

A MARITIME CHRISTMAS

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY OF TORONTO -ESTABLISHING -DAY

The sun rises on the city of Toronto. The sun hits the CN Tower and the Rogers Centre. People are walking and commuting to work.

JARED (30) has an athletic build hidden under his winter coat; reddish-blond hair peeks out from beneath his toque, and his scarf flaps in the wind. He walks out of his condo building, he climbs onto a city bus.

A BOY (8) wears a Dracula/vampire costume, stares at him. Jared looks away to avoid talking to the boy. The bus stops, and Jared scurries off the bus.

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN

Jared is busy prepping for dinner service that night. The kitchen is busy with different workers. The HEAD CHEF (50), tall, with slicked back blond hair and black rimmed glasses, inspects everything with military precision.

EXT. JARED'S CONDO -NIGHT

The door to Jared's condo opens, allowing the light from the hallway to pierce the darkness. Throwing his keys on the small dining table, he walks into the kitchen.

KITCHEN

In the dark, Jared opens the fridge. The fridge reveals he lives the life of a bachelor. A six-pack of beer, a jug of milk and a roast chicken in a plastic bag. He grabs a beer, twists the top off and throws it on the counter.

BATHROOM

Jared places the beer on the soap dish in his shower. He strips down to his bare ass, he turns on his shower. He looks down and grabs his small belly that is starting to form. He steps into the shower, closes the glass door to his corner shower. He takes a long drink from the beer.

BEDROOM

Drawing back the sheets of his king-sized bed, he gets in and covers himself up. Grabbing his phone, he checks his social media. Nothing. He rolls over and goes to sleep.

FADE OUT:

OPENING CREDITS AND TITLE CARD: A MARITIME CHRISTMAS

FADE IN:

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT -ESTABLISHING

A small, two-story house in a fishing village by the ocean. The town is dark except for some street lights. A small lamp is on in the upstairs window of Alice's house.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

ALICE (60s) is a short woman, heavy set, with grey hair with wisps of her natural brown. She sits at a small reading table overlooking the street, wearing her pyjamas and reading glasses on the end of her nose.

Alice flips through a photo album. She stops at a page near the back. A picture of two Boys (7 and 9) dressed for Halloween. Below it, a picture of the same two boys dressed in snowsuits holding sleds. She touches the picture.

BEGIN FLASHBACK**EXT. SLEDDING HILL -DAY**

SUPER: 20 YEARS AGO

JARED(7) and GREGORY(9) both have freckles across their noses, and sweaty, blond hair sticking out from their snowsuit hoods. Both were walking up from the bottom of the local sledding hill.

JOHN(30s) is a tall, muscular man, his red hair sticking out from under his toque, he stands looming in a red flannel sweater coat. His piercing blue eyes watch the boys walk up the hill. In his hand, he holds a thermos.

The two Boys get to John at the top of the hill.

JARED 7
I'm getting cold!

GREGORY 9
Yeah, me too. Dad, do you have hot
chocolate in the thermos?

John looked down at the thermos in his hand.

JOHN 30S
No...it's black coffee. Let's pack
it in and grab you guys a hot
chocolate at Tim Horton's and some
Timbits for us to share.

They start walking to the car.

JOHN 30S (CONT'D)
Oh, wait, let me grab a picture for
your Mom.

John pulls out a camera from the car. The boys pose with
their sleds and the hill in the background. John takes the
picture.

END FLASHBACK

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

Alice wipes a tear away, she starts coughing and tries to
clear her throat. She starts to rub her chest. Sweat starts
to bead on her forehead. She stands and gets dizzy.

She looks at the phone on her nightstand, she tries to make
her way to it, but stumbles. She grabs the phone off the
receiver, she manages to dial 911.

911 OPERATOR
911, what's your emergency?

Alice closes her eyes and becomes unresponsive.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

The darkness of the night is now broken by the emergency
lights of an ambulance, bouncing off the houses in the
neighbourhood. Two PARAMEDICS jump out of the truck, they
grab their gear out of a side compartment.

One of the Paramedics knocks over a jack-o-lantern off the front step, the pumpkin breaks when it hits the paved driveway. The Paramedics enter the house.

The Paramedics wheel Alice out of the house on a stretcher, they struggle to get the stretcher through the snow. An oxygen mask covers her face. Cardiac monitor cables protrude out of the front of her pyjamas. An IV in her arm is leading to a bag hanging on the stretcher.

They load her into the back of the ambulance, one of the paramedics jumps into the back with her. The Paramedic attaches a blood pressure cuff to her arm, the doors close with two BANGS.

The ambulance leaves with the lights flashing and the siren turns on. The neighbours who were awoken by the noise slowly went back into their houses.

DISSOLVE TO:

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. RIVER -DAY

Following the river through its twists and turns. The sound of children splashing in the water and laughing.

Slowing down, a rope swing hangs in the distance. Getting slowly closer, the sound of a SPLASH echoes over the river. The sound of a woman SCREAMING and CRYING as we get to the rope swing.

The water is still, until the face of the older boy appears below the surface. The boy's eyes open.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. JARED'S CONDO -NIGHT

BEDROOM

Close on: Jared's eyes open suddenly.

Covered in sweat, he bolts upright. He sits on the edge of his bed, he puts his face in his hands.

LIVING ROOM -CONTINUOUS

Jared sits down in a recliner, a glass of scotch in his hand. He grabs the TV controller from his coffee table and turns the TV on.

TV (O.S.)
Live from New York! It's Saturday
Night!

Jared jumps in his chair, the volume is loud. He turns the volume down. He takes a sip of the brown liquid in his glass, the ice CLINKS in his glass as he sets it back down. The TV glow lights up his face. His eyes start getting heavy. He falls asleep in the chair.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. FUNERAL HOME -NIGHT

Jared(8) stands at the back. The white chairs are lined in neat rows in front of him. He turns, he sees himself in a giant ornate mirror. The suit he is wearing is a size too big, and his blond hair is combed to the side. In his hand is a glass of fruit punch.

The white chairs are filling with family and friends. He feels the weight of a hand on his shoulder, he turns. Jared looks into his father's eyes, which are red and bloodshot.

JOHN 30S
It's time to start, let's go stand
with your Mother.

John places his arm over Jared's shoulder, and they walk towards the casket. Jared looks up at his Dad, he can feel him trembling.

Alice(30s) her hair more brown than grey, stands guard by the casket. She is dressed in all black, her hair pulled into a tight ponytail. In her hand is a tissue and a crucifix. The black crucifix shines like polished obsidian.

Jared hugs his Mother. He begins to tremble, his emotions are starting to overwhelm him.

The Pastor (70), his white hair is snow white, the gold in his robe shines. He takes his spot at the podium, placing the big leather bible down in front of him.

Jared walks over to the casket, looking down. He sees Gregory (10) lying perfectly still, his arms crossed with his hands over his chest. His face is porcelain white, and his lips ruby red.

Jared holds tight to an action figure that is in his pocket, he places it just above Gregory's hands. The emotions finally take hold, and he tries to turn and run.

He feels something stop him from running. Looking back, he sees his Dad holding tightly on to him.

JOHN 30S (CONT'D)
(whispering to Jared)
You need to stay. You need to say
goodbye, or you will regret it for
the rest of your life.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. JARED'S CONDO -NIGHT

Jared jerks awake, the liquid and remnants of ice sit on his crotch.

HORATIO SANZ
(singing)
I wish it was Christmas today.

Rubbing his eyes, Jared sees Horatio Sanz, Jimmy Fallon, Chris Kattan and Tracy Morgan on the TV with fake snow falling on them. Jared turns the TV off with the remote and leaves.

JARED
(singing)
I'm glad it's not Christmas today!

INT. JARED'S CONDO -DAY

The morning sun is shining through the windows. His condo is very neat and clean, he is also very minimalistic. No pictures hanging on the wall of family or friends.

Making an espresso, he sits at the small dining table. His laptop is in front of him, checking the news. There is a prominent article about Remembrance Day on the screen.

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN

A single white dessert plate is on the prep station. A steel spatula carefully lays a piece of white chocolate blueberry cheesecake on the plate.

Holding a piping bag filled with blueberry sauce, Jared drizzles patterns on the plate and cheesecake. Tweezers holding a mint leaf, place the garnish on top of the cheesecake.

JARED

Chef! Come try this, please.

The HEAD CHEF (50) with his grey slicked-backed hair stares at the dish through his black framed glasses. Pulling a spoon out of his pocket, he tries the sauce. His face is void of any emotion.

Jared watches for any kind of reaction.

The Head Chef then cleanses his palate and takes a bite of the cake.

Jared watches nervously.

HEAD CHEF

The coulis is a little sweet and needs some lemon juice. The cake didn't set properly, see how it dropped in the middle. Keep practicing.

Jared is defeated, the Head Chef walks away.

BEX (24) is a short, heavy woman with blond hair in a ponytail. She walks over and tries the dessert.

BEX

There is nothing wrong with this, he is being a dick. You or anyone will ever meet his standards.

JARED

I know, it would be nice though.

Bex smiles and is about to say something to him when the MAÎTRE D sticks His/her head in the door.

MAÎTRE D

Dinner service in ten!

Everyone in the kitchen starts heading to their prep stations.

CUT TO:

The kitchen is now busy, organized chaos.

Orders are being shouted, Chefs are plating dishes.

A phone RINGS but is ignored in the bedlam. The phone stops ringing.

BREAKROOM

At the bottom of a locker is a cell phone. It starts ringing and vibrating. On the call display, it says "UNKNOWN NAME"

KITCHEN

The kitchen phone rings again.

Bex walks by and picks it up.

BEX
Hello...Yes, hold on.

She puts the phone down on a table.

BEX (CONT'D)
Jared! Phone...

Jared looks irritated and looks up.

JARED
What?... Who is it?...

BEX
I don't know, they wouldn't say.
They said it was important, though.

Jared plates a dish and walks over to the phone. He picks it up.

JARED
(irritated)
Hello...

NURSE ON PHONE (V.O.)
Is this Jared Williams?

JARED
Yes, it is.

NURSE ON PHONE (V.O.)
My name is Melissa, I'm a nurse at
Fisherman's Memorial Hospital. I'm
afraid to tell you... Your Mother
has had a heart attack.

JARED
What?... When?

NURSE ON PHONE (V.O.)
Early this morning. She is stable,
but she has you down as next of
kin.

JARED
Okay...Tell her I will be there as
soon as I can.

Jared hangs the landline up with a soft click. His ears start
ringing, he steadies himself against the wall. His back
against the wall, he slides down onto the floor.

Bex runs over.

BEX
Jared...Jared...Help!

People rush over to where Bex and Jared are. The Head Chef
stands watching with his arms crossed.

BREAKROOM

Jared lies on the couch, he has a cold compress on his head.

Staring at his phone, which says "12 missed calls"

Bex comes in to check on him.

BEX
How are you feeling?

Jared is staring at his phone.

JARED
Better, thank you for helping me.
How did you know what to do?

Bex is making herself a cup of coffee.

BEX
My daughter has diabetes. You
looked like how she looks when her
blood sugar goes low.

JARED
I didn't know you had a daughter.

BEX
Yep, had her when I was eighteen.

JARED
Oh...

BEX
You don't have any kids?

JARED
Nah... I don't think I would make a very good Dad.

Bex sits down with her coffee in a chair.

BEX
Well... At least you know. My ex thought he wanted kids until one came. He walked out on us when she was six months old.

JARED
Things must have worked out, though?

BEX
I met a guy who treats her like she is his own, so yeah, they did. So what are you going to do now?

JARED
I guess I'm going back East.

INT. HALIFAX AIRPORT -DAY

LUGGAGE CAROUSEL

Jared stands by the luggage carousel, he watches Christmas decorations being put up in the middle of the carousel by maintenance staff.

Family and friends are greeting people who are waiting for their luggage.

Jared spots his bag and tries to pick it up. A wayward Toddler almost trips him. The Father of the Toddler sees this and comes and gets the toddler.

TODDLER FATHER
I'm so sorry. C'mon hun.

