

Where?

NICK

Judy and I were driving home from dance one night. She was in the backseat - she asked me if I knew what a riddle was.

(smiles)

Then she said, "what can run but not walk. And wherever you go, thought follows it close behind."

(beat)

I honestly had no clue, so she told me. A nose. I remember that.

SKYLER

She's beautiful.

NICK

Yes, she is.

There's no more talking. A sad, somber silence between them. The fire CRACKLES as they finish up another slab of meat.

LATER THAT NIGHT.

Skyler wakes from his sleep. He had a bad dream and he's sweating. Still drunk from dinner. He looks across the fire - Nick is still asleep.

Captain Jack stands behind him -

CAPTAIN JACK

That was clever. The game. Keeping
your wits is key out here.

SKYLER

(turns to him)

What are you doing here?

CAPTAIN JACK

Keeping your eyes open. Do you
remember what I said about him.

(at Nick)

Do you remember how dangerous I
told you he was?

SKYLER

He's not dangerous.

CAPTAIN JACK

No?

SKYLER

No. He's my friend. I've known him
for forever.

CAPTAIN JACK

It's often times the ones closest
to us that hurt us the worst.

SKYLER

Like your wife?

A body blow. Captain Jack feels it. Glassy eyed now.

CAPTAIN JACK

There's a storm coming. You should
look for shelter.

SKYLER

Thank you - for everything. I
appreciate it, but you're wrong on
this one. You're wrong about him.

CAPTAIN JACK

He will kill you. Keeping him
around is your choice, but before I
leave - I have a riddle for you.

(beat)

What is one and one and one?

Skyler thinks. That doesn't make any sense.

SKYLER

(fighting the booze,
trying to think)

One? One-ish?

Captain Jack is gone. Nick is awake and staring at Skyler -

NICK

Who the hell are you talking to?

Nick startles Skyler.

SKYLER

Me? No one.

NICK

You were talking in your sleep.

SKYLER

I was?

(concerned)

What did you hear?

NICK

Nothing. Are you okay?

SKYLER

I'm fine. Go back to sleep.

Skyler rests his head back. Nick watches him across the fire -
confused.

EXT. BEACH - THE NEXT MORNING

Bright sun. It's a warm, calm morning. Skyler wakes and stretches. His beard is growing thicker now. Nick is nowhere to be found.

Skyler's eyes scan the beach - nothing. He walks half-way down to the water. Confused.

SKYLER

Hello?!

(silence)

Nick!?

A moment of eerie silence, then from the tree line -

NICK

(waving)

Over here!

SKYLER

What are you doing?

NICK

Come check it out.

Skyler waves him off and begins to walk up the beach to where he is.

EXT. TREES - MOMENTS LATER

Nick is using the jagged rock to carve something into the bark of one of the palm trees. There's a clearing behind him. Maybe a hundred feet long.

Skyler meets him there.

SKYLER

What are you doing?

NICK

(carving)

You'll see. It's gonna be awesome.

Skyler looks around. There are six or seven trees with numbers carved into the trunks.

SKYLER
What is all this?

NICK
(finishes carving)
They're jersey numbers.

SKYLER
They're trees...

NICK
I know they're trees, but we're gonna pretend they're defensive backs -
(points)
Linebackers -
(points)
Free safety.

SKYLER
Football players?

NICK
How about a little pigskin?

SKYLER
We don't have a ball.

Nick reaches down for a coconut. Tosses it between his hands.

NICK
Problem solved. What do you say?

SKYLER
I say... what do you want me to do?

NICK
Line up on the line of scrimmage.

Skyler walks a few feet down the "line." He takes a runner's pose.

SKYLER

What are we running?

NICK

Hook route.

(counts to five in his
head)

Set... go!

Skyler takes off into the trees - weaving - knifing his way in between. He hooks back around in front of tree number 44.

Nick threads him the coconut. Touchdown!

NEXT PLAY.

Nick tosses a long pass towards Skyler - just past the trees and onto the white sand clearing - Post Route. Skyler hauls in the pass and raises his arms to signal the touchdown.

MORE PLAYS.

Skyler jukes his way through the trees. A smiles on his face. He's sweating. Nick completing pass after pass. They're lost in the fun of it. Offering trees high fives, and taking coconut juice breaks.

