

THE HAND OF GOD

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FARM COUNTRY - NIGHT

Rain dances across a secluded stream.

Out of nowhere, the water EXPLODES as an ELECTRIC CHAIR lands hard, dropped from the stormy sky above.

The chair sits upright in the rushing water, partially submerged and mangled, but surprisingly complete.

Next to the chair, a MAN floats face-down, motionless.

A prisoner, his right arm remains strapped tight to the bent arm of the chair, his orange jumpsuit reads: KANSAS DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS. It's torn and tattered, enough to reveal:

A SYMBOL on his forearm. Not just a scar, or a tattoo. It's unique - a combination of both, raised but darkened. The form: a tapered line with three thick hash marks.

What happened here was not survivable. And yet... LEVI bolts upright, gasps for breath. (We'll call him Levi, for now.) Late 30s, worn and scarred, he's hardened, but more than anything, he's weary.

He pulls himself up, slumps onto the seat of the chair.

The world around him is beat to shit, just like he is. Trees stand naked, stripped of their leaves. Debris litters the area, carried from homes destroyed who knows how far away.

The path of destruction is wide but Levi is unimpressed. He casually splashes a little water on his face, takes a sip.

Wincing with pain, he tugs at the leather strap binding his arm to the chair. A small padlock holds it in place, dangling beneath the arm of the chair.

He looks to the sky, contempt in his eyes.

A fist-sized stone, alone on the muddy bank and several feet away, catches Levi's eye.

He slowly drags the heavy chair to the water's edge. It's a massive effort that leaves him exhausted, and it still leaves the stone just out of reach.

Finally, with one massive burst of effort and a loud scream, he lunges for the rock. The chair lurches forward slightly and Levi slams his hand down, directly on the earthly mass.

A small victory, he laughs.

He grabs the stone and pulls himself back into the seat of the chair. He's out of the deeper water, the stream just below his knees.

He hits at the lock, but it only swings back and forth.

He draws the stone back and strikes with all available force. Unfortunately, he hits himself square on the wrist.

LEVI  
God damn it!

Levi tries to gather himself, shake off the pain.

LEVI  
That's it. I'm done. Find someone  
else to fuck with.

He drops the stone in the water, closes his eyes and lays his head back.

LEVI  
What do you say to that?

Something GROWLS. He's not alone. Levi opens his eyes.

A wolf emerges from the shadows. Big. Angry.

It paces the far bank, slowly creeps Levi's direction.

The wolf lunges, but can't reach Levi.

Panicked, Levi glances at the underwater rock. He fumbles with the lock.

LEVI  
Shit.

Levi takes a deep breath, and with another burst of painful energy, he rolls the chair over itself, upside-down, back into the deeper water.

The move leaves Levi is pinned under the chair, under water, but the lock now sits nicely against the chair's arm, facing the sky.

Unfortunately, he's also closer to the wolf, who lunges for Levi's ankle.

Levi kicks at the wolf as he desperately feels around the creek bed for the stone.

Finding it, he pounds on the lock.

It takes several strikes, but the lock finally breaks and falls away.

Still fending off the wolf, he fumbles at the leather strap until, mercifully, it releases him.

Out of breath and near panic, he slides out from under the chair and lunges frantically for air.

Emerging from the stream, he stands, face to face with the canine beast.

Levi takes a step back. The wolf advances.

LEVI  
I'm gonna walk away. You're gonna  
let me. Okay?

Levi very slowly takes another step backwards.

LEVI  
It's not like we have to be  
friends.

The wolf leaps at Levi, a whirl of teeth and claws.

The fight is vicious but Levi eventually gets the upper hand, grabs the wolf around the neck and falls on top of it, smothering his foe under water.

The wolf goes limp and Levi lets go -- letting the wolf's body float downstream and settle against a pile of debris.

Levi stands, stiffens. He looks to the sky, defiant.

LEVI  
Enough!

His resolve quickly melts and he flops back onto the bank.

LEVI  
Enough.