EXT. ATLANTIC COAST HIGHWAY -ESTABLISHING -DAY

The sun shines brightly on a wintry drive, the snow sparkles under the sun's rays.

A car travels along the highway that runs along the coast. The road twists along the coast, passing through small towns.

INT. FISHERMAN'S HOSPITAL -DAY

Jared walks down the hallway of a small-town hospital. Passing paintings of boats, lighthouses. As well as paintings of past Doctors who worked at the hospital.

He reaches a desk, two nurses are setting up an artificial Christmas tree. At the desk is a NURSE(30s) is a tall woman, short blond hair, snacking on baby carrots and writing in a patient's chart.

Jared stands in front of the desk watching the nurse work away.

ALICE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Alice is being wheeled into her room by a PORTER (20) is a muscular, short man. The Porter pulls her sheets down. Turning around, he helps her into the bed.

ALICE
Thank you.

PORTER
You're welcome.

She picks up an envelope with a circular gold embossed sticker on the flap from her nightstand.

CUT BACK TO:

NURSE DESK

The Nurse looks up and sees Jared standing in front of her.

JARED
Quiet in here today.

DESK NURSE

What are you trying to do to us?
Don't say that word in here.

Jared looks at her like she looks familiar.

JARED

Dana?

DESK NURSE

(apprehensive)

Yes.

JARED

It's me, Jared. We went to High
School together.

DESK NURSE

Shit. I didn't even recognize you.

JARED

So obviously, you became a nurse.

DESK NURSE

Yep, right out of high school.
What are you doing?

JARED

Chef...Just wondering what room my
Mom is in.

DESK NURSE

Oh sorry. She is down the hall in
room fifteen.

Jared smiles and walks down the hall.

ALICE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Jared peeks in and sees his Mom looking at a greeting card.
He gently KNOCKS on the door and walks in.

JARED

What do you have there?

This surprises Alice.

ALICE

Jesus Christ, don't scare me like
that. I already had one heart
attack, you know.

Jared approaches the bed and hugs her. Picking up the card and looking at it.

JARED

Ah yes. That nosey Sawler. How are you feeling?

Jared sets the card on the side table.

ALICE

Better. It was scary, though. When did you get in?

JARED

I just got in, drove straight here.

ALICE

You do look tired.

JARED

I will rest at the house now that I know things are okay.

ALICE

Well, when you catch up on your sleep, you should visit some friends while you're here. Not just spend all your time with me.

JARED

I was going to ask if you knew what Blake and Adam were doing, or if they are even still around.

ALICE

They are still here, bought the building at the Marina. I guess they have quite the business going.

JARED

Right on.

ALICE

Although...That's not who I was talking about.

Jared stands and walks towards the window.

JARED

I know who you are talking about.

ALICE

Jared...He isn't the man he was 15 years ago.

A KNOCK at the door.

DR. WARD(30s), a man with an athletic build, short blond hair and a square jawline, walks in. He has a folder in his hand.

DR WARD

Good afternoon, Alice. I have the results from your stress test.

ALICE

Let me have it, handsome.

Jared rolls his eyes and mouths "oh my fuck"

DR WARD

We are going to send you to Halifax for a cardiac cath.

JARED

What's that?

DR WARD

Well, they will inject a dye that they can see on an ultrasound to check for any blockages. If there are any, they will bust them up and put a small piece of mesh to keep the vasculature open.

ALICE

When is this going to happen?

DR WARD

I would say in the next day or two. We will let you know.

JARED

When it happens, I will come.

DR WARD

You can if you like, but honestly, you won't see much of her. After the procedure, she will need to rest.

JARED

I will be fine, Jay. Go to the house and get some rest.

DR WARD

One of the Nurses will call you when we know she is going.

ALICE
Thank you.

Thank you JARED

Dr. Ward hugs Alice and walks over and shakes Jared's hand.

DR WARD
I must go, I have more patients to see, so I can get to the rink and watch my little guy play hockey.

JARED
It is that time of year.

Dr. Ward whistles while he leaves the room.

JARED (CONT'D)
I should probably go and let you
get some rest.

ALICE
He just reminded me of something,
Emily is back in town as well. She
brought her son back here to raise
him.

JARED
Wow...Never thought she would ever
come back here.

Jared hugs Alice.

ALICE
Remember what I said.

JARED
Yes, Mother. Is the house key in
the same spot?

ALICE
Yes, it is. Under my ceramic
fishing frog.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

A ceramic frog sits on the front step. It has a hat made of snow. The frog starts to tip over, the snow falls off, and a hand grabs a key that was under it.

Jared unlocks the front door to the house.

He looks down and sees a smashed Jack-O'-Lantern on the ground with a dusting of snow on it. Jared picks up the pieces and places them into a compost bin.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared walks in, he takes his shoes off. The house is silent except for the TICK of a clock.

Alice's house is the complete opposite of Jared's condo. There are pictures on the wall, knick-knacks everywhere.

JARED'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM

Walking into his old bedroom is like opening a time capsule into his childhood. He sits on his bed looking around. He looks at the posters on the wall, he sees something on the desk.

Standing up, he picks up a model car that was sitting on the desk.

BEGIN FLASHBACK**INT. JOHNS TRUCK -NIGHT**

Jared(9) and John(36) are driving at night in a snowstorm. The snow is falling.

Looking through the windshield, the snow falls in the headlights, the mesmerizing snow flies towards the windshield. The pair sit in silence.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

John's truck slowly pulls into the driveway.

Jared gets out of the truck, walking through the deep snow towards the front door.

Alice opens the front door, letting Jared in.

John gets out of the truck holding his overnight bag.

JOHN 36

I guess he doesn't want to stay
with me.

John walks up and hands Alice the overnight bag. He turns and goes back to his truck. The truck slowly backs out of the driveway.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

KITCHEN

Jared is looking through a bag that is on the kitchen table.

ALICE 30S

What are you looking for, Jay?

JARED 9

Where is the model glue that you were going to pick up for me?

ALICE 30S

I'm sorry, bud. I wanted to get off the roads after work because of the storm.

JARED 9

Oh...well, I'm going to go to bed then.

JARED'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM

Jared lies in bed staring at the ceiling, he has tears running down his cheeks. Alice comes in.

JARED 9

Dad is mad at me.

ALICE 30S

He's not mad at you, he is disappointed you didn't want to stay with him.

Alice pulls some tissue from a box and wipes his tears away.

JARED 9

He doesn't think I love him.

ALICE 30S

He doesn't think that at all.

END FLASHBACK

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared looks at the model car in his hands. Setting it down, he crawls onto his bed and falls asleep.

CUT TO:

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

The morning sun wakes Jared, he slowly wakes up and stretches. Still wearing the clothes from the day before, he gets out of bed.

KITCHEN -CONTINUOUS

A pot of coffee is percolating. A hand grabs the pot and pours coffee into a novelty mug. Jared looks out at the backyard covered in snow while drinking his coffee.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared wrestles his suitcase from the trunk of his rental car.

When behind him a white truck, peppered with rust, drives by. The driver is JOHN(50s), with his piercing blue eyes and now all grey hair, looks directly at Jared. A look of shock crosses his face.

Jared doesn't even look up as he hears the truck driving through the slush on the road. He drags his suitcase through the snow and into the house.

I/E. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

A car drives into the parking lot of a large, half-dome-shaped building, the front garage door style doors is open.

Jared walks towards the building, walking through the slush and snow. As he gets closer, he can hear the rhythmic opening drum beat of a hard rock song.

Jared peers around the garage overhead door that is open and looks in.

ADAM (30s) is a red-haired man with a beer belly. We see the red curly hair sticking out behind a welding shield. Adam is welding on a boat in the middle of the shop, sparks flying everywhere.

Jared sees a beer can on the floor, he picks it up and throws it at Adam, hitting him in the head. Adam's head pops up and looks towards Jared.

He turns his torch off, Adam looks at Jared like a curious dog. He turns the welding torch off. Walking towards the large stereo, he turns the music off.

ADAM
(behind welding shield)
Who the fuck?...Jared?

BLAKE (O.C.)
(irritated)
Why did you turn the music off?

Setting the torch on the workbench, he takes the welding shield off.

ADAM
Blake! Come out here!

BLAKE (O.S.)
Just a second!
(loud thud)
Jesus fuck!

A man crawls from under the helm of the boat in the middle of the shop. BLAKE(30s) a muscular man, has jet black hair and a goatee to match.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
I was almost done wiring the radar.
What is so god damned important?

Adam points his work-gloved hand towards Jared.

Blake looks at Jared over the gunwale.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
Well...fuck me sideways. Look what the cat drug in.

DISSOLVE TO:

BOAT REPAIR BUILDING OFFICE

The three men are sitting around a table, they are each nursing a beer.

ADAM
When did you get back?

JARED
I flew in yesterday.

BLAKE
Heard about your Mom, she going to be okay??

JARED
Sounds like it, just waiting for a
procedure in Halifax to check her
heart.

ADAM
Right on.

BLAKE
What are your plans while you're
home?

JARED
Mostly checking in on Mom and
helping her get settled when she is
home.

Adam and Blake look at each other.

ADAM
You thinking what I'm thinking?

BLAKE
It's Friday...

ADAM
Fucking Friday.

They look at Jared.

BLAKE	ADAM (CONT'D)
Wing night!	Wing Night!

JARED
Fuck...is it Friday?

ADAM
We should see what Emily is doing
tonight.

BLAKE
I think she is working, but we
should call her.

JARED
No...Don't bother her.

BLAKE
Up to you.

JARED
Anyway gents. I need to go and
check on Mom. See you guys
tonight?

ADAM
Sounds good.

The three men stand up and shake hands. Blake and Adam watch Jared leave their shop.

ADAM (CONT'D)
You're calling her, right?

BLAKE
Better believe it.

Blake pulls his cell phone out of his pocket.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
Hey Siri...Call Emily.

Blake puts the call on speaker.

EMILY (V.O.)
Hey Blake.

BLAKE
Hey Em...

EXT. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

Jared is about to get into his car when he hears a diesel motor chugging away in the distance. He looks out to the ocean.

John is at the helm, wearing his yellow rubber overalls, a large knitted sweater with a blue toque. The boat chugs through the dark, cold water. John doesn't see Jared.

INT. FISHERMAN'S HOSPITAL -DAY

ALICE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Alice sits in a chair looking out a window. She sees Jared drive into the parking lot.

A nurse walks in with some pills

PILLS NURSE
Good news. Dr Ward just got a call from Halifax. You will be leaving in a few hours by ambulance.

ALICE

That is good news! No offence, but the sooner I get this done, the sooner I can go home.

PILLS NURSE

None taken.

The nurse hands Alice the pills. Jared walks in.

JARED

How are you?

PILLS NURSE

Hey...I was just telling your Mom that she is going to Halifax later today.

JARED

That is good news.

The nurse leaves, Jared sits down. He pulls a deck of cards out of his coat pocket, he deals the cards to his Mom.

ALICE

Have you talked to your Father yet?

She lays a card down.

Jared moves the cards around in his hand.

JARED

No. I did see him earlier, though. He steamed by on his boat. I was leaving Blake and Adam's shop.

Jared lays a card down.

JARED (CONT'D)

Pick up two.

Alice glares at him, picks up her cards.

ALICE

I'm glad you saw your friends, but you can't duck your Father. He probably knows you're here.

Alice lays a card on the pile.

JARED

I know.

ALICE
He will be pissy too. Any other plans?

JARED
Wing night...Miss your turn...pick up two.

Alice shakes her head and picks up two cards.

ALICE
Pepto and Gravol are in the medicine cabinet.

Alice is scanning her cards.

A KNOCK at the door.

Alice and Jared turn and look at the door.

PILLS NURSE
The Paramedics are here to take you to Halifax.

JARED
Thank you.

Jared looks at his cards.

JARED (CONT'D)
Good timing...I was kicking your ass.

ALICE
Sure, you were.

They put their cards down. He stands and hugs his Mom.

JARED
Don't forget your crossword book, keeps you from flirting with the Doctors.

