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 knifes 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 the 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.
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, or if they exist?

SKYLER
What’s the difference?

NICK
Actually, I don’t know.

Nick forces an 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 lie 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 he 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 que - 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… gimmie 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
(aggrieved)
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.

Thy 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 on 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 fist - 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
 seriouly?)
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 eye 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 again the white sand in frustration.

SKYLER

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
(see 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 smile 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. His 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 is 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)
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?


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.