EXT. FARM COUNTRY - STREAM'S BANK - DAY

Levi, wrist in a homemade splint, places the final stone on the wolf's grave and limps to a nearby pile of debris, a wrap around his ankle, blood-soaked.

He finds a suitcase full of clothes. Not an exact fit, but close enough for him to ditch his prison garb. There's also enough material to make a quick sling for his right arm.

LATER

Levi wears a suit as he pulls the suitcase, searches the debris. He plucks a coffee mug from the pile. It reads: "WELCOME TO THE SHOW ME STATE."

He grabs a few canned goods, various other items, and fills the suitcase.

Satisfied, he walks on.

EXT. FARM COUNTRY - STREAM'S BANK - NIGHT

Levi snaps awake as raindrops sizzle in a campfire. He scrambles to gather the few things he owns, snuffs out the fire, best he can, and marches on.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

He crests a small hill. In the distance: a barn. Nearby lights. Just a few. He hustles that direction as the rain picks up.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

In the rain and darkness, Levi skirts the edge of the barn. Chickens clatter. Absentmindedly, he quiets them.

He finds a large door, partly open, and slips inside.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The loft is large. Dark. Dry. Rusty tools line one wall.

Small hay bales form large stacks. On the left, the bales nearly stretch to a window, just shy of the loft's peak.

Levi climbs.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi places the last bale in a line - a small wall to hide himself from anyone down below. A bale next to the window serves as a seat.

He looks out from the barn where the rain has stopped.

From his god-like perch, he sees a modest, two-story farmhouse across a small open space. A pond to his left, close to the barn. To his right, a chicken coop.

Empty fields surround the house and barn. In fact, aside from the chickens, there's no real evidence the farm is active.

Levi settles in for sleep.

INT. HAYLOFT - DAY

Sunlight washes over Levi as he sits next to the window.

He unwinds the bloodied cloth from his ankle. The wound is gruesome. He pulls a fresh cloth from the suitcase and carefully re-wraps the injury.

BANG! A shotgun blast rings out.

Levi instinctively ducks, then peeks out the window.

JORDAN, 30s, female, rounds the corner of the house toward a small garden. A large hat shields her face as she holds a shotgun in the air.

Even from a distance, she projects a certain independence. There's a strength to her gait.

JORDAN

Hey!

Levi leans forward as Jordan strides into the garden. A rabbit pops out the other end, but stops a few feet away.

She advances.

JORDAN

That's my lettuce. I planted it. I watered it.

The rabbit only stares.

JORDAN

Go home. Go.

BANG! Another shot to the sky.

When the cottontail still doesn't move, Jordan lowers the gun, reloads, takes aim.

Levi shakes his head.

LEVI  
 (to himself)  
 You're not going to shoot it.

Eventually, she drops the shotgun and charges, arms flailing.

JORDAN  
 Yaaaaaaaaah!

The rabbit hops to the safety of nearby bushes. Jordan retrieves the shotgun and returns to the house.

Levi, laughing, leans back.

LEVI  
 He'll be back.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The house lights glow in the night.

Down the driveway, headlights pierce the darkness. A vehicle stops and the headlights snap off.

A MAN slips out of a pickup truck, quietly closes the door, and, cloaked in darkness, sneaks toward the house.

INT./EXT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi, on alert, leans forward, watches out the window.

The man carries something long and skinny. It's hard to tell with the darkness.

He approaches the farmhouse, slides around to a side window, peeks inside.

The man edges to a nearby riding MOWER and crouches next to it. He's not there long.

He sneaks back to the front of the house, to the front door, where he places the item on the porch, rings the doorbell and runs back to the truck.

Levi watches as the house door opens.

The light from inside splashes the front porch. Jordan reaches down, picks up a large batch of flowers, her face hidden by the shadows. She smells the flowers.

Levi leans back as she looks around. He watches Jordan retreat back into the house, flowers in hand.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi examines a can of beans. Outside, a chicken clucks, catching Levi's attention. He tosses the can of beans aside.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

Levi edges to the pen's gate and quietly opens it.

As a hen struts closer, Levi leans out.