ALICE
I'm too old for most of them, they wouldn't know what to do with me anyway.

JARED
Gross.

Two PARAMEDICS walk into the room, pushing a stretcher.

ALICE

Oh...do we need that?

BALD PARAMEDIC

Unfortunately, you do. We will get in trouble if you walk to the truck.

JARED

Strap her down extra tight, she is a troublemaker.

TATTOOED PARAMEDIC

Will do.

ALICE

Hey, smart ass...talk to your father.

JARED

Good luck. See you in a day or two.

Jared leaves the room with his mother being put on the stretcher.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared walks up the stairs and looks into his Mother's bedroom. The bed isn't made.

MOTHER'S BEDROOM

He notices garbage in the waste basket. It's plastics from the paramedics. He makes her bed and empties the waste basket.

On the other side of the room is the chair and a small table by the window. A photo album is on the floor. He goes over to it and picks it up.

The album is still open when he picks it up, at the bottom of the page is the picture of his Dad, Gregory and himself sledding.

Jared stares at it for a moment, then closes the album. He puts it on the table. Jared starts walking out, but stops at the threshold and stares at the book.

There is a loud KNOCK at the door, which makes Jared jump.

JARED
(whispering to himself)
Ugh. Too much Stephen King.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

Blake and Adam stand at the front door.

The door opens, Jared is there putting his coat on. He steps outside, and the two slap him on the back.

BLAKE
Dude. You smell like a French
whorehouse.

They walk away from the house.

EXT. PIRATES LURE TAVERN -NIGHT

The Pirates Lure is a one-level dingy tavern. There are two concrete steps leading up to the double glass aluminum doors.

The windows are blacked out with cheap car glass tint. It was put up quickly, as there are bubbles in the tint.

The sign hanging above the concrete steps is a plain white sign with just the name of the bar. The sign is old and damaged, showing its age.

There are groups of people outside, smoking and talking. Some people nod at Jared, some people say hi to him.

The three men approach the doors.

BLAKE
Wait, guys, I need a lung dart.

Blake turns around.

ADAM
Yeah, that sounds like a good idea.

Adam and Jared turn around.

BLAKE
Over here!

The two walk over to the alley between the tavern and the building next door.

They are standing in the shadows when Jared sees a man a few years older than Jared.

The man is taller with a lanky frame and a shaved head.

JARED

When did Kent move back to town?

Jared turns toward Blake and Adam.

Blake and Adam look at each other.

ADAM

A few months ago. He finished his hitch in the army and moved back.

JARED

Fuck, if I had known, I wouldn't have come out tonight.

BLAKE

Dude, it was an accident.

JARED

Accident or not...
(pauses)

BLAKE

We didn't think he would be here..honestly. Since he's been back, he mainly keeps to himself. Strange that he is here.

Jared puts his hands in the pockets of his jacket. He looks around.

JARED

I'm fucking out.

Jared starts walking out of the alley.

Blake and Adam run ahead of Jared and stop him.

ADAM

Wait, man, you got to go in for a couple of drinks.

JARED

Nah man...Fuck that.

BLAKE

Jared...Are you going to keep living in the past?

ADAM

Yeah, man. Plus, it's busy in there. You shouldn't even run into him.

JARED

I don't know, guys.

ADAM

Come on. Just one drink.

Jared looks around. He hesitates.

JARED

Alright..besides it's colder than a witch's tit out here.

The trio headed towards the door to go inside the bar. They walk inside the building.

INT. PIRATES LURE TAVERN -NIGHT

East Coast Music from a live band hits them in the face when they walk in.

The pub is packed with people. The bar is an old ship repair building from the age of sail, all the floors are old hardwood, and all the beams are handmade.

To the left is the bar, which stretches almost the length of the building.

To the right is the stage with a local band playing. There is a small kitchen constantly pushing out bar food.

The doors open behind them, allowing the cold air from outside into the bar. People look towards the doors with relief from the heat of the bar.

The trio walk up to the bar and orders drinks. They get them and spot an empty table and go sit at it.

ADAM

It's fucking packed in here, ain't it?

BLAKE

Yeah, good band playing. Hey J, what did you do after school? You kind of just up and left one day. Did you end up going to film school?

JARED

Nah, man, gave up that dream. I went to culinary school.

BLAKE

Cooking? You like that?

JARED

I do...I have this newfound passion for cooking and perfecting a dish.

ADAM

Are you seeing anybody in Toronto?

JARED

Jesus Christ...Are we drinking or playing twenty-one questions?

BLAKE

Dude, we haven't seen you in ten years.

JARED

No, nobody special...a few dates. I've pretty much given up on the idea of happiness in love.

ADAM

That's too bad
(sadness in his voice)
All work and no play!

JARED

Makes Jared a dull boy!

Jared mimes hitting Adam with a pretend axe.

BLAKE

Are you going to be a celebrity chef then, like that British guy or the guy with the fucked up hair?

JARED

Nah...I'm not cool like those guys. I just want to open my own place someday.

ADAM

That would be cool, like a high-end steak place like the Keg or Ponderosa?

JARED
Honestly...I was thinking an East
Coast-style place in Toronto.

BLAKE
I don't think the snobs of Toronto
would want to eat fiddleheads,
donairs, and a jig's dinner.

They all laugh.

JARED
You never know...

The band finishes the song.

The LEAD SINGER(30s) with long brown hair and medium build
puts his guitar down. He picks up a glass of beer that was on
a stool, he raises his glass.

LEAD SINGER
(screams)
Sociable!

ALL
Sociable!

Everyone raises their glasses and takes a drink.

The Lead Singer starts singing acapella.

LEAD SINGER
(singing)
Ohhhhhh...the year was 1778. How I
wish I was in Sherbrooke now.

Everyone in the bar cheers.

LEAD SINGER (CONT'D)
(singing)
A letter of marque came from the
king to the scummiest vessel I've
ever seen.

LEAD SINGER/CROWD
(singing)
God damn them all!

LEAD SINGER
(singing)
I was told we'd cruise the seas for
American gold, we'd fire no guns,
shed no tears.

LEAD SINGER/CROWD
 (singing)
 I'm a broken man on a Halifax pier,
 the last of Barrett's privateers.

JARED
 (yelling over the song)
 I need to go take a piss.

Jared stands up and goes to the bathroom.

BATHROOM

We can still hear the band sing Barrett's Privateers inside the dingy pub bathroom.

Two sinks and two wall-mounted urinals on the left side, and two bathroom stalls on the right. A condom machine is on the wall beside the door.

Jared walks in, and we see a pair of shoes in one of the stalls.

Walking to the urinal in the far left corner, Jared starts using it.

The toilet flushes behind Jared, the door opens, and out walks KENT(30s), short/buzzed hair, muscular.

Jared, unaware that he is behind him. Kent stops and sees him, though.

Kent walks over to the sink and begins washing his hands. Staring straight ahead into the grimy mirror.

Jared notices him out of the corner of his eye.

JARED
 (whispering)
 Jesus fucking Christ.

Jared looks up at the ceiling.

Kent finishes washing his hands.

KENT
 Jared.

JARED
 Kent. What in the fuck are you
 doing here?

KENT
I'm taking a piss.

JARED
Yeah, I know. I mean, back here. In town. I thought you were in the Army.

Jared walks over to the other sink and starts washing his hands.

KENT
I could say the same thing about you.

Jared stares at him.

KENT (CONT'D)
What is wrong with you?

JARED
You know what is wrong with me.

Kent looks at Jared. His hands tighten up into fists, then relax.

They walk closer together.

KENT
Your Mother and Father have forgiven me.

JARED
I don't know how.

Jared pokes Kent in the chest.

JARED (CONT'D)
You changed my life that day, and I don't think I will ever be able to forgive you.

KENT
We were both fucking around that day. It was a freak accident, it easily could have been me.

Jared walks by Kent. Then turns his head and looks at him.

JARED
I wish it had been you...

Jared walks out of the bathroom and walks up to the bar.

JARED (CONT'D)
Shot of whiskey, please.

JILL THE BARTENDER'S (40) life hasn't been easy on her, she is 40 but looks much older. Pours a shot of whiskey for Jared and herself.

They clink shot glasses and take a shot together.

JILL THE BARTENDER
Welcome home, Jared.

JARED
Thanks, Jill.

Jared turns around and looks at the crowd in the bar. He turns back to Jill.

JARED (CONT'D)
Jill, can I get a Corona, please?

Jill turns around and grabs a beer out of the fridge.

JARED (CONT'D)
No lime.

Jill puts down the lime and hands Jared the beer.

Blake and Adam walk up behind Jared.

ADAM
What the fuck happened, man?

BLAKE
We saw you come out of the bathroom, and Kent a minute later.

JARED
Yeah, I could have done without that.

BLAKE
What did you say to him?

ADAM
You know he's a little fucked up, right?

BLAKE
He was released from the army because of PTSD.

JARED
Told him what I'd told him a
hundred times before.

BLAKE
Well, be careful what you say to
him.

JARED
I honestly don't give a fuck.

ADAM
Yeah, we were there, remember?
Anyway, let's all calm down.
(looks at pool table)
The pool table is free.

Jared looks at the pool table.

Adam looks at Jared.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Can you still play?

JARED
Only one way to find out.

The three men walk over to the pool table. They put their
drinks down on a shelf.

Blake and Adam grab pool cues.

Jared sits on a stool, enjoying his beer. Sitting, watching
his old friends play pool.

Adam grabs his beer, and Jared gets up. Adam leans against
the wall, and Jared takes Adam's cue.

Blake breaks the racked balls with a loud CRACK.

Walking over is EMILY(30s), African-Canadian.

Blake looks up from the pool table and smiles.

BLAKE
Hey Emily, what's going on?

EMILY
Nothing much, I just got off work.
I thought I would come see with my
own eyes that Jay is in town.

Jared turns around and looks at her. He walks over to her and
hugs her.

JARED

Emily!
(surprised)
How have you been?

EMILY

I've been good.

Blake and Adam walk up beside Jared.

BLAKE

Do you want something to drink?

EMILY

No, I have to get home to Ben. The
sitter needs to go home.

ADAM

Well, okay. But I'm buying a
pitcher.

BLAKE

Yeah. A pitcher of rum and Coke
would be good.

Blake smiles and goes to the bar and orders a pitcher.

EMILY

So, how long are you staying in
town?

JARED

Just until my mom gets home and
back on her feet.

EMILY

I heard she was in the hospital.
She watches Ben while I'm at work
if I can't find a sitter.

Jared finishes off his beer. They just look at each other
awkwardly.

JARED

Mom was telling me that.

EMILY

I see... I hope she feels better.

Blake brings over the pitcher of rum and some glasses.

ADAM

Okay, guys, grab a glass and a cue,
and let's get drunk. Me and Blake
against you two.

Emily looks at Jared.

EMILY

No, no. You guys have fun. I need
to get going.

JARED

Okay, can we grab coffee or
something sometime? Catch up.

EMILY

I think so, here is my number.

Emily grabs Jared's phone and puts her number in.

Blake and Adam watch this exchange.

JARED

Got it, thanks.

Emily and Jared smile at each other.

She leaves.

BLAKE

What the fuck was that all about?

JARED

Maybe I will tell you sometime.

Jared leans over the table, aims, and takes a shot.

EXT. PIRATES LURE TAVERN -NIGHT

The three all stagger out of the tavern together.

Walking towards home, they all have to go their separate
ways.

BLAKE

Jared. What are you doing?

JARED

Going to grab a cab to my Mom's
house.

Floodlights and stringed lights come to life, illuminating the pond.

The pond has a fresh coating of snow. Jared crouches down on his haunches and stares at the pond.

DISSOLVE TO:

BEGIN MEMORY

EXT. FROZEN POND -NIGHT

The pond is now snow free, along the edges where the snow has been pushed to are bottles of beer and hard liquor stuck in the snow.

Teenagers are having a late-night skating party, they are either skating or sitting on blankets talking, laughing or kissing.

Jared(18) is skating around, laughing and sipping out of a small bottle of rum.