Slant routes. Quarterback sneaks and forced fumbles. A hail Mary to the back of the end zone - Nick finally collapses under the sun.

They LAUGH.

SKYLER

God, that was fun. I needed that.

NICK

Me too. Just like old times again.

Skyler looks up. The thick rain clouds have obscured the sun. The wind begins to pick up.

SKYLER

We should find shelter.

Nick tosses the coconut into the trees. It lands somewhere. The wind blows harder now. Their smiles begin to fade. The tide is reaching up toward the beach. The waves CRASH louder. The palm trees sway even more.

NICK

We better hurry.

They begin for the shelter as a few drops of rain begin to fall, splashing out the fire on the beach. The signal piles are extinguished...

EXT. TREES - SHELTER - MOMENTS LATER

Skyler and Nick stand under the battered cover. The rain falls harder. They look out to the water - huge waves are building now.

SKYLER

Maybe it'll pass us by.

NICK

Maybe.

And it's then, the bottom falls out and monsoon rain pours down on them. Heavier rain than before. The raft TEARS above them, leaving them exposed to the storm.

SKYLER

We can't stay here!

NICK

Where do we go?

SKYLER

The cave!

There's no argument. They scoop up the trunk, because this time they're taking it with them. The storm is too powerful. They spring into action. Nick grabs as much dry wood as he can handle. Skyler scoops up a few coconuts and some sticks and tosses them inside the trunk. They set off on a run into the -

EXT. SUMMIT - THEN

Mud everywhere. They slip and stumble as they push through the trees and the vines. The rain is so heavy they can hardly see, until -

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Skyler and Nick burst out of the summit and into the dark cave. They drop the trunk and see the fire pit from their last visit. Their faces are drenched, desperate for warmth.

NICK
I'll start a fire.

There's no wood around them. Skyler looks out through the mouth of the cave.

SKYLER
We need more wood.

NICK
I'll go.

SKYLER
Are you sure?

NICK
We'll freeze to death in here.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Nick races through the rain. He gathers more firewood and branches. He can barely see - anything that's somewhat dry.

He runs over the rocks, branches SMACK his face as he trips - the rocks CUTTING his foot. He bleeds.

NICK
SHIT!

A tiny stream of crimson red blends in with the rain now. He stumbles to get back to the cave. Sliding. Almost unable to breathe, the rain is so strong.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

Nick hobbles inside with several decent pieces of wood. Skyler takes them from him and dumps them on to the floor. STRIKES the flint and starts a small fire. Then, he sees Nick's bloody foot.

SKYLER
What the hell happened?

NICK
I couldn't see. I tripped.

SKYLER
How bad is it?

NICK
It's fine -

SKYLER
(tell me the truth)
How bad is it?

Nick lifts up his foot - a gash running along the bottom of the heel. Shit that looks bad.

NICK
Find me something to wrap it in.

SKYLER
You need stitches.

NICK
Well, no shit, but I don't see an emergency room anywhere around here, do you?

Skyler rips his shirt in strips - hands one over. Nick sticks his foot out into the rain and washes off the blood - then wraps it TIGHT. He YELPS in agony and he pulls the cloth hard.

SKYLER
How is it?

NICK
I'll be alright.

Skyler helps Nick sit down onto the floor of the cave, they shiver in front of the dim flame. The rain continues to fall Every ounce of energy void of their bodies.

SKYLER
What can I do?

NICK
Just - talk. Just talk to me.

SKYLER
Sure. Anything. Does it hurt?

NICK
Don't talk to me about my foot.
Something else.

SKYLER
(searching)
A riddle?

NICK
Anything...

SKYLER
Okay -
(thinks)
Here's one. What's one and one and one?

NICK
(in pain)
One and one and one? That doesn't make any sense. What is it?

SKYLER
One.

NICK
No it isn't. The answer is three.
What kind of riddle was that?

SKYLER
A bad one I guess.

NICK
Forget it. Just bring me some
water.

Skyler uses a coconut shell to collect some rain water. It fills up fast - he presents it to Nick who nearly drains the entire thing.

SKYLER
We have to close up that wound.

NICK
How?

SKYLER
Do you trust me?

Skyler reaches into the fire and pulls out a twig that's been burning. Red hot.