LEVI

Aren't you a pretty bird? So plump  
and juicy.

When he's close enough, he snatches it.

In one quick motion he grabs its head and swings the chicken in a large circle, like a softball pitcher throws a fastball. The chicken is killed instantly.

He tucks the dead chicken under his arm, reaches into the coop and grabs a few eggs.

He doesn't see the car turn into the driveway behind him.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A police car rolls toward the darkened house.

The car creaks to a stop and the SHERIFF, 50s, grunts as he pulls himself from the aging cruiser. He's a country sheriff, with a roundness to his stature and demeanor.

He ambles toward the house, but before he can get there, a disturbance in the chicken pen catches his attention.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

The Sheriff, flashlight in hand, investigates.

The light from the flashlight sweeps the area, just barely missing Levi as he dives into the coop.

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

Levi lies facedown on the floor, amidst a mix of feathers, hay and poop.



The light of the flashlight peeks through the cracks between the boards of the chicken coop walls. Levi holds his breath as tiny streams of light wash over him.

At his feet, near the slightly-open door, the dead chicken is lit by a shaft of moonlight. Levi uses his foot to gently slide it into nearby darkness.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

The Sheriff, satisfied, turns off the flashlight. As he does, the chicken coop door flaps open in the wind, banging hard against the side of the coop.

The Sheriff snaps the flashlight back on and opens the pen gate. As he presses into the pen, a hand grabs his shoulder. He quickly spins, his free hand reaching for his holster.

The Sheriff blinds the offender with the light of the flashlight. He instantly recognizes Jordan.

JORDAN

I didn't mean to startle you.

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

Levi gets a quick glance at Jordan through the cracks of the chicken coop. Still, he can't see her face.

He presses closer to the side of the coop, fights to get a better look through the boards.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

The Sheriff gathers himself.

SHERIFF

You got me pretty good.

He points to the chickens.

SHERIFF

Something's got 'em all agitated.

JORDAN

We've been a little distracted.  
They should be in the coop.

SHERIFF

Bunch of wolf sightings over the  
last few weeks.

Jordan steps into the pen and scoops up a chicken.

JORDAN  
I'm guessing you didn't come out to  
talk chickens.

Without looking, she tosses the chicken into the coop.

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

A chicken lands next to Levi. He gently pushes it away,  
fighting not to cough.

SHERIFF (O.S.)  
I don't know how to say it, so I'm  
just gonna be straight.

EXT. CHICKEN PEN - NIGHT

Jordan smiles an uncomfortable smile.

JORDAN  
Uh, oh.

SHERIFF  
There's talk in town.

She rounds up another chicken.

JORDAN  
I've never known you to get caught  
up in gossip.

Jordan blindly tosses the bird into the coop.

SHERIFF  
I wouldn't say anything. But,  
you've been good to me and mine. I  
think you should know.

The Sheriff steps in to help wrangle the last chicken.

SHERIFF  
Nate's gonna foreclose.

The Sheriff scoops up the bird.

SHERIFF  
Soon.

The Sheriff carries the chicken toward the coop, but Jordan,  
agitated, takes it from him.

JORDAN  
I can handle this.

She tosses the chicken into the coop.

SHERIFF  
Nate's a good man. You give him a  
reason to think things will change,  
he'll hold off.

The two close the pen and walk toward the cruiser. The Sheriff fights to break the awkwardness of the moment.

SHERIFF  
You take any damage? From the  
storm?

JORDAN  
Haven't found any.

SHERIFF  
You want me to come out tomorrow? I  
can walk the fence line. Twister  
comes that close --

Her agitation grows.

JORDAN  
I can handle it.

SHERIFF  
I didn't mean anything by it. It's  
just -- you're out here alone --

JORDAN  
I've got my son.

SHERIFF  
Of course -- I --

INT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT

Levi, still unable to see her face, watches intently as Jordan pulls the Sheriff in for a neighborly hug.

JORDAN  
I appreciate it. I do.

The Sheriff slides into the cruiser.

SHERIFF  
You need anything...