Emily(17) sits on a blanket while talking to friends. Looking towards Jared, she laughs at something one of her friends said. Jared catches her eye, she motions for him to come over.

Skating over, he does a snow plow stop in front of her to slowly stop.

JARED 18
Hey...What's up?

EMILY 17
I was wondering...if you could help
me with my skates.

She points to a pair of white figure skates.

JARED 18
Of course.

Removing his winter gloves, he throws them on the ice in front of Emily. Kneeling on the gloves to keep his knees from getting wet and cold. He picks up one of the skates and loosens the laces.

JARED 18 (CONT'D)
What are you thinking of doing when
you graduate?

EMILY 17

I'm really hoping to go to New York
and study dance. That's a year from
now, though.

Taking one of her boots off, she raises her foot. Jared slips
the skate on her foot.

JARED 18

It fits, Cinderella.

Jared starts tightening the laces.

JARED 18 (CONT'D)

That would be awesome though. New
York would be exciting and scary at
the same time.

EMILY 17

What about you? You graduate in
June.

Jared looks down and picks up the second skate and loosens
the laces. Emily again removes her boot, and he slips the
skate on.

JARED 18

I don't know. I would love to go to
film school...

Jared looks up into her brown eyes, the string lights
reflecting in them.

EMILY 17

You should do it.

She places her hand on his shoulder.

JARED 18

So what?

EMILY 17

Go to film school!

Jared gets off his knees, he picks up his gloves and puts
them back on.

JARED 18

Film school is expensive. Mom can
barely make ends meet as it is.

Emily looks sad.

Jared puts out his hands, grabbing them. She stands up on the skates. He lets go and slowly skates backwards.

Emily starts to glide, the toe pick sends Emily reeling forward. Jared catches her.

JARED 18 (CONT'D)
Toe pick!

EMILY 17
(laughing)
Toe Pick!

She is laughing to the point she snorts.

JARED 18
Was that a snort?

JARED 18 (CONT'D)
Oh my god!

Jared picks her up, she is laughing so hard now tears are going down her face.

JARED 18 (CONT'D)
Don't pee your pants!

EMILY 17
Stop!

Emily punches his shoulder, sending him backwards on his skates.

EMILY 17 (CONT'D)
No, don't!

Emily starts waving her arms as he loses her balance, she falls down on the ice.

EMILY 17 (CONT'D)
Ow!

Jared pushes off and glides to her. He grabs her hands and picks her off the ice. Grabbing her hands, he picks her up, she falls forward into his arms.

Looking up, she sees that someone hung plastic mistletoe on a tree.

EMILY 17 (CONT'D)
Look mistletoe.

Jared looks up.

JARED 18
Mistletoe is deadly if you eat it.

Emily now looks at Jared.

EMILY 17
A kiss is even deadlier if you mean it.

Their faces get close and they kiss. They stop kissing.

JARED 18
Did you plan this?

EMILY 17
Not all of it...I can't skate.

JARED 18
Let me teach you.

A series of shots set to music of Jared teaching Emily how to skate.

-Emily glides or falls.

-Jared picks her up and skates beside or behind her.

END MEMORY

EXT. FROZEN POND -NIGHT

Jared stands by the frozen pond, the wind picks up, blowing snow around on the pond. He looks up in the tree, and the fake mistletoe is still hanging there, although weather-worn from the years.

Flicking the switch with a loud CLICK, turning the lights off, Jared staggers back through the woods.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

The sound of a man throwing up is heard through the house, then the sound of a toilet flushing.

KITCHEN

Jared gets a glass of water. Taking a mouthful he swishes the water around in his mouth, then spits it in the sink. He then drinks the glass down.

INT. PIZZA SHOP. -DAY

Jared sits in a chair at a table, he is scrolling on his phone.

The pizza shop is small and only has four tables, which are all near the entrance.

John walks in, he walks past Jared, neither sees the other.

JOHN
Good day, ladies. I have an order
called in.

Jared, hearing his Dad's voice, looks up.

OLD PIZZA LADY
Yup, let me just check on it, John.

The pizza lady goes into the kitchen, she then comes back.

PIZZA LADY
Five more minutes.

John nods. He picks up an old Sports Illustrated magazine lying on a shelf. Flipping through it to kill time.

OLD PIZZA LADY
Do you want to pay for it now,
John?

John throws the magazine back down.

JOHN
Sure.

PIZZA LADY
That will be fifty-four dollars.

John pays for the pizzas. One of the cooks brings out two pizzas and hands them to John.

He turns to walk out and spots Jared.

JARED
You sure like pizza.

JOHN
Yeah, feeding the crew.

JARED
How's the season?

JOHN
Not bad, I hear you had a run-in
with Kent last night. Hungover?

JARED
Hungover is an understatement.

JOHN
Don't miss those days.

JARED
No, but you missed a lot of other
days, didn't you?

John stands there holding the pizzas.

JARED (CONT'D)
Who did you hear about Kent from?

JOHN
Kent works for me, hired him on as
a bander.

JARED
Well, your pizzas are getting cold.
Go feed the man who killed Greg.

JOHN
Before you leave town, we need to
talk.

JARED
We'll see.

PIZZA LADY
Torpedo sub!

JARED
That's me.

Jared walks past John and towards the counter. He picks up
his sub and turns around.

John is outside, getting in his truck.

EXT. PIZZA SHOP -DAY

Jared leaves the pizza shop, a small car pulls into the small
parking lot.

Emily gets out of the car. Going to the back of the car and
opening the door, unbuckling BEN (5) out of a booster seat.

Ben jumps down, finds the first mud puddle he sees and jumps in it with his little yellow rain boots.

JARED

Emily!

Emily looks, Jared stands there holding his sub. Walking over, she is smiling.

EMILY

How's your head?

JARED

Very sore.

(laughs)

Blake and Adam do like their
endless pitchers of rum and Coke.

Ben is jumping from puddle to puddle, ignoring the conversation. Water is splashing everywhere, his yellow raincoat splattered in mud.

EMILY

Torpedo sub?

JARED

You know me all too well.

Ben walks over now, bored with jumping in the puddles.

BEN

Mom!! I'm hungry, let's go.

Ben starts tugging on Emily's coat.

EMILY

Just a second, Mommy is talking.
Jared, this is my son Ben.

Jared looks down at him, saying nothing to the boy.

JARED

Hey, about that coffee date.

Emily is growing frustrated with Ben.

EMILY

Ben! Stop pulling on my coat!

BEN

But I'm hungry!

JARED
Listen, you need to get going. I
can call you later.

Emily looks dejected.

EMILY
Yeah. Okay. Sure.

Jared opened the door to the car, watching Ben and Emily go
into the Pizza Shop.

BEN
Who was that?

EMILY
Just an old friend of Mommy's. Look
at your coat, it's full of mud!

They go inside. Jared leaves in his car.

INT. JARED'S RENTAL CAR -DAY

The sub he just bought is sitting on the passenger seat, in a
cup holder, is his cell phone.

The cell phone begins ringing, the display reads "UNKNOWN
NUMBER."

Jared picks up the call. The call is going through the
speakers in his car.

JARED
Hello?

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)
Hi there is this Jared Williams?

JARED
Yes, it is.

UNKNOWN VOICE
Hi there, my name is Chanda, I'm a
nurse at the cardiac cath unit.
Just calling to tell you your
mother is resting comfortably at
this time. We had to put two stents
in her heart. She is doing well and
will be sent home tomorrow.

JARED
Oh, thank you so much, that is good
to hear.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Have a good rest of your day.

Jared hangs up the phone. He lets out a long sigh and smiles like he has had a weight taken off of him.

He selects a rock and roll song out of his Apple Music list and starts singing along. The symptoms of the hangover seem to be gone now. He drives away.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

He pulls the car into the driveway. Turning the car off, the music ends. Walking towards the front door.

NOSEY NEIGHBOR

Jared! Is that you?

Jared turns around, and standing hunched over a walker at the end of the driveway is a woman in her 80s.

JARED

Hi Mrs. Sawler. Yeah, it's me. How are you?

NOSEY NEIGHBOR

Oh, I'm good. How's your Mom doing?... I saw her get taken by the ambulance the other night.

JARED

She is doing well. I'm told she will be home tomorrow. She can tell you all about it.

NOSEY NEIGHBOR

That's good to hear. Hey Jared, you know she watches that little negro child, right?

JARED

Yeah, I assume you're talking about Ben. Cute little boy, just met him.

The neighbour seems put off a bit.

NOSEY NEIGHBOR

Well, that black girl came back home with a child.

JARED

You mean Emily?? Are we done here? I want to go eat my lunch.

Jared holds up his sub.

The nosey neighbour sneers.

NOSEY NEIGHBOR
(whispering)
This wouldn't have happened in my
day, good white people hanging
around black folk.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

KITCHEN

Jared is sitting down at the kitchen table, his sub set out in front of him. A text from his phone breaks the silence.

BLAKE: Be there in 10 minutes.

Jared texts back: Hey, I just got home. I think I just want to chill out and watch a movie or something. Another time.

No answer from Blake. Jared sets the phone back down and eats his sub.

LIVING ROOM -CONTINUOUS

Jared picks up one of his old VHS tapes from the shelf.

JARED
Funny, can't believe she still has
a VCR.

Jared puts the tape into the VCR.

KITCHEN

Jared rummages for a snack.

JARED
What do we have here?

He pulls out a bag of All Dressed chips. He opens the bag. Smelling the chips, he digs in.

From the kitchen, we can hear the studio theme playing.

He lies on the couch with the chips on the floor beside him, his phone beside his glass of cola.

A knock at the door.

JARED (CONT'D)
Holy fuck! I need to get back to
Toronto.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE. -DAY

At the front door stands John.

The door swings open quickly.

JARED
I told you guys!

Jared is shocked to see John standing there.

JARED (CONT'D)
Oh...It's you.

JOHN
Ummm. I need a hand on the boat
tomorrow. I'm down a bander, and
you're the only one I know who can
do it.

JARED
Isn't that Kent's job?

Jared starts closing the front door.

John stops the door from closing.

JOHN
Kent has a Doctor's appointment
tomorrow.

Jared drops his head in defeat and sighs.

John starts walking away.

JOHN (O.C.) (CONT'D)
See you at three am!

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY -ESTABLISHING

The sun is peaking over the horizon with flurries in the air.
The boat is leaving the marina towards the ocean.

I/E. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY

Jared is in yellow overalls, a warm sweater and a knitted toque.

Jared stands on the stern, drinking coffee out of a steel travel mug, watching the sunrise.

There are two other FISHERMEN dressed in the same yellow overalls, they are busy getting things ready to start hauling traps.

John dressed the same as everyone is in the wheelhouse, steering the boat, watching an electronic plotter.

Jared turns and looks back at the ocean, the waves moving the boat up and down.

JOHN (O.C.)

First buoy!

The two Fishermen get ready, with a hook on a large pole, they snag the buoy. They attach the line to a wench and it pulls the trap up out of the water.

The lobsters are dumped out on the sorting table, where they measure the lobsters and then band them.

Jared stands at the sorting table, throwing undersized lobsters back into the ocean, then banding them. He performs the task quickly and efficiently.

Series of shots set to music.

-lobsters being dumped on the table

-sorting lobsters

-this repeats itself three or four times

I/E. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY

Jared sits on the sorting table, eating a sandwich.

John walks out with a coffee pot.

JOHN

Coffee?

JARED

Yes please.

Jared picks up his coffee travel mug and unscrews the top.

John pours coffee into the mug, steam rolling off the hot coffee in the cold air.

JOHN

I see you haven't forgotten how to do this.

JARED

Well, you forced me to do this for years... It's like riding a bike.

JOHN

How do you like living in Toronto?

Jared takes a sip of the coffee and looks out on the horizon.

JARED

You ask me that like we talk every day.

JOHN

I'm trying, Jay.

JARED

I know...I'm only here because Mom asked me to try.

JOHN

Are you trying?

JARED

I'm here, aren't I?

JOHN

You are...but you feel like a stranger.

Jared stands up to stretch.

JARED

Well, that's your fault, isn't it?