NICK
Oh no...

SKYLER
Do you trust me.

NICK
I can't.

SKYLER
You could get infected.

Nick tears up a bit. He knows what he has to do, but doesn't want to do it.

NICK
I'd rather cut off the whole foot.

SKYLER
Not an option.

NICK
(giving in)
Just do it. Get it over with.

Skyler unwraps Nick's heel. It drips blood. He slowly moves the blazing hot twig closer to it. Nick clenches in feared anticipation.

SKYLER
On three...

NICK
Just do it already.

SKYLER
One...two...three!

Skyler places the twig flush up against the wound. It SIZZLES and smoke rises. Nick SCREAMS in agony. Then, it's over - the bleeding stops. Nick's head hangs back. Soft SOBS.

Skyler hugs him. Brotherly love as he rubs his back - comforting as he cries.

NICK
More water...

Skyler takes the coconut back for seconds. Fill it once again. By the time he turns back - Nick's eyes are closed.

SKYLER
Hey? You still with me buddy?
(wraps the foot once
again)
Don't pass out on me now. You hear
me? Stay awake if you can.

Nick is fading fast.

NICK
(softly)
She was beautiful that day.

SKYLER
Who?

NICK

(softer even)

Jules. On your wedding day. I was
so happy for you.

SKYLER

I know. I know.

(tears now)

You don't worry about that, okay?
You're gonna be fine.

NICK

(nearly asleep)

Take care of Teddy. Never let him
go. They grow up too fast. And the
girls. I love them so much -

(beat)

They grow up...

Skyler holds Nicks's head as he passes out from the pain. He checks Nick's pulse - alive. Skyler carefully lays Nick down on the ground and sits next to the fire. He's left staring at his old friend. He CRIES.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

INSERT: 10 DAY LATER

Beautiful blue waters. Calm. Surreal. The beach gleams in the background.

A spear shimmers above the cool water. Attached to a spear is a man, standing at attention.

SKYLER

His hair has grown long and his beard even longer. His face is red and scarred. He wears a bandana made out of his old shorts.

He hold still. Waiting. Unblinking resolve as he shoots the spear forward and stabs himself a fish. It struggles. Skyler glances down at it. No remorse. No big deal.

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Nick sits alone on the sand. He too look very different. His beard is long and dirty. Hie eyes sag a bit now. His foot still wrapped and swollen. Probably infected. No expression on his face.

Skyler brings back two fish.

SKYLER

Only two today. I think they got smart. Moved on to less hostile waters.

NICK

I figured it out. Ten days since it rained.

SKYLER

Ten days since a cloud.

NICK

You remember that fishing boat?

SKYLER

Sure.

NICK

I can't. I'm losing my memory.
(Skyler's hand)
You're starting to shake. It's all crumbling down around us.

SKYLER

We're alive.

NICK

Are we?

SKYLER

We just keep moving forward.
Someone will come.

(sighs)

What's red and green and black when
it's cold, but -

NICK

- I'm done with all that. Games?
I'm done with that.

SKYLER

You don't think they'll come for
us?

NICK

No -

SKYLER

- someone will come -

NICK

Who? Who'll come?

SKYLER

I dunno. Someone -

NICK

- no one. That's who.

SKYLER

Don't do this. I can't do this with
you again. I can't do what you're
asking me.

NICK

What am I asking you?

SKYLER

To throw my hands up and toss in
the towel. To give up. I won't do
it.

Nick stands to his feet. Almost a fighting stance. He's
moving for the trunk - he limps badly.

He opens the trunk and digs into the bottom. All the alcohol
is gone now. His fingers find a small baggie. There are two
pills inside.

SKYLER

What is that?

NICK

I was saving these for the day we were rescued.

(off his silence)

It's acid.

SKYLER

What are you doing with that stuff?

NICK

It was supposed to be our weekend. So, I stopped and bought some before I met you on the wharf.

SKYLER

You've got to be kidding me.

NICK

One hit each...

SKYLER

No. No thanks. I can't.

NICK

Why not?

SKYLER

Because I can't and you shouldn't either.

NICK

Who's gonna stop me?

SKYLER

Just - put them away, alright? Even better, toss them in the ocean.