Jordan nods.

When the Sheriff drives away, Jordan slumps in the shadows of the front stoop. Her shoulders shake as she sobs.

INT./EXT. CHICKEN COOP - NIGHT - LATER

Levi rolls over, peers through the cracks of the chicken coop. Jordan is gone. The house is quiet. The lights are off.

Levi crawls out, dead chicken in one hand, eggs in the other. He heads for the loft.

Before he can get there, a GUN BARREL juts from the darkness and presses against his temple.

Levi freezes.

ISAAC (O.S.)  
Get off my land.

The voice is young. Very young.

Levi slowly turns while stepping back.

LEVI  
Easy now.

ISAAC, 10, fresh-faced and puffed up, steps out of the darkness, gun raised. He wears a BALL CAP, pulled down tight.

Levi's expression instantly changes as weariness and dread sweep over him. He drops to his knees.

LEVI  
Isaac?

ISAAC  
How do you know my name?

Levi looks to the sky. He's rattled.

LEVI  
Leave him out of this.

ISAAC  
Put 'em down.

Levi sets the items on the ground.

ISAAC  
What's your name? And, don't you lie to me. I'll know.

LEVI  
My name's Jacob.

Levi, hands shaking, gently pushes the gun barrel aside.

Isaac digs in. He swings the gun back at Levi, aiming square for his midsection.

ISAAC  
You're lying. Get off my farm.

Levi points to the barn.

LEVI  
I'll just grab my things.

Levi stands. Isaac panics, pulls the trigger. PFFT. It's an odd sound. A rush of air.

Levi looks at his stomach. No damage.

Isaac drops the BB gun and runs back to the house. On the way, the ball cap flutters off his head. Levi watches the boy disappear into the house, then picks up the cap.

He grabs the gun and hurries back to the loft.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi quickly packs his very few belongings into the suitcase.

LEVI  
You selfish son of a bitch. This is  
between you and me.

Levi looks at the gun. He aims, pulls the trigger. PFFT. He tosses it into the corner.

He grabs Isaac's cap, looks it over. Smells it.

It's a loving gesture, full of longing.

Outside, the screen door SLAMS.

Levi quickly stuffs the cap in his coat pocket and pulls the zipper on the suitcase to close it. It sticks.

He glances out the window.

Jordan marches toward the barn. The shotgun in her hand is most certainly real.

Leaving the suitcase, he jumps down the bales and runs for the door. Just as he gets there, Jordan presses in, shotgun raised at his chest.

They slowly circle as he creeps toward the door. Levi stares, searching her determined but frightened face.

LEVI

I'm leaving. I promise.

She lowers the gun, slightly.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Levi sprints across a field as the lights of the farm fade into the background.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

A small town main street. Pickup trucks. Plaid shirts. Muddy jeans. Cracked sidewalks.

An exhausted Levi slogs into town.

Finding a bench, he plops down, reaches into his pocket, and retrieves the ball cap.

With his thumbs, he gently pushes at the curve of the bill. He runs his fingers around the stitching.

Up the street, a small car coughs to a stop outside the Post Office, catching Levi's attention. Probably twenty years old, whatever color the vehicle used to be, it's rust colored now.

Alone in the car, ADAMS, mid 30s, picks at a pile of mail. Relatively untouched by life, Adams is a man in transition, evidenced by his slightly mismatched, wrinkled clothing.

He chooses one or two envelopes, sets the rest aside and reaches for the car door.

Before he can get out, a large pickup truck pulls up, bumping the car from behind.

SAUL, 30s, hops out of the truck. With a confidence matching his large size, and without so much as a glance around, he saunters into the Post Office.

Adams calmly starts the car and pulls it forward a few feet. He slides out of the car, checks the back bumper, then heads for the Post Office, mail in hand.

As Adams approaches the door, it swings open and Saul, looking down at a pile of mail, pushes out. Rather than hold the door for Adams, Saul lets it swing closed.

Saul brushes past Adams as Adams, trying hard to ignore him, disappears into the Post Office.