JOHN

Are you ever going to take accountability for yourself? It's a two-way street.

JARED

I'm not the one who got up and left in the middle of the night.

JOHN

That was best for everyone.

One of the Fishermen comes out of the wheelhouse.

BEARDED FISHERMAN

John, weather service just put out
a snow squall warning. We should
finish up.

JOHN

Thanks, bud.

(to Jared)

We need to finish this conversation
later.

JARED

Can't wait!

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY -ESTABLISHING

The lobster boat steams to the next buoy. Grey clouds loom in
the distance.

EXT. MARINA -DAY

Jared is tying the boat to the dock, his cell phone dings.
Looking at his phone.

EMILY: Want to meet for coffee?

Jared types.

JARED: Sure!

Jared walks away from the dock. He watches his Dad leave in
his white truck.

INT. COFFEE SHOP -DAY

Jared walks into the chain coffee shop, he spots Emily
sitting at a table with two coffees in front of her. She
waves at him.

EMILY

I got you one.

He sits down in the chair across from her. He takes his coat
off and hangs it on the chair.

JARED

Thank you, cold out today.

EMILY

What have you been doing?

JARED

Well, I work at a restaurant in Toronto. That's really it, that takes up a lot of my time.

EMILY

So you didn't go to film school?

JARED

You remember that? Just a foolish pipe dream.

EMILY

I don't think it was. Dreams can come true.

JARED

Oh yeah..Christmas magic.

They laugh. Someone walks by, staring at them. Emily notices the person staring.

EMILY

That's also why you ghosted me after the night at the skating pond.

JARED

What do you mean?

EMILY

You were scared.

JARED

No, I already explained years ago.

EMILY

Your excuse was bullshit. You didn't want to date the one black girl in town. You squirm in your seat when someone stares.

JARED

Not uncomfortable...angry, angry about their small town bullshit.

EMILY

You shouldn't have let that ruin what we had. What we had was special.

JARED

I was young and stupid. You made me feel something I never felt before and never will again.

EMILY

So in twenty years...

JARED

Not the same as you, I mostly bury myself in my work now.

EMILY

Jared...

Emily looks away.

JARED

So Ben. What's the story on him?

EMILY

Well, after I got over the heartbreak of what you did. I went to New York, I met his father. He was another dancer, we fell in love. We were going to get married, but then I got pregnant.

JARED

What happened to him?

EMILY

Around the time I was 4 months pregnant, he started hitting me. It got worse and worse. Then, when I gave birth, it stopped for a while. When Ben was about 1 year old, he hit Ben. That was it for me, he was gone for an audition. I packed up and moved back here.

JARED

Did he not know where you went?

EMILY

He knows, but he hasn't even so much as called me. Not so much as a gift or card on Ben's birthday.

JARED

I'm sorry for you, and I'm sorry for Ben. I know what it's like not having a Father who wants nothing to do with you.

EMILY

You know he wishes he could turn back time, he tells me all the time.

JARED

Who does? My Dad?

EMILY

Yes. Who do you think is watching Ben? I loved your parents like family. They have both been so good to Ben and me.

JARED

Wow.

EMILY

Yeah. John has probably taken him fishing a few times. Ben loves being with your Dad.

(beat)

Do you have any kids?

JARED

No. Honestly, I never thought I would be a good Dad. I didn't have a good role model.

Emily just stares at him.

JARED (CONT'D)

Do you want to get out of here?

EMILY

Yes.

INT. JARED'S CAR -DAY

Jared and Emily get into the car, Jared starts the car to warm it up.

JARED

What's Ben like? He seems to be a good kid.

EMILY

He is, he wants to play hockey, but he has his Mother's skating ability.

JARED

Well... at least with hockey skates, he doesn't have to worry about a toe pick. Put him in hockey, he would be flying around the rink in no time.

Jared looks into Emily's eyes, he leans in for a kiss.

She wants to kiss him, but she backs off at the last second.

EMILY

No. No. Too fast. We can't do this. I'm here, and you're going back home to Toronto. Besides, you probably don't want a ready-made family.

Jared looks away in frustration.

JARED

I'm sorry. I've never been good at reading people's signals.

EMILY

You are good at it...I just think it's not the right time. I have to go, it was good seeing you.

Emily leaves the car and gets into hers.

JARED

Fuck...stupid.

Jared watches Emily leave the parking lot in her car.

INT. EMILY'S CAR -DAY

Emily, in her car has tears in her eyes. Wiping them away, she drives away. Quickly glancing in her rear view mirror at Jared's car.

EXT. EMILY'S CAR -DAY

John is buckling Ben into her car.

JOHN

How did things go with Jared?

EMILY

It went okay.

JOHN
What happened?

EMILY
Nothing...I'm good.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

LIVING ROOM

Jared stands in front of the TV, he hits play on the VCR.
The house phone rings.

JARED
Holy fuck!

KITCHEN

Jared picks up the phone on the wall.

JARED
Hello.

UNKNOWN VOICE (O.C.)
Hi Jared. Sorry to bother you at
this hour. Your Mother just got
back from Halifax. She will be
discharged in the morning. Are you
able to come get her?

JARED
Yes, of course. What time?

UNKNOWN VOICE
Can you be here for around 10?

JARED
Yup. Okay. I will be there.

Jared hangs up the phone.

JARED (CONT'D)
Thank god...soon go home.

EXT. FISHERMAN'S HOSPITAL -DAY

Jared sits in his car, he watches a maintenance crew put up a
large fir tree in front of the hospital.

Dana, the nurse is wheeling Alice out of the hospital. They are smiling and chatting.

Jared gets out of the car and opens the passenger side door.

Dana helps Alice get into the car. Jared tries to buckle her in.

ALICE
(smacking Jared's hand)
I'm not a child!

Jared backs off. Alice closes her door.

JARED
Thanks, Dana.

DESK NURSE
Oh...she's a firecracker. It was really nice to see you again. If you're not seeing anybody...

JARED
I'm not, but once Mom gets settled, I will be going back to Toronto.

DESK NURSE
Oh.

Jared gets into the car. Dana waves as the car leaves.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

KITCHEN

Jared is in the kitchen making tea.

Alice walks into the kitchen, her hair is wet and a fresh change of clothes.

ALICE
Feels so good to have a shower in your own house.

JARED
I bet! I put the kettle on for you.

ALICE
Thank you.

JARED

I was reading over your discharge instructions. You will have to take it easy for a few days. I will go get your prescriptions filled for you.

ALICE

That would be great, so I assume that you will leave after that.

JARED

I need to, or I will be out of a job.

ALICE

Did you talk to your Dad?

JARED

I did, I even went out on the boat with him.

ALICE

What happened?

JARED

I don't know, too much time has passed. It's easier to just not have him in my life.

ALICE

You have always taken the easy route, all your life.

JARED

I wouldn't say that. Culinary school wasn't a walk in the park.

ALICE

Yeah, but it was safe. You wanted to go to film school, all through junior and senior high school. That's all you talked about, then, when the time came.

JARED

We both know we couldn't afford it, so I worked for a bit and then applied as an overage student for culinary. I was also able to get student loans.

A KNOCK at the door. Alice rolls her eyes.

ALICE

Probably that nosey neighbour of mine from across the road.

JARED

I'll get it. I doubt she hobbled over to see you, though. She can wait for the Bingo gossip.

Jared answers the door.

Standing on the doorstep are Blake and Adam.

BLAKE

Hey brother.

ADAM

You been ducking us, or what?

JARED

Um no. Mom got discharged from the hospital.

They barge through Jared.

BLAKE

Alice!

ADAM

Alice!

They walk over and each hug her.

ALICE

Hey boys. How are you doing?

BLAKE

We're good, glad to see you home.

ADAM

Have you had a chance to make any of your special cookies?

ALICE

I just got home.
(looking in Adam's eyes)
Are you high?

ADAM

Is it okay if Jared comes out to play?

ALICE

Yes, get him out of here. He is already driving me nuts.

INT. BLAKE'S CAR. -DAY

The three drive around. The music is booming, a rock song from the 70s is playing. Nobody is talking. Blake turns the music down.

BLAKE

So now that your Mom's home, what is the plan?

JARED

My plans haven't changed. Mom is home, so in a few days I will be heading back to Toronto. That is where my life is now.

ADAM

That sucks, been cool having you home. Like old times.

JARED

Unfortunately, we grow up, things and people change.

BLAKE

What about Emily?

JARED

What about her? She has her life, and I have mine. We don't have room in our lives for each other.

The trans-am drives down a dirt road surrounded by trees covered in snow.

EXT. FROZEN LAKE -DAY

Snow shovels hit the ice to clean the freshly covered snow off. Teens are on the other end of the shovels, skating while clearing the ice.

INT. TRANS-AM -DAY

The car rolls up to the lake. The three men watch the teens clear a spot for hockey.

ADAM

I didn't think anyone played hockey here anymore since the rink was put in.

BLAKE
(to Jared)
When was the last time you had
skates on?

JARED
Years...but I bet we could still
kick their asses. I don't have
skates, though.

ADAM
Don't worry about that, we got you.

EXT. FROZEN LAKE -DAY

The teens throw down on either end of their cleared spot
shinny nets*. Hockey pucks hit the hard ice with a CLACK>

*small hockey net approx. 1 ft tall

EXT. TRANS-AM -DAY

POV-Trunk looking out.

Blake opens the trunk, the three looking in. They pull out a
pair of skates each.

ADAM
We should have shotguns for this.

They all laugh.

They walk to the edge of the lake and put them on. They start
skating towards the teens playing hockey.

EXT. FROZEN LAKE -DAY

The kids see the three men skate towards them.

HOCKEY TEEN #1
Jesus Christ, does the nursing home
know you're missing?

The teens all laugh.

ADAM
The mouth on you, boy.

BLAKE
This mouth was on your mama's pussy
last night.

Blake wags his tongue at the teen.

ADAM
I think that's Jennifer's boy.

PIMPLE-FACED TEEN
What about it?

BLAKE
(to Jared and Adam)
My mouth was on her pussy,
actually.

PIMPLE-FACED TEEN
Fuck you!

SKINNY TEEN
Would challenge you, but wouldn't
want you to break a hip.

JARED
Us three against you five.

Looking at the hockey sticks stuck in the snow.

JARED (CONT'D)
I see you have some spare sticks,
if you know...you're not chicken...

CHUNKY TEEN
All yours, hope you know a good
Doctor.

JARED
Enough talk, let's do this.

Hockey game montage to Good Ole Hockey Game-Stompin' Tom.

-Faceoffs with Blake and Teen with a beat-up hockey puck.

-Blake and Adam are passing to each other and scoring.

-Jared is playing defence and passing up to Blake or Adam.

-Blake or Adam scoring and over-celebrating.

-Blake or Adam getting in the Teens' faces.

-Teens scoring the odd goal.

-Both teams are elbowing, slashing, and hitting each other in
the balls.

The three men celebrate like they won the Stanley Cup when they win. Taking off the skates, they walk over to the car. They get a six-pack out of the trunk.

BLAKE
Hey boys, good game.

He throws the six-pack at Skinny Teen.

ADAM
Better luck next time, keep practicing boys.

EXT. SNOW-COVERED BEACH. -DAY

The Trans-Am is parked on the edge of the beach.

They are all sitting on the log. Passing a joint around.

BLAKE
What's it like in Toronto?

JARED
It's not bad. It's definitely not as laid back as it is here.

Adam inhales on the joint.

ADAM
So you really like working in a restaurant, huh?

JARED
I do, but the head chef is a real prick.

BLAKE
Fuck... Why don't you open your own place like you said?

Jared inhales on the joint.

JARED
Money...takes a lot of cash just to open the doors of a restaurant. Where did you guys get the cash for your shop?

Blake inhales on the joint.

BLAKE

Between the two of us and Adam's
Dad co-signing. Thank fuck business
is good.

ADAM

Your Dad is one of our customers.

JARED

Oh yeah...Not sure.

JARED (CONT'D)

He is a good dude Jay. Gives people
jobs nobody else would hire.

Adam throws the roach on the ground.