Nick sits. He opens the bag and holds the two pills. Stares at them for a beat. Then, back to Skyler -

NICK

I'm in pain. I can't do this any longer. Just do this for me?

Skyler can see the pain in Nick's eyes. He doesn't have long. Skyler reluctantly reaches out his hand and takes one of the pills.

They swallow at the same time.

Nick lays back. Tired of fighting and waiting for the pill to kick in. Skyler watches him. Sad.

LATER.

The sun is setting over the ocean. It's red and orange and breathtaking. It's calm. It's as if no one is there at all, until -

Mayhem emerges as a Nick and Skyler run naked into the ocean. The SPLASH and LAUGH. The cold water can be felt in their older bones. They swim like children.

They race from the water back to the fire. Dancing. Some ancient ritual brought about by the drugs and sun poisoning. But they smile. They're happy.

The magic hour waves pound the coast as they continue to DANCE and SING around the fire. The moment lasts a long time, until -

LATER THAT NIGHT.

The sun had set.

The drugs are wearing off. Skyler and Nick LAUGH at something one of them said five minutes ago. And for the moment, through their dirty beards, they're happy. They smiles. It's almost as if they're right where they need to be.

SKYLER

What do you think will happen when we leave this place?

NICK

We'll go float up into the ether. Break apart into tiny pieces when we hit the ceiling. See the pearly gates...

SKYLER

I mean, this place. The island.

NICK

I'm not sure. No one will probably ever know we were here.

SKYLER

No one?

The weight of that last statement kills off whatever buzz they were still riding. Their smiles fade a bit. Nick looks around, as to say, "Look around you."

SKYLER

You're probably right.

NICK

Our bodies will just decompose right here on the beach.

SKYLER

Our beach.

NICK

Damn right it is.

They're quiet now - a long look up at the stars. Skyler closes his eyes as if he's traveling back in time to remember something -

SKYLER

I'll miss movies.

NICK

Scorsese...

SKYLER

Taxi Driver.

NICK

Mean Streets.

SKYLER

And pizza. Garlic bread.

NICK

Pasta sauce made from scratch...

SKYLER

Olive Garden bread sticks.

Nick smiles through the pain.

NICK

The girls' soccer games.

SKYLER

Teddy'll graduate from college one day. I won't see it, but I know he will.

NICK

What does he wanna be when he grows up?

SKYLER

He wants to be a fireman, but I think he'll do something with his hands. He'll build something. I always wanted to do that, but I never made the time.

(sad beat)

He'll create things. I'd like to see that.

NICK

I'm sorry.

Skyler chokes back the tears - he knows he'll never see his son again.

SKYLER

And Jules...

(beat)

I never made it right with her. I never got to tell her I was sorry.

NICK

So say it now.

SKYLER

(stares out into the
ocean)

I was never there for you. I never
tried to be there when you needed
me and I'll never forgive myself
for letting you go.

(tears)

I've said so many awful things
about you when you weren't around.
I lied. I cheated. I did everything
wrong a man could do - and now I
see that you never did any of those
things to me. You were better than
that.

(beat)

If there was anyone fit to raise
Teddy alone, it would be you. It's
you.

Nick is stricken with sadness as Skyler finishes pouring out
his heart. But, there's another emotion there. Guilt.

NICK

I gotta tell you something and I'm
not sure how to say it.

SKYLER

(wiping his face clean)
What is it?

NICK

I never wanted any of this to
happen. I never wanted us to end up
on this island.

SKYLER

Of course not...

NICK

But, I've been hiding something
from you.

Skyler braces for impact -

SKYLER

What is it?

NICK

Captain Jack didn't drown.

(long beat)

I killed him.

Skyler's tears have dissipated now. He's in utter shock, unable to process what Nick as just confessed.

SKYLER

You what?

NICK

You were asleep...

SKYLER

How could you? Why would you do that?

NICK

I didn't meant to - you have to believe me -

SKYLER

(getting angry)

- believe you?

NICK

I was drunk. He was pushing me - and I just couldn't take it anymore.

SKYLER

What did you do!?

NICK

(pleading)

I followed him down to the water and I jumped on his shoulders. I kept him under water until - until he stopped...

Skyler jumps to his feet - ready to explode.

SKYLER

You murderer! You lied to me and made me believe that you had nothing to do with that!