Saul reaches inside Adams' car and pops the hood.

Saul briefly messes with the engine, drops the hood, and jumps into his truck.

As Saul peels down the street, Levi calmly stuffs the ball cap in his pocket and leans back.

He glances to the Post Office, where Adams, having dropped off his mail, walks back to his car.

Adams tries to start the car, but the rust bucket won't cooperate. Reluctantly, Levi walks to him.

LEVI  
Pop the hood.

ADAMS  
I'm all right. Thank you.

LEVI  
Just pop it.

Adams does.

Levi tinkers a bit, motions for Adams to start the car.

When it starts right up, Levi closes the hood and walks away, in the opposite direction from where he entered town.

Adams jumps out of the car and chases after him.

ADAMS  
I'd like to say thank you.

Levi doesn't slow down.

LEVI  
You just did.

ADAMS  
How about lunch? You look hungry.

Adams fights to keep up.

ADAMS  
A few bucks to help you along?

Levi stops.

LEVI  
How far to the nearest town?

Adams looks back, points.

ADAMS  
Eight, ten miles.

LEVI  
Nearest town, not that direction?

ADAMS  
That'd be Columbia. Probably thirty miles. Straight out this road, take a right after the bridge.

LEVI  
There you go. We're even.

Levi walks away.

LATER

Levi, having reached the edge of town, passes a tavern.

In the back, a WORKER unloads supplies from a truck. He wheels cases of liquor into the building.

After the door closes, Levi slinks to the truck and peeks inside. He sees booze. Lots of it.

He quickly fills his pockets, only stopping long enough to chug a bit of the hard stuff.

INT. STOPGAP BEDROOM - DAY

Still-unpacked moving boxes line one wall of what looks to be a converted office.

There's a mini-fridge in a makeshift corner kitchen and piles of dirty laundry scattered about.

A TV CHIRPS in the corner.

TV REPORTER  
The tornado, which first touched down in Kansas, cut a 150-mile path of destruction across Missouri before dissipating near the town of Moberly.



TV REPORTER (CONT'D)

It's believed to be the longest recorded tornado track since the infamous 1925 Tri-State tornado covered 174 miles, killing 695. While not as deadly, last weekend's storm killed seventeen and left countless others homeless.

Levi pulls himself awake, sits up in bed, and tries to rub the pain from his temples.

TV REPORTER

One of the stranger stories to emerge from the catastrophe, that of a missing death row inmate, scheduled for execution just as the tornado struck a Lansing, Kansas prison. Wanted for murder, but presumed dead, the prisoner remains the subject of a multi-state search.

FBI SPOKESPERSON

This was a powerful storm that killed, among others, four of our finest. While we're certain that this individual could not have survived, we are asking --

Levi snaps the TV off.

On top of a box next to his bed, a note catches his attention: "V-8 IN THE FRIDGE." Next to the note, a bottle of Aspirin and a glass of water.

Levi grabs a few pills and quickly downs them.

He checks his pocket. The ball cap is still there.

He limps over, grabs a T-shirt.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Levi shuffles down a short, institutional-feeling hallway, carrying the T-shirt.

He spies a men's room.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - DAY

Levi splashes water on his face. Then, using his finger, he brushes his teeth.

He grabs the T-shirt, holds it up. On the front of the shirt, a cartoon character gives a big thumbs up. Over its head, the words: "GOD IS GREAT!"

Levi rips the T-shirt into several long pieces.

He pulls off his own shirt. Like the rest of him, his back and chest are scarred. He wets the T-shirt remnants and cleans himself up.

Grabbing the last remnant, he limps into a stall, props his foot on the toilet and unwraps his ankle.

Already, the healing is evident. It looks considerably better. Unusually so.

He rewraps the ankle with the fresh cloth and tosses the bloody rag into the trash.

Levi pulls his shirt on, runs his fingers through his hair and heads out.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Levi hears muffled voices as he approaches a closed door.

Pressing in, he listens. One voice is familiar.

ADAMS (O.S.)

And so God says, ask and it will be given unto you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. He says it three different ways in one verse. Ask. Seek. Knock. He will answer.