JARED (CONT'D)

Kent included.

ADAM

Bro...it's time to forgive both of
them, spirit of the holidays and
shit.

JARED

We were there, remember.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. POOL HALL/ARCADE -DAY

A 1980s new wave song plays on the jukebox in the corner.

JARED, BLAKE, and ADAM, all aged 8, are playing Pac-Man. Some
older kids are in the corner playing pool and smoking
cigarettes.

Jared wears jeans and a T-shirt with a Karate Kid headband.
Blake and Adam dressed like the Coreys from The Lost Boys.

The trio are hovering over the game, the electric light
flashing on their faces. Adam is racking up a high score.

YOUNGER JOHN

Boys!!

The three turn around.

JARED AGE 8

Shit.

JOHN is standing there, visibly upset.

YOUNGER JOHN
Jared, you need to come with me
now!

Adam and Blake look at each other.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. SNOW COVERED BEACH -DAY

ADAM
Remember, him and Kent would
wrestle with us in the backyard.
Throw us around.

JARED
Mrs. Sawler next door called the
cops, thought they were beating us
up for real.

BLAKE
What a bitch.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
I think it's time, I really do.

JARED
I will think about it.

ADAM
He's suffered enough. Imagine
accidentally killing one of us.

JARED
I know, but that day ruined my
family. Plus I would be sad for a
day or two.

Jared winking at Blake and Adam.

ADAM
Fuck you...I see how it is.

JARED
I need to go home. Can you take me
home?

EXT. BLAKE'S CAR. -DAY

Jared is walking away from the car. Blake rolls the driver's
side window.

BLAKE

Find your skates and meet us at the public skate.

JARED

You going?

BLAKE

Yep, selling tickets for a fundraiser.

JARED

You guys coaching or something? You don't have kids.

ADAM

We both are, figured be an easy way to score a single hockey Mom.

JARED

(laughing)

Jesus fucking Christ.

Jared goes into the house.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE. -DAY

JARED

Mom?

ALICE (O.S.)

In here!

Alice is in the kitchen baking cookies.

JARED

What are you doing? You're supposed to be resting.

ALICE

Never you mind. I'm baking, not running a marathon.

JARED

Are you expecting company?

ALICE

You never know when someone is going to drop in. Be rude not to offer food.

JARED

Have you seen my skates?

ALICE
I don't know, maybe in the shed.

INT. SHED. -DAY

The door of the shed opens, and this disturbs the dust. The dust floats in the sunlight, and Jared walks through it.

Tip-toeing around a push lawn mower, scanning the shed for his skates. Spotting the skates tied together by the laces, and hanging on a nail.

Walking over, he runs a single finger along the rusted and dull skate blades. A look of disappointment crosses his face.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE. -DAY

Alice is putting cookies on a cooling rack as Jared walks in.

ALICE
Did you find them?

JARED
Yes, they need new blades, though.

ALICE
Oh, that's too bad.

JARED
It's okay. I'm going to go, say
goodbye.

ALICE
You're going soon?

JARED
I think so, yeah. I'm going to book
my flight later.

ALICE
Have a cookie.

INT. SKATING RINK.

Walking into the rink, Blake and Adam are sitting at a table. They are busy selling tickets for a fundraiser.

The rink is full of skaters, music coming from the overhead speakers.

Emily is skating around the rink with Ben. Ben takes a few steps and falls. She helps him up.

Jared walks over to the bench and stands by the boards. He watches the two finish their lap around the rink.

Emily skates by Jared, standing on the bench. He waves.

They skate over.

EMILY

Hey.

JARED

Hey. He's doing well. Did you sign him up for hockey?

EMILY

Not yet. I'm going after we're done.

JARED

Good.

EMILY

Yeah.

Ben skates over to them.

JARED

You're doing really good, little man.

BEN

No. I suck.

JARED

You don't suck. Sydney Crosby wasn't good the first time he put skates on. Everyone starts somewhere.

Emily looks at Ben as Jared talks to him.

BEN

I don't get what I'm doing wrong.

Jared opens the door to the ice.

JARED

Come stand beside me.

Ben stands beside Jared.

JARED (CONT'D)
Now, first you need to bend your
knees more, like you're almost
sitting in a chair.

Ben bends his knees too much.

JARED (CONT'D)
Too much, here.

Jared puts his hands under Ben's armpits and picks him up a
bit.

JARED (CONT'D)
There. Right there. Now push out
away from your body. Left
leg...right leg...left leg...right
leg..

Ben starts gliding away. He is beaming. Jared walks off the
ice and stands by Emily.

JARED (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I tried to kiss you the
other night.

EMILY
Well, don't be. I wanted to kiss
you back. I'm careful who I let
into my life now, I have to protect
Ben. If I let you in, then you
leave...

JARED
I get it. I hope you find someone
special, someone who will treat the
two of you right.

Emily smiles at Ben as he skates back.

JARED (CONT'D)
Better! Swear I saw smoke coming
off those skates, you were going so
fast.

BEN
Are you teaching hockey?

JARED
No I'm not. But you see those two
jokers over there. They are just as
good, if not better, they will
teach you.

BEN
Who taught you?

JARED
My big brother Gregory did. Then I
taught your Mommy.

BEN
Where is Gregory now?

JARED
He's in heaven.

BEN
Oh, I'm sorry.

JARED
(choking a tear back)
It's okay. I was happy for the time
I got to spend with him.

Ben zips off. Blake and Adam come over. They hand Emily a
form.

ADAM
Where's your skates?

JARED
Those skates are so rusty, I got
tetanus looking at them.

BLAKE
That's to bad.

Emily hands the form back to Blake.

ADAM
So what are we doing after the
skate?

Jared looks at Blake.

JARED
Mom baked those cookies you like so
much today.

BLAKE
I know where I'm going.

JARED
You come to Emily, bring Ben.

EMILY
Okay. Ben would like to see your
Mom anyway.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -NIGHT

Alice is walking down the stairs carrying a box labelled
"Christmas Decorations". She places the box on the floor.

Jared, Blake, Adam, Emily and Ben all walk into the house.

JARED
Mom, we have company!

Alice is walking down the hallway.

JARED (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

ALICE
Just getting some of the Christmas
decorations out.

JARED
You should have waited for me to
help.

Ben runs in to see Alice.

BEN
Ms. Alice!!

He hugs her leg/hip.

EMILY
Be careful, Ben!

ALICE
He's fine.
(to Ben)
You want a cookie?

ADAM
Yes!

Alice pokes Adam's belly.

ALICE
I don't think you need one.

Ben is sleeping on the couch in the living room, a movie is
playing on the TV.

The others are sitting around the kitchen table playing Uno.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Uno!

The rest throw their cards down

ALICE (CONT'D)

I think you guys are letting me win.

Emily looks at her watch.

EMILY

Shit! I need to get going, I need to get Ben home to bed.

JARED

I'll walk you out.

Emily picks Ben up off the couch, his head slumps down on Emily's shoulder. She and Jared walk to the front door.

EMILY

So you're leaving tomorrow?

JARED

I do, kind of don't want to leave now. Unfortunately, my life is there.

EMILY

It was nice seeing you.

They look up and see the mistletoe Alice put up earlier.

JARED

Mom's been decorating, I see.

EMILY

Someone once told me mistletoe is deadly if you eat it.

JARED

Funny...a person told me a kiss is even deadlier if you mean it.

They stand there for a moment in an uncomfortable silence. Emily then turns and walks out the front door.

Jared quietly closes the front door behind her. Watching from a window, Jared watches her carefully settles Ben in the booster seat of her car.

Laughter comes from inside the kitchen.

Jared looks and sees his Mother, Blake, and Adam joking around. He watches them for a few minutes.

Everyone's cell phones SCREAMS with an emergency alert.

Jared looks at his phone, "Warning: Nor'easter conditions expected to start in your area tomorrow afternoon or early evening. Have a seventy-two-hour emergency kit ready."

JARED (CONT'D)

Good news, you have me around for a few more days, it looks like.

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY

John, Kent, and the two Fishermen are working on the lobster boat in the middle of the ocean. They are loading the deck with the lobster traps.

JOHN

We need to get these traps up before the storm. Need to work quickly!

ENGINE COMPARTMENT -CONTINUOUS

Under the deck of the boat is the diesel engine, a small trickle of oil is coming from the engine.

LOBSTER BOAT -DAY -CONTINUOUS

The men are working against the clock.

JOHN

We need to get these traps up before the Nor'easter hits land.

The crew work hard and quickly to get the traps out of the water.

The wind is starting to pick up speed, and the cold saltwater is starting to get fiercer. Sea spray is hitting them in the face.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT -CONTINUOUS

The oil leak is starting to get larger. The engine is starting to smoke.

LOBSTER BOAT -DAY -CONTINUOUS

Kent feels the engine vibrations get more intense.

KENT
(yelling over the wind)
The engine seems to be struggling!

John fights the wind to get to the wheelhouse. He looks at the gauges.

The RPMs are getting high, and the oil pressure is getting low.

JOHN
(whispering to himself)
Fuck me...

John heads back to the deck where the workers are loading lobster traps.

KENT
(over the wind)
What's happening?

JOHN
(in Kent's ear)
Oil pressure is dropping, and RPMs are increasing. We must have an oil leak.

Kent and John look at each other. The other two fishermen stop working and look at Kent and John.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Well, don't just stand there. Let's get back to work and try to get back to shore.

The winds are really starting to get faster. More sea spray is flying everywhere. The waves are pounding against the hull. Water is starting to fill the deck.

KENT
I'll go start the bilge pump. Try to get rid of this water!

Kent goes into the wheelhouse and flips a switch labelled BILGE with a large CLICK. A look of panic crosses his face.

Kent starts flicking the switch up and down CLICK...CLICK...CLICK...CLICK rapidly.

Looking at the oil pressure gauge, it has gone down a little more.

KENT (CONT'D)
The bilge pump must be shorted out!
We keep taking on water, we're
going to sink!

JOHN
Fuck...okay.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT -CONTINUOUS

The engine compartment is flooding with seawater. The engine is working harder now.

LOBSTER BOAT -DAY -CONTINUOUS

John goes into the wheelhouse, grabbing the handset to the radio.

JOHN
Mayday! Mayday! This is Wild Thing
Too...we are taking on water...we
still have engine and electricity,
but not sure for how long!

INT. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

OFFICE

Adam is in the office watching the news about the Nor'easter forecast.

The radio on top of the refrigerator starts spewing static.

JOHN (O.C.)
(over the radio)
Mayday!...Mayday! Wild Thing Too.
Taking on water. We still have
engine and electricity but not sure
for how long.

Adam looks at the radio. A worried look is on his face. He jumps out of his chair and heads to the shop.

SHOP FLOOR

Blake is lying supine under a helm, wires are dangling in his face.

ADAM

We need to call Jared! John just put out a distress call. Coast Guard are over an hour away in either direction.

Blake drops the soldering iron he is using and pulls his cellphone from his pocket.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared is on a ladder, putting up the storm windows on his Mother's house. His cellphone rings in his back pocket.

JARED

Hello...

INT. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

Blake sits in the Captain's chair in the wheelhouse on his cellphone.

BLAKE

We just heard a distress call from your father. Get your ass down here, we have a plan.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared on the ladder looks out to sea. The dark clouds and ocean look ominous. He rushes down the ladder.

CUT TO:

INT. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

Blake stands and looks at Adam. He pulls back a tarp, revealing a hard-hulled zodiac with two large motors on the back. Adam hooks the trailer to the back of a truck.

BLAKE

Jared is on his way. Let's get the boat in the water, he should be here by then.

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY

The swell and wind toss the lobster boat around like a toy in a bathtub.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT -CONTINUOUS

Water goes over the air intake, flooding the motor. The motor chokes and dies.

BOAT DECK -CONTINUOUS

Everyone feels the boat jerk and dies in the water.

JOHN

We are dead in the water. Once the batteries die, we won't have lights or comms.

The snow starts to hit the boat and the fishermen and swirl in the air.

KENT

We need to get our survival suits on.