NICK

I'm sorry. I wanted it to be just us out here. Like old times -

SKYLER

- fuck you! Fuck you! You lying son of a bitch! It should have been you dead in that water, not him.

(walking off)

Fuck you! Fuck you! Liar!

NICK

Wait a second -

SKYLER

You helped me bury him. It should be you under that sand, not him. He was a good man and you killed him!

Nick struggles to his feet - Skyler grabs a rock and comes rushing towards him, ready to pounce.

SKYLER

Don't you fucking get up!

(his teeth)

I never want to see you again. You hear me? I may die on this island, and that's fine, but I want to die alone. Understand?

NICK

(tears)

Sky, please -

SKYLER

I don't know you anymore. You're dead to me. You're as dead to me as he is.

Nick collapses. Skyler walks down the beach and into the trees. He's gone. Nick can only lay there. Alone.

He holds his breath - suicide - but he's too chicken. He slams his fists into the sand.

EXT. SUMMIT - DAY

Skyler, heavy hearted, sits Indian style - his eyes glued to the beach.

Skyler's POV - Nick lies face down in the sand, in the same spot at the night before.

SKYLER

(to himself)

You were right about him.

There's no sound.

Nick's slowly raises his head out of the sand - almost like dog ears perking up.

He hears SOMETHING.

Skyler watches. Never flinching, yet curious. The breeze picks up a bit now.

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Nick stands up as best he can - his foot bloated and infected. He listens intently as the wind shifts - abnormal patterns.

EXT. SUMMIT - THEN

Skyler stands up. There's a gleam out at sea. Whatever it is - it's large and reflects in the sun - we're unable to make out it's shape.

Then, as the waves roll in - we see it.

EXT. BEACH - THEN

Nick hobbles towards the water. He tries to SCREAM, but all that comes out are heavy breathed heaves. He's closer...

EXT. OCEAN - THEN

A FISHING BOAT. Majestic and steel. Parting the waves.

EXT. SUMMIT - MOMENTS LATER

Skyler races through the trees. His feet moving as fast as they have since before he arrived at this place.

As he reaches sand, he passes a tree. Three words carved into it's bark...

"I WAS HERE."

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Nick stands on the shore - waving his arms as high as his body will allow. The sun on his battered face.

Skyler joins him. Waves his arms and YELLS to signal the fishing vessel. Then, a HORN. The boat makes its way into shore.

Skyler looks into Nick's eyes. There's still disgust there, but the excitement of their rescue trumps it - even for just a moment.

INT. FISHING BOAT - BUNK ROOM - DAY

A small room. A FISHERMAN sweeping off the table - strong hands lay Nick down on a table.

The hands search for a medical kit. Skyler watches from the corner of this room.

FISHERMAN

He needs a doctor. He could lose his foot.

SKYLER

How quickly can you get us to land?

FISHERMAN

Three hours.

(to Nick)

How long were you on the beach?

NICK

Too long.

FISHERMAN

(to Skyler)

How long?

SKYLER

We were stranded for a few weeks.

FISHERMAN

Stranded?

(off their silence)

You need rest. The both of you.
From the looks of it, you've got
sun poisoning...

Skyler sits on a tiny wooden stool. Nick closes his eyes. The boat gently rocks.

SKYLER

Can you take us to a hospital?

The Fisherman isn't lingering. He has work to do -

FISHERMAN

There's a naval hospital not far
from where we'll be docking.
They'll be able to patch you up.

(confused)

Stranded you say?

SKYLER

For a few weeks.

The Fisherman shakes his head in disbelief.

NICK

Why's that so hard to believe?

FISHERMAN

(about to leave them)

I've never picked up a cast away before.

INT. NAVAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Nick and Skyler lay in separate beds. Wrapped in blue gowns. The TELEVISION plays the local newscast. They're motionless.

DOCTOR'S VOICE (O.S.)

Overall health isn't good. Most blood work levels are way too high. Swelling in their extremities... they've been severely dehydrated... not to mention the various dietary deficiencies. Mental health seems to be okay though.

Nick raise his head. Looks to Skyler. He's gone cold.

NICK

You awake?

SKYLER

Yes.

NICK

How are you feeling.

No Answer.