TOM (O.S.)

Amen.

ADAMS (O.S.)

I think that's a great place to finish. So, go. Ask. Seek. Knock.

Several people file out of the room, Bibles in hand. Among them is an older gentleman, TOM, 60s, who walks with Adams.

TOM

You doing okay, Reverend?

ADAMS

Settling in, I guess.

Adams sees Levi.

ADAMS  
You look better this morning.

LEVI  
This is your church?

ADAMS  
Humble as it is.

LEVI  
How did I -- ?

ADAMS  
-- Tom found you last night. Passed  
out on the church doorstep.

TOM  
For the record, I don't think you  
look any better today.

Tom turns to Adams.

TOM  
Remember. People are like cats. If  
you feed them, they'll never leave.

Tom winks at Levi, then pats Adams on the shoulder.

TOM  
We'll catch up later.

He heads out as Adams leads Levi down the hall.

LEVI  
It's been twenty years since I  
drank like that.

ADAMS  
You must've been a hard-charging  
twelve-year-old.

LEVI  
I'm older than I look.

Adams motions to an office.

ADAMS  
I've got some phone calls. Just  
make yourself at home. There's some  
food in my room, but you might have  
to search for it. I'm a bit  
disorganized right now.

Adams ducks into the office, leaving Levi to himself.

INT. CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

A large wooden cross hangs on a dingy white wall.

A crumpled wrapper bounces off of it, landing near several others just like it.

Levi sits in the first row of pews. He unwraps a fresh breakfast sandwich.

It's a simple church, the cross behind the lectern the only item with any real presence.

LEVI  
Seventeen people?

Disgusted, he tosses the wrapper at the cross.

From the back of the room, a voice startles him.

ADAMS  
You're talking about the tornado.

Adams clutches a Bible, tightly, in one hand.

ADAMS  
You want to know why bad things happen to good people.

Levi turns to him.

LEVI  
Good, bad, indifferent. Those people were neutral. Your god is a real son of a bitch, Reverend.

ADAMS  
So he's not your god?

LEVI  
He took my livelihood. He took my family. Then, he took my only means of escape. So, yeah, fuck him.

Adams picks up Levi's crumpled wrappers, sits next to Levi.

ADAMS  
I'd ask you to be more respectful, please.

LEVI  
You talk to God?

ADAMS  
Every day.

LEVI  
Me, too. He ever talk back?

ADAMS  
Every day.

LEVI  
Bullshit.

Levi grabs the Bible, holds it behind his back.

LEVI  
Now listen. What do you hear?

ADAMS  
I --

Levi waves him off, listens intently.

Adams fidgets in the silence, until finally, Levi tosses the Bible back to him.

LEVI  
Nothing.

ADAMS  
I feel Him, His presence.

LEVI  
Not good enough.

Adams cocks his head, unsure of a response.

LEVI  
You know the difference between you  
and me? You believe God exists. I  
know He does.

Levi stands.

LEVI  
That's the problem.

He walks out.

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE - NIGHT

Rev. Adams writes at his desk.

Levi saunters in, clearly bored. He grabs a chair, leans back and props his feet on the Reverend's desk.

LEVI

What are you working on?

ADAMS

This week's sermon. On baptism. I can share if you're interested.

Levi laughs.

LEVI

Pass.

ADAMS

Are you baptized? We could --

Levi waves him off.

LEVI

-- I can't be saved. You have a family?

Adams hesitates. His eyes instinctively dart to an overturned photo on his desk. He moves to change the subject.

ADAMS

I don't even know your name. Most people call me Reverend. Or, Reverend Adams. But, my --

LEVI

-- Call me whatever you want. I've had a lot of names.

Levi reaches for the photo.

ADAMS

Please don't.

Levi studies Adams' face, withdraws his hand. Adams snatches the photo and drops it in his desk drawer. Levi doesn't see it, but the photo is of a smiling Jordan and Isaac.

LEVI

Aw, you fucked it up, didn't you, Reverend?