Rushing to the wheelhouse, they open a cabinet pulling four bags out. Opening the bags, they pull their bright yellow survival suits out. They do this while being bashed by wind and waves.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared runs into the house, the front door BANGS against the wall. He grabs the car keys hanging on the hook beside the door.

Hearing the commotion, Alice comes out to investigate.

ALICE

What's going on?

Alice sees the look of worry on Jared's face.

ALICE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

JARED

Dad is in trouble.

ALICE

Go.

EXT. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

Jared's car skids into the parking lot, sliding through the skim of freshly fallen snow. He races out of his car towards the Boat Repair Shop.

INT. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

Blake and Adam are donning their survival suits. A survival suit is lying on the shop floor.

BLAKE

Get it on. We need your help, you know your father's trap line.

Jared stands stunned.

ADAM

Let's go! Time is ticking!

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY

Snow is falling heavily now, the swell is getting higher. Snow and ice are sticking to the boat, causing the boat to get heavier sinking it into the ocean.

WHEELHOUSE

BEARDED FISHERMAN

What are we going to do?

Kent and John look at each other.

KENT

Don't look at me...I was in the Army, not the Navy.

JOHN

We need to lose weight, start dumping traps overboard.

*

EXT. OPEN OCEAN -DAY -ESTABLISHING

The ocean is a mixture of waves, wind, sea spray and hard-driving snow.

The rigid-hulled zodiac is busting its way through the storm.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY**ALICE'S BEDROOM**

Alice sits staring out into the storm at her small reading table. The storm outside is getting worse, she can barely see the neighbour's house across the street.

In her hands is the same shiny black crucifix that she held at Gregory's funeral.

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -DAY

The Two Fishermen are throwing traps into the raging sea. A rogue wave smacks the side of the lobster boat. Sending the two fishermen headfirst into a pile of traps sitting on the deck.

The Bearded Fisherman is unconscious, while the other Fisherman has a severe gash on his head, spewing blood.

EXT. RIGID HULLED ZODIAC -DAY

The wind, waves and snow pound the small rescue boat. Slowly looking for the lobster boat and its crew.

BLAKE
(yelling into the wind)
We need to find them soon! It's
getting dark and they are probably
taking on too much water now!

Jared tries to look through the storm with a pair of binoculars.

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -DUSK

The bow of the boat is starting to rise out of the water, the stern is starting to sink.

Coming out of the wheelhouse, Kent doesn't see the two Fishermen.

Amongst the water and debris, he sees a bright yellow leg sticking out from behind the pile of lobster traps.

Kent runs back into the wheelhouse door.

KENT
I need help!

John and Kent run to the deck where the two Fishermen are lying. They pick the unconscious Fishermen up and carry him into the wheelhouse. They struggled with the ice and snow building up on the deck.

Kent goes back for the conscious fisherman, he slides quickly down towards the aft deck. Catching himself on the gunwale, almost diving into the sea.

Kent acts as a crutch for the fisherman with the severe head wound. They enter the wheelhouse.

WHEELHOUSE

Inside the wheelhouse, John is administering First Aid to the unconscious Fisherman. Kent approaches John, pulling some bandages out of the first aid kit.

KENT
How much longer do you think we
have before we go under?

JOHN
Not much longer, we will have to
deploy the life raft soon.

Kent starts bandaging the Fisherman's head wound.

The lights start dimming.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I will make a last S.O.S call
before we lose all power.

Before John can reach the radio.

RADIO (O.C.)
Wild Thing Too, this is Dartmouth
Coast Guard Station. We have a
chopper inbound to your last known
coordinates. Approximately thirty
minutes out. Over.

KENT
Thank God.

The lights in the cabin dim again and flicker.

EXT. RIGID HULLED ZODIAC -NIGHT

The Zodiac burst through the waves. Moving a bit slower with the buildup of ice and snow.

Jared is watching the horizon, the best he can through the darkness and the storm. He spots lights through the waves as they dim and flicker.

JARED
(pointing)
There! Two clicks that way!

The small boat speeds off the best it can towards the source of the lights.

EXT. LOBSTER BOAT -NIGHT

Kent is climbing onto the top of the wheelhouse. The lobster boat is starting to sink quickly now. Kent slips on the ice-covered rung of the ladder, he catches himself.

Getting to the top of the wheelhouse, he bear crawls to the white tube secured to the top of the boat. Undoing the two ratchet straps, he pulls the pin on the white tube.

The rescue raft explodes out of the tube. Kent pushes the raft down into the cold ocean below. Kent starts going back down.

John stands in the doorway to the wheelhouse, looking down at the water as it gets closer to the door. Kent wades through the water.

Grabbing a rope, Kent swims to the raft and gets in. John pulls the raft and Kent toward him. Kent gets out while John holds onto the raft.

The conscious fisherman climbs into the raft, he grabs the rope. John and Kent go into the wheelhouse.

WHEELHOUSE

John and Kent pick up the unconscious fisherman and head to the door. They set the man down and pull the raft back towards them.

They pick the fisherman up, the conscious fisherman grabs the unconscious fisherman under the arms and falls backwards.

This helps bring the unconscious fisherman into the life raft.

THUMP...THUMP...THUMP is heard in the background. Then a large light illuminates the boat. Overhead is a twin-prop helicopter. Two figures fall from the helicopter.

Two Coast Guard swimmers approach the raft.

YOUNG SARTECH
(yelling over the wind and
rotor wash)
Do you have any injured?

KENT
(to Sartech)
Yes! Two...One unresponsive and one
with a severe head wound!

VETERAN SARTECH
(over radio)
Send down the stokes basket and a
rope!

The ROARING of the Zodiac's twin motors is heard last minute as it approaches the scene.

John looks at the boat with Blake, Adam and Jared in it.

JOHN
(to Sartech)
You take these two! We will go with
them!
(pointing to the Zodiac)

The Veteran Sartech nods his head.

Series of Shots

-the unresponsive fisherman is being taken away in the Stokes basket.

-the responsive fisherman and Veteran Sartech's get hoisted up by a rope.

-the Young Sartech gets hoisted up by the rope as the helicopter flies away.

INT. RIGID HULLED ZODIAC -NIGHT

John and Kent crawl over the orange tubes into the boat.

Adam throttles the two large motors up and heads back to shore.

Behind them, John watches the boat completely sink.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE. -DAY

Jared is putting his suitcase into the car. Alice watches from the front step. Jared goes over to his mother.

JARED
I'll call when I land.

ALICE
Okay.

JARED
Are you going to get a Christmas tree soon?

ALICE
No, I have a small artificial tree that I will set up in the living room.

JARED
Oh...okay. I have to get going.

Jared looks at her.

ALICE
Give your Mother a hug.

Jared hugs her.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I miss you.

JARED
Miss you too.

EXT. MARINA -DAY

John is standing on the dock where his boat used to be tied up. Standing watching the waves and looking out to sea.

John takes a sip of water.

Jared is watching from his car. He gets out of his car and walks toward John.

JARED
On the hard stuff today?

John turns and looks at him.

JOHN
Been about fifteen years since I
touched alcohol.

JARED
So no booze at all then, that's
really good.

JOHN
Yeah...funny how you enjoy life
more when you don't wake up
throwing up.

JARED
I bet... I barely drink myself.
Even if I wanted to, don't have the
time.

The pair are staring out to sea.

JOHN
So all you do is work?

JARED
All work and no play...Now what?

JOHN
Well, wait for the insurance
adjusters to assess everything.
Hopefully, get enough for a new
boat and gear.

The pair walk out to the end of the pier.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Then hopefully the crew will want
to go back.

JARED
Do you want to go back? You could
retire.

JOHN
I don't know anything else.

JARED
I have to get going, have to catch
my flight.

JOHN

I have to go check on my man in the hospital...I would appreciate a call or two.

JARED

I would like that too.

John puts out his hand. Jared looks at it, he grabs his hand. Then gives him a big hug. They talk while hugging.

JOHN

It was really good seeing you.

JARED

Yeah, it was. Next time I come home, don't sink your boat to get my attention.

They laugh and part ways from their hug. John wipes tears from his eyes.

INT. JARED'S RENTAL CAR -DAY

Jared drives away from the marina. He looks in the rear-view mirror and sees his Dad standing on the pier.

John waves at him.

As he drives through town, he sees that the Pirates Lure has a for sale sign on it. He stops and looks at it for a few minutes. He then drives off.

Crossing the bridge that leads out of town, he pulls over.

EXT. FROZEN RIVER -DAY

Jared walks to the river's edge. Looking up at the branch with wear marks on it.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. RIVER -DAY

The memory is fuzzy.

Jared(8) and Gregory(10) are both swimming in the river.

GREGORY AGE 10

Do you want to try the tire swing,
Jay?

JARED AGE 8
I don't know I'm scared.

Gregory jumps up and hangs on the swing. He then brings it to shore.

GREGORY AGE 10
C'mon, nothing to be scared of.
Just swing, you don't have to jump.

Jared swims to shore.

He grabs the tire swing, hands shaking.

JARED AGE 8
Are you sure?

GREGORY AGE 10
Yeah, I'm sure. I'm here if you
swing back.

Jared puts his feet on the bottom of the tire swing, he closes his eyes.

GREGORY AGE 10 (CONT'D)
I'm going to let go now.

The grip on the rope tightens.

Gregory lets him go, and Jared swings out over the middle of the river. Jared doesn't let go, he swings back.

Gregory catches him.

GREGORY AGE 10 (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm going to do it one more
time, jump this time.

Jared nods his head. He shivers from fear, and his wet skin cools from the breeze.

He lets go of the tire swing, this time Jared lets go of the rope, and pushes himself off the tire.

His body is suspended in the air for a second, then splashes down in a cannonball.

Jared's head breaks the surface with a large smile on his face.

JARED AGE 8
That was fun!

Gregory is laughing.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. FROZEN RIVER. -DAY

Jared is smiling. He hears footsteps walking through the grass. He turns around, and it's Kent.

KENT

Saw you down here staring at the
old swinging tree.

JARED

Do you come down here much, Kent?

KENT

Every day in my head. I see they
cut the rope down.

Jared is crumpling snow into a ball in his hand, then he throws it against the ice.

JARED

About a week before Gregory died,
he taught me how to jump off the
tire.

KENT

He told me, you know, we were best
friends. I used to come to your
house all the time.

JARED

I remember. You loved my mother's
cookies, which everyone seems to
like but me.

Kent looks down.

KENT

They were good, not sure why you
don't liked them.

JARED

They were gross.

KENT

I think they tasted good because
they were homemade. My mother never
baked for me, she was too busy
swimming at the bottom of a bottle.

JARED

If you are trying to make me feel bad for you...

KENT

No, not trying to do that. I already know what I have done. Most civil talk we've had.

JARED

Can't say I had much to say to you.

KENT

I get that.

JARED

I see my Dad has forgiven you.

KENT

Yeah, did your Dad ever tell you what he did?

JARED

He gave you and those two other guys jobs.

KENT

When nobody else would.

JARED

The day Greg died...

Kent walks down through the snow and stands by Jared.

KENT

I don't like to talk about it much. But we were just goofing around. He was pretending to be Indiana Jones, and I was the bad guy. I play kicked him off the tire.

(beat)

I just remember him hitting the water, and he never came back up.

JARED

Police told my parents he hit his head underwater, knocking him out.

KENT

That changed so much for me, I couldn't imagine what it did to you.

JARED

I have spent so much time and energy hating you. Gregory would have wanted me to forgive you.

KENT

I want you to know that I'm sorry. I think about that day every day of my life.

JARED

I know man.

KENT

No you don't, Greg was such a good friend. I'm sorry.

JARED

I know...

KENT

So many times I almost killed myself...I'm sorry.

JARED

Dude...I know.

Kent turns to face Jared, tears are streaming down his face. Jared grabs Kent and hugs him.

Kent is heavily sobbing and repeating "I'm sorry" and Jared repeats "I know" every time. Kent calms himself after a moment. Jared lets him go.

The two stand there for a while. The wind picks up, snow swirls across the ice.