NICK

Please...

SKYLER

I'm fine.

NICK

What are we gonna do?

SKYLER
What does that mean?

NICK
What are you gonna tell them?

SKYLER
I'm gonna tell them what you did.

Nick doesn't retort. He closes his eyes and lays his head back down on the pillow. The BEEP of the heart monitor, as -

INT. POLICE QUESTIONING ROOM - DAY

We're back where we began. Skyler and Nick stare at the camera. Dayer sits across from them. He smokes. They look as if they've been talking for quite some time.

DAYER
Anything else?

SKYLER
That was it.

DAYER
Nothing else...

NICK
Nothing.

DAYER
Gentlemen, forgive me, but I have a confession to make.
(beat)
I'm not a police detective. I'm a psychologist. Yours actually.

Nick and Skyler look confused. Lost. Betrayed. Dayer takes out a piece of paper and reads -

DAYER
Skyler Beck - Nicholas Rayburn - patients with highly delusional tendencies. Intelligent.

(MORE)

Proclivity for depression. Denial.
Each hiding from the truths of
their pasts...

SKYLER
I don't understand.

DAYER
Which part?

SKYLER
Our pasts?

DAYER
Your wives.

NICK
What about them?

DAYER
You're in denial about what
happened to them.

NICK
"What happened to them." What are
you talking about?

DAYER
I'm talking about the fact that
they're dead.

A body blow. Nick and Skyler look at one another - unsure -
lost beyond words.

SKYLER
No, that's not possible...

DAYER
Not possible? It happened.
(to Skyler)
Nearly three years ago. Jules
killed herself while you were away
on a business trip. It was your gun
she used. You've never forgiven
yourself for that...

(to Nick)

(MORE)

... and your wife left you nearly five years ago. Her body was found at the bottom of a nearby river. You've blocked her death from your psyche. These are facts, gentlemen.

SKYLER

You're lying...

Dayer hands them police evidence PHOTOS:

Jules lying dead in her bed. Blood from the side of her head.

Nick's wife's bloated body - just been pulled from the river.

Skyler and Nick refuse the PHOTOS. They see the grim pictures. On the verge of a nervous breakdown.

NICK

How could you do this to us?

DAYER

I haven't done a thing.

SKYLER

That isn't true -

DAYER

(relentless)

Think. Remember the last time each of you saw your families. Try and remember what you really saw.

CUT TO:

EXT. A PUBLIC PARK - FLASHBACK

Back where Skyler spent the late afternoon with Teddy. Only this time, he stands staring at the empty swing set - alone.

There is no Teddy. No Jules...

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

Back where Nick last saw his daughters. The counter is LARGE. Modern. A TV above the counter BLARES morning cartoons.

Nick, stressed, enters the kitchen - only this time, there is no one there. No Whitney. No Judy. No Mary.

BACK TO:

INT. POLICE QUESTIONING ROOM - THEN

Skyler begins to tear. Nick isn't wavering - he leans forward in his seat.

DAYER

By now, you have to realize that this has all been a terrible, false narrative. You've created something. A vehicle for escaping the past you're so very desperate to replace.

NICK

You're sick.

DAYER

The fishing boat - rented and paid for by yourselves. There are credit card receipts, signed rental agreements... The charter company testifies that despite regulations, you refused to have a captain on board.

SKYLER

Captain Jack...

Captain Jack appears in the corner of the room. His head hangs. He mouths the words, "I am sorry."

DAYER

He never existed. He was simply a projection of your mind.

(MORE)

Perhaps your subconscious - a figment of your imagination, drawn together from something you once loved - a book or a movie character?

Captain Jack dissolves.

SKYLER

It was a song...

Nick looks over at his friend - is he buying into this?

NICK

What?

SKYLER

It was my favorite song.

DAYER

Billy Joel I believe.

(off Skyler's nod)

That explains why you "killed him." He warned you - you told me yourself. He threatened your plans.

NICK

Plans?

DAYER

The island you claimed to be stranded on, is actually the seldom used side of a secluded couple's retreat.

(a PHOTO of the resort)

The main entrance was located just a mile from the beach. Didn't you find it strange that you never wandered past the summit?

NICK

There was a fire on the fishing boat.

DAYER

You created that fire...