ADAMS

I wouldn't put it exactly that way, but --

LEVI  
-- But you fucked it up.

ADAMS  
I'd like to talk about you.

Adams pulls out a vial of water.

ADAMS  
We don't even have to go into the  
sanctuary.

Levi stands, ready to escape.

LEVI  
No thanks.

Adams backtracks, setting the vial on the desk. He motions  
Levi to stay.

ADAMS  
I won't push. Promise.

Levi leans in.

LEVI  
What'd you do? Screw around?

Adams sighs, surrenders to the conversation.

ADAMS  
My wife kicked me out.  
(off Levi's look)  
For being jealous.

It's muted and introspective, but Levi laughs.

LEVI  
Jealousy will kill you every time.

Levi picks up the vial of water. He casually flips it while  
the conversation continues.

ADAMS  
She told me not to come back until  
I can trust her.

LEVI  
So go back.

ADAMS  
I don't know if I can.

LEVI  
She's probably testing you.

Levi holds the water in the air for closer examination.

LEVI  
Doesn't look holy.

Adams reaches for the vial, but Levi pulls it back.

ADAMS  
Aren't you afraid?

LEVI  
Of what? Death?

Levi unscrews the cap from the vial.

LEVI  
I used to be afraid of death. Now  
it's just the dying that makes me  
nervous. Let me tell you, that  
hurts.

He smells the water, then drinks it.

LEVI  
But, death? I'd welcome it.

Levi stands, drops the empty vial into the trash can.

LEVI  
Your jealousy, or your wife. You  
can only love one.

He walks out.

INT. CHURCH - STOPGAP BEDROOM - NIGHT

Levi snaps awake to a bright light. The clock on the wall shows 2 a.m. But, Adams is up, dressed and full of energy.

ADAMS  
Sorry. Had to find my shoes.

Adams turns the main light off, flips on a smaller light. He pulls on his shoes.

LEVI  
Going out for a night of drinking  
and drugging, Reverend?



ADAMS  
What? No, I --

LEVI  
-- I'm kidding. You've got Bible  
college written all over you.

Levi rolls over to sleep.

LEVI  
You're going back to her.

ADAMS  
I've got to try. I love her.

LEVI  
You left her. It'll be harder now.

ADAMS  
In my defense, she told me to  
leave.

LEVI  
And you did.

Adams clicks off the light, stands in the doorway.

ADAMS  
You're welcome to stay. At least  
until you heal up.

LEVI  
I'm a fast healer.

ADAMS  
Whatever you need.

Adams closes the door.

LEVI  
I doubt that.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

An old tire swing hangs from a tree along the banks of a  
country stream. On the bridge above, a hiker. It's Levi. The  
splint on his hand and the limp in his gait are both gone.

About halfway across, he spots the swing.

EXT. STREAM BANK - DAY

Levi, climbing the tree, reaches the rope and unties it. The tire and rope drop to the edge of the stream.

Levi climbs down and takes the rope.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Levi stands on the edge of the bridge, outside of the main metal structure. The rope is now tied to two places: one end to a METAL HANDRAIL on the bridge, the other around his neck.

LEVI

I don't care what you do with me  
after. Just let me go.

He takes a deep breath, looks to the sky.

LEVI

You understand? I'm asking.

Levi leans forward, plummets toward the creek. The rope snaps tight. He instinctively struggles as he swings back and forth, below the bridge.

On the bridge above him, the handrail gives way. Levi drops fast, landing hard in the middle of the stream.

LATER

Soaked, Levi sits in a puddle on the edge of the bridge, legs dangling. Fresh rope burns ring his neck.

Frustrated, he reaches over to the handrail, now just a metal bar which juts, bent and broken, from the bridge structure. He bends the metal bar until it snaps completely off, and angrily tosses it aside.

LEVI

Word of God, my ass.

Down the road, movement catches Levi's eye. A police car rounds a bend, heading for the bridge.

MINUTES LATER

Saul, in full deputy's uniform, stands on the bridge, looking out over the stream, police cruiser parked behind him.