INT. JARED'S TORONTO APARTMENT. -DAY

The door is being unlocked from the outside. Jared, pulling his suitcase and an armload of mail, walks in.

His apartment is still sterile and clean. It's cold, in temperature and ambience, no love lives here.

Throwing a pile of mail on the living room table, he takes his suitcase into his bedroom.

He opens the small garden door to his balcony, the cold wintry air hits him in the face. He closes the door.

A slow-paced rock song starts playing over the scene.

Jared pours himself a glass of scotch and sits down. A montage of memories.

-Jared is playing cards with his mother in the hospital.

-Drinking at the pub, beer and eating chicken wings.

-Coffee with Emily.

-Playing ice hockey with the teenagers.

-At the public skate with Emily.

-His friends, Emily and Ben, are around the table laughing.

-Jared, Adam and Kent are rescuing John and the crew.

-at restaurant trying to get the head chef's approval, the head chef just shakes his head.

End Montage

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN

The song from the montage is still playing and slowly fades.

He is trying to get the head chef's approval.

Head chef tries something of Jared's, and he shakes his head. Bex looks at him with you will never get his approval.

Jared returns to his empty apartment. We get a feeling that Jared is no longer happy here. Looking at the door, nobody is knocking. The song fades out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SKATING RINK. -DAY

Emily and Ben walk into the skating rink. Ben was fully dressed in his hockey gear except for his skates. He carries his stick with a bag slung over his shoulder.

Holding a cup of coffee, they get near Blake and Adam, who are wearing matching tracksuits.

BLAKE

Hey Ben!

ADAM

Are you excited for your first day?

BEN
Yeah. Kind of.

BLAKE
We are in dressing room five.

Ben walks down the hall towards the dressing room.

ADAM
What happened? He was so excited
the other day.

EMILY
I don't know. I think he was hoping
Jared would be here.

BLAKE
Shit. He will come around once he
gets on the ice.

EMILY
I hope so. Is this just an hour?

ADAM
Yeah, we will be done around nine.

EMILY
Okay, I'm dropping him off at
Alice's house after, so I can go to
work.

BLAKE
Let's go get ready, bud.

Adam and Blake walk away to get ready for practice while
Emily drinks her coffee by the boards.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Emily drops Ben off so she can go to work. Ben saunters in.

ALICE
Hey buddy, how was hockey?

BEN
Good.

Ben goes into the house. Alice and Emily can only look at
each other.

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN.

Jared prepares an eggnog cheesecake. He calls over the head chef.

HEAD CHEF

What have you prepared for me,
Chef?

JARED

It's a egg nog cheesecake. A sprig
from a fir tree for garnish and
sugar cookie icing. Also, a
chocolate snowflake in the cake.

The Head Chef takes a bite of the cheesecake.

HEAD CHEF

The eggnog is overpowering, it
should be more subtle.

Jared stands looking at his perfect cake, and Bex is
eavesdropping.

JARED

You know what, fuck you.

The head chef turns and looks at Jared.

HEAD CHEF

What did you say?

JARED

You heard me. Fuck you! There is
nothing wrong with it, and you know
it.

HEAD CHEF

You have some fucking nerve. I went
to school in Paris. You trained
where again? Some Po Dunk
community college?

JARED

You're such a fucking prick. Go
fuck yourself, I quit.

He looks at Bex as he walks by her.

JARED (CONT'D)

(to Bex)

You're better than this place, stay
golden.

Jared, taking his coat off, throws it in the garbage.

HEAD CHEF

You won't be able to get a job
flipping fucking burgers in this
town by the time I'm done.

Jared walks away, raising his arm, his middle finger flipped up.

EXT. RESTAURANT -DAY

Jared is standing outside the restaurant. Looking around, he realizes he is just another face in a million faces.

Across the street for a second, he thinks he sees Gregory. A transit bus goes by, and he is gone.

Jared walks away.

INT. JARED'S TORONTO APARTMENT -NIGHT

Jared is sitting at his small kitchen table.

He is looking at his laptop, he is scrolling through a real estate site. He finds the listing for the Pirates Lure.

Opening his email, he sends an email to the listing agent. Slowly closes his laptop. He raises his cell phone to his ear.

EXT. PIRATES LURE -DAY

Blake and Adam are out cruising around in the beat-up Trans-Am. Driving by the Pirates Lure. They see a sold sign on the real estate sign.

ADAM

I wonder who bought that now?

BLAKE

I don't know, crazy timing with
tourist season over.

They keep driving by.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Alice walks out the front door oof her house. Emily is waiting in her car in the driveway. Alice gets into the car.

EXT. OCEANSIDE HIGHWAY -DAY -ESTABLISHING

A car drives along the coastal highway. The car drives by a sign that says "U-CUT CHRISTMAS TREES AHEAD".

The car turns down a dirt road.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

A hand moves the ceramic frog on the doorstep, revealing the house key under it.

The front door opens and then closes.

Emily's car turns into the driveway. Alice gets out holding a bag of groceries.

EMILY

Thanks again, Emily!

Alice walks up to the front door with her groceries in her hand. She sets them down and unlocks the front door, but there is no click of a lock.

ALICE

(talking to herself)

I thought I locked the door, hope
my mind isn't going.

Alice walks into the house. She starts walking to the kitchen.

JARED

Hey Mom.

ALICE

Hey honey.

Alice stops dead in her tracks and drops the grocery bags. Standing in her living room is Jared, stringing lights on a Christmas tree.

JARED

Need help with the groceries? Then
we can decorate the tree.

Jared and Alice are now decorating the Christmas tree.

ALICE

What made you decide this?

JARED

Tired of working for someone else whose approval I would never get. I got back to my apartment, and I missed everyone. Life was so quiet there and well boring.

INT. BOAT REPAIR BUILDING -DAY

Adam and Blake are sitting at their makeshift break table made from a pallet and an old wooden wire spool.

They are eating donairs and a cola. Their old beat-up stereo is on the workbench playing a country Christmas song. The pair are just staring into space.

Jared walks in and turns the music down.

JARED

Gents. What the fuck are you doing listening to that trash?

Both break their trance.

BLAKE

What...What the fuck you doing here?

JARED

Bought the Pirates Lure. Going to open it back up as a restaurant by the summer.

ADAM

Fucking eh. You're not getting rid of wing night though...

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT -DAY

Emily's apartment is small, but it is filled with love. There are toys, a stack of board games in the living room, and pictures of her and Ben on the walls.

Emily is in the kitchen doing some dishes. There is a knock at the door.

Emily dries her hands off, she walks over to answer it.

Opening the door stands Jared. She is shocked at first, then emotions take over.

EMILY
No...No, don't do this, Jared.

JARED
Don't do what?

EMILY
Don't come waltzing in here, then
in a month or two leave. In the
short amount of time Ben got
attached, I started developing
feelings.

Jared takes her by the hand.

JARED
I'm not going anywhere this time.
Like I told Mom, I got back, and my
life was empty. Everything in my
apartment felt cold and lonely.

He slides his hands around her waist.

JARED (CONT'D)
I was lost, I'm not anymore.

Jared pulls out of his pocket the fake, worn-out mistletoe
that was hanging in the tree by the pond.

He holds it above Emily's head. He looks into her eyes.

JARED (CONT'D)
Mistletoe is deadly if you eat it.

EMILY
A kiss...

Jared interrupts her by kissing her, their kiss is long and
passionate.

EMILY (CONT'D)
I have to go to work.

JARED
I will be at Mom's when you are
done.

Jared kisses her again.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Jared is whistling a Christmas carol. He walks by his Mothers
bedroom. He looks in.

ALICE'S BEDROOM

On the table overlooking the street is a small three-foot artificial Christmas tree.

On the tree are ornaments with Gregory's name and age on them. Under the tree is a red stocking with white fur trim on the top. In the red is GREGORY in gold glitter. Jared touches the stocking.

BEGIN FLASHBACK**INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY**

A Christmas tree sits in the living room fully lit up in the corner near the front window.

Jared(8) walks into the living room in his Christmas pyjamas. He looks at the gifts under the tree. The lights reflected off the bows and ornaments.

He scans the room and sees the stockings sitting on the couch filled to the top. He then sees Gregory's stocking hanging beside his last school picture.

Jared walks up to the photo and touches the red stocking with Gregory's name written in gold glitter. Some of the glitter comes off on his finger.

He turns to see Alice(30s) and John(30s) watching him.

JARED 8
Christmas is never going to be the
same!

He runs over and hugs his parents while crying.

END FLASHBACK**INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY**

Jared is looking out the window. He sees a school bus stop, and Ben trudges down the bus stairs.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

A big yellow school bus pulls up in front of the house. Ben saunters off the bus, his backpack on and lunchbox in his hand.

Alice is standing on the front step and greets him.

Jared is in the window looking down at the street.

BEN
Hi, Ms. Alice.

ALICE
Hello, Mr. Ben.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE -DAY

Ben and Alice walk into the house. Ben hangs his backpack on a hook by the door. He takes his shoes off.

ALICE
Do you have any homework?

BEN
No.

ALICE
Do you want a snack?

BEN
Do you have any of those cookies?

Jared comes walking down the stairs.

JARED
Want to help me check the outdoor lights while Ms. Alice makes us a snack?

BEN
Jared!

Ben runs and hugs him.

JARED
Let's go watch cartoons while Ms. Alice makes you a snack.

ALICE
No eating in the living room!

JARED
She's so mean!

EXT. SLEDDING HILL -NIGHT

Super: ONE YEAR LATER

People of all ages are sledding on a hill. Christmas lights, as well as floodlights, light up the hill.

Adam and Blake stand at the top of the hill holding GT Snow Racers.

Alice is watching Ben go down the hill on a Krazy Karpet.

ADAM
I haven't done this in years.

BLAKE
Forgot how fun this was...
(to Adam)
We should build a ramp!

ADAM
Hey Alice, did you bring any cookies?

Alice shakes her head in disbelief.

ALICE
In that tin over there.
(pointing to stump)
Don't eat them all!

Adam runs over to the stump that the tin is sitting on.

BLAKE
Where is Jared and Emily?

ALICE
They went out for dinner, said they will be here later.

John walks up the hill.

JOHN
Merry Christmas, Alice.

ALICE
Merry Christmas, John.

They give each other a friendly hug.

JOHN
Jared told me to stop by, I don't see him.

ALICE

Him and Emily should be here soon.
(sees Adam eating the
cookies)
Adam! Stop eating the cookies!

Adam looks like a little kid with his hand caught in the cookie jar. He closes the tin's lid, wiping the crumbs off his coat.

Jared and Emily park in the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. Jared takes an old wooden toboggan out of the back of his red pickup truck. The pair walk to the top of the hill.

BEN

Hey Mom! Watch this!

Ben runs and jumps on the crazy karpet, flying down the hill past her and Jared.

EMILY

Wow! That was fast!

Ben slows down to a stop at the bottom and stands up he catches up to Emily and Jared.

BEN

Adam put grease on it to make it go faster.

Jared laughs. Emily looks at Adam sternly.

ALICE

How was dinner?

JARED

It was nice to not be the one cooking for a change.

JOHN

What's up bud?

JARED

Was wondering if I could get some more lobster for the restaurant. We're fully booked for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

JOHN

You got it, Pontiac.

Emily can't hold her smile back any longer. She sticks her left hand out. An engagement ring sparkles under the Christmas lights.

ALICE

Oh my god! Congratulations.

Alice hugs them both.

JOHN

Congrats bud.

Ben walks up beside Emily.

BEN

Mom! Come sledding with me!

Jared smiles and lays the toboggan in the snow.

JARED

Let's go.

Ben, Jared, and Emily sit on the toboggan.

JARED (CONT'D)

Hey Dad, can you give us a push?

John puts his hands on Jared's back and pushes them down the hill.

Emily SCREAMS down the hill while Ben and Jared LAUGH.

When they get to the bottom, Jared turns and looks up the hill. He sees his parents standing and watching.

For a second, Jared sees Gregory standing between his parents. He smiles, then fades away.

Snow starts gently falling from the sky.

FADE OUT:

FIN.