NICK

Why would I do that?

DAYER

Because you're sick. Both of you. You planned every inch of this so that you could die on that island. Together as best friends. And you almost succeeded.

(beat)

We can do this all day, but the facts are this - you were stranded on that island by choice.

Skyler looks as if he's in real physical pain. The words breaking his heart.

SKYLER

What about Teddy?

DAYER

Teddy was taken from you after your wife died. The state found you unfit to be a father due to your suddenly shattered mental state.

SKYLER

And the girls?

DAYER

They were placed in foster care.

Nick breaks down at the words.

DAYER

Do you understand what I've told you? Do you understand what's at stake here? You have to come back to reality if you ever want to see your children's faces again.

(slides his chair back)

You have choice. I think it's really important for you to separate yourself from each other. I think you need to break away from this fantasy for awhile.

(MORE)

(pleads)

If you'll agree to it, I would like to start you on some medication that I think will help. I can assure you, the alternative is much, much worse.

Skyler looks up for the first time in a long time.

SKYLER

Then what?

DAYER

Then, you experience hands on therapy at a real facility. Get well. And maybe, maybe - you get to see your children.

SKYLER

You said they were here?

DAYER

They were.

Skyler and Nick process this. The offer feeble, weak nods - agreed.

Dayer leaves them.

Skyler and Nick wipe their faces clean of tears and center themselves. What a ride. Their bodies rocked from the notion that this has all be fake.

NICK

What do we do now?

SKYLER

I dunno...

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - LOBBY - DAY

INSERT: 11 MONTHS LATER

A dim, sleepy cavern of a lobby. Uncomfortable. No one but a receptionist thumbing through a magazine.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAYER'S OFFICE - DAY

A clean shaven Skyler sits. He seems uncomfortable. Perhaps it's the light. Or the hard straight-backed chair he's in.

When he does finally speak, it's with slow, great sincerity.

SKYLER

I have trouble sleeping.

Behind an old oak desk, Dayer, glances over to his patient with a look that seems to wonder, as opposed to what?

DAYER

You're taking medication for that.

SKYLER

It's all blending together. Like they're canceling each other out.

Dayer walks over to him now. Hand on his shoulder -

DAYER

Here's my fear, I take off your medication and we let you leave - then what? We tried a few months back and you regressed.

SKYLER

I don't remember that...

DAYER

I know.

(sad beat)

I need to know that you're capable of joining the real world again. Can you assure me of that?

SKYLER

I will. Tell me what I need to do.

Dayer walks back to his desk and picks up his office phone. Dials and extension. Waits. He TALKS into the phone - only a whisper.

Dayer hangs up and walks to the door. Waits. A KNOCK...

Dayer opens the door. Nick is escorted inside by an ORDERLY. Skyler's eyes widen - this is the first time he's seen his best friend in nearly a year.

The Orderly instructs Nick to have the empty seat beside Skyler.

Nick's face has changed. Blank. Lifeless. Nothing more than a shell. Void of all emotion. The Orderly leaves them.

Skyler reaches for him - Dayer stops his hand. Nick looks over as if to say, "who the hell are you?"

SKYLER

Hey...

Nick doesn't reply. Just the same dull stare. Holds this gaze for a long beat.

SKYLER

Nick?

Silence. Nothing. Nick goes back to looking straight ahead. Dayer releases Skyler's hand.

SKYLER

What's wrong with him?

DAYER

He's been heavily sedated.

SKYLER

Why won't he answer me?

DAYER

Because he doesn't recognize you any longer.

Skyler looks up at Dayer. His face streaked with tears. A new kind of amazement.

SKYLER

Why -

DAYER

He refused to cooperate. He became violent. We had no choice but to comply with the judge's orders.

Skyler and Nick's eyes lock once again. There's nothing between them. Strangers.

SKYLER

(frantic)

Nick? Can you hear me? Do you know who I am?

(beat)

Nod yes if you can see me? Do you know who I am?

After a few harrowing seconds. Nick nods - no. Dayer touches Skyler on the shoulder.

DAYER

He is lost. And you will be too if you aren't able to assure me you can be trusted.

(beat)

Come back to reality... for your son.

Skyler hangs his head in his hands. It's all too much to bear. Nick just watches. No emotion. As we, -

EXT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - COURTYARD - DAY

Skyler sits on a garden bench. Reflecting on what he's just seen. On the far end of the path, he sees -

Dayer walking hand in hand with Teddy. Older than we last saw him. Hand in hand. They're talking to one another, but they are still too far for Skyler to hear.

Dayer points - Teddy has a seat next to his father. Dayer hangs back, but keeps a watching eye.

SKYLER

Hey big guy...

TEDDY

Hey.

SKYLER

What did that man say to you?

Teddy doesn't respond for a while.

TEDDY

He told me that you weren't allowed
to touch me.

SKYLER

(chokes back)

I wish I were somewhere else.

TEDDY

It's okay. He told me you were
sick.

SKYLER

But I won't always be. I'm getting
better now.

Teddy smiles huge. Beat. Skyler grins - almost touches
Teddy's arm, but Dayer shakes his head from a distance.

TEDDY

When are you gonna get to go home?

SKYLER

Soon. I promise.

TEDDY

Maybe when you get back... we can
see each other again?

Skyler looks into his son's eyes. He EXHALES slowly.

SKYLER

You got it.

Dayer walks back over and interrupts.

DAYER

Time to go, Teddy. Say goodbye.

TEDDY

Bye, dad.

SKYLER

Goodbye, son.

Teddy and Skyler exchange a smile. An Orderly comes and leads Teddy back down the path and inside the main building. Skyler watches - like seeing him off to the school bus.

Dayer sits.

DAYER

Do you know what that was?

(off his silence)

A second chance.

SKYLER

He's so perfect. He's beautiful.

DAYER

And he needs his father. And I venture to say that his father needs him.

SKYLER

I'm ready.

DAYER

I believe you. I do. But, you have to convince the judge.

SKYLER

Can I ask you a question?

DAYER

Sure.

SKYLER

What will happen to him? When I leave?

DAYER

More than likely... we'll run out of options. And if we do, we'll lose him for good. He'll remain here for the rest of his life. Alone, but unaware.

SKYLER

Is there anything - anything we can do?

DAYER

I'm afraid not.

Skyler nods - understood. It's a sad moment. Dayer stands and leaves him.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

Large and quiet. A MALE JUDGE sits behind a desk here. Dayer off to one side.

Skyler enters. Sits. Feeble and cautious.

JUDGE

Mr. Beck, I'll ask you a simple question. Your response, along with Dr. Dayer's recommendation, will ultimately determine whether or not you're allowed to leave this facility. Do you understand what I have just told you?

SKYLER

Yes.

JUDGE

Do you feel you have been rehabilitated?

Skyler doesn't answer. Dayer shoots him a concerned look of, "hurry the hell up."

JUDGE

Do you need me to repeat the question?

SKYLER

I heard you.

JUDGE

Will you please answer the question?

Skyler stares off. Seconds tick by. The Judge and Dayer exchanges glances. Dayer clears his throat.

SKYLER

My wife, Jules, killed herself because I was never around. Or maybe it was because I never cared enough to ask her what I could do to help. Either way, I lost my best friend and my son and instead of living with that... I created a lie. And now, I have to live with that. So, to answer your question, yes, I feel I've been rehabilitated.

JUDGE

What about Mr. Rayburn?

SKYLER

What about him?

JUDGE

Are you aware of his state of mind?

SKYLER

I'm aware.

Dayer and the Judge look into Skyler's eyes. He's clear. They agree...

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - LOBBY - DAY

The next morning. A short BUZZ herald the opening of the main door. Dayer swings it open, revealing Skyler standing there.

He's carrying a cheap bag, wearing a baseball cap. He walks out, still looking stunned. Dayer extends his hand.

Skyler shakes it. They say nothing. Just a grin - and that's all that's needed.

Nick seated in a wheelchair down the hall.

Skyler sees him. Dayer notices. Stands aside. Skyler takes a step towards his friend - then stops.

It's a test.

SKYLER

Nice try, doc.

DAYER

(smiles)

Good luck.

SKYLER

Do me a favor, will ya?

(beat)

Take good care of him?

DAYER

Always.

Skyler shares one final glance with Nick. This is good-bye. And with that, Skyler steps outside and the hospital door CLOSES behind him.

FADE OUT.