Directly below him, under the bridge, Levi hangs from a deck support. Mere feet apart, neither man can see the other.

While Levi strains to maintain his grip, a stream of yellow liquid trickles inches from his face as Saul relieves himself into the water below.

Finished, Saul zips his fly. He turns to leave, but notices the broken handrail. He looks around. The puddle of water. The metal bar. The tire swing on the bank.

Saul leans over, looks into the stream below. He still can't see Levi struggling to hang on.

Finally, Saul turns and climbs back into the car. Hearing him drive off, Levi drops into the creek below.

LATER

Levi climbs from the stream's bank, resumes his hike.

Almost immediately a car pulls up. Reverend Adams.

ADAMS

What'd you do? Go for a swim?

Levi keeps walking as Adams rides alongside.

ADAMS

Hop in. I'll give you a lift.

LEVI

No thanks.

ADAMS

Come on. I'll be on this road for about ten miles. That's ten miles closer to the next town.

Levi stops. Thinks about it.

ADAMS

I won't try to save you.

Levi gets in.

INT. CAR - DAY

Adams' car is a wreck. The only thing keeping the interior of this car together might well be the exterior.

Adams is deep in thought as Levi picks at the glove box door.

The Reverend glances over.

ADAMS

I wouldn't --

The door falls off in Levi's hands. He tries to replace it, with no success.

ADAMS

Just toss it in the back.

LEVI

Sorry.

They continue in silence until Adams can't take it.

ADAMS

She took me back.

LEVI

I figured.

ADAMS

You were right. She's more distant.  
I don't know how to show her --

LEVI

-- You're not going to share, are you? 'Cause I'd almost rather you try to save me.

More silence. But, this time it's Levi that breaks it.

LEVI

It's a crock, you know.

Adams doesn't.

LEVI

You said, ask and you will receive.  
I didn't receive.

ADAMS

Maybe you just didn't like the answer.

LEVI

So, it's more like, ask and I'll do what I want anyway?

ADAMS

No. It's just, God has a plan --

Adams' cell phone RINGS. The Reverend looks at the display.

ADAMS  
You mind?

LEVI  
I'd prefer it.

Adams reluctantly answers the phone.

ADAMS  
Hello.  
(he cocks his head)  
I'll be there as soon as I can.  
(hangs up)  
Hang on.

The Reverend swings a big U-turn, using every inch of shoulder on both sides of the road. The move is aggressive and no doubt tests the limits of the car's capabilities.

It also tests the limits of Levi's fear.

LEVI  
Holy shit, Reverend.

He steadies himself as they bounce back onto the road and the car grinds its way to uncomfortable speeds.

LEVI  
Is this thing going to hold together?

ADAMS  
I don't know. I've never gotten it over fifty-two before.

LEVI  
Jesus.

Adams smiles.

ADAMS  
I've already got you praying.

EXT./INT. CAR - DAY

Adams yanks the car hard left, kicking up rocks as he hits a gravel driveway.

Levi looks up. Their destination is straight ahead.

LEVI  
Shit.

EXT. FARM - DAY

The car pulls to a screeching halt and Adams jumps out. Levi lingers, but eventually, reluctantly, he exits the car.

Nearby, an electric company truck idles. But, everyone's focus is on BILL, 50s, the utility worker in the tree, and the woman below.

Jordan, baseball bat in hand, is hopping mad and she's giving a full verbal volley to the poor treed electrician.

JORDAN

I have a son. How am I supposed to cook him dinner? Is this what your company stands for?

Adams gently nudges Isaac to the side and approaches Jordan - very carefully.

ADAMS

You need to calm down.

JORDAN

He turned it off. There's no electricity.

BILL

She's lost it, Reverend.

Jordan continues to work over her defenseless victim.

JORDAN

I told you I'd pay. I'll pay. You don't believe me? Are you calling me a liar?

BILL

I'm just doing my job.

Adams agrees.

ADAMS

Bill's just doing his job.

JORDAN

We're just trying to get by, like everyone else. But, you don't care, do you? You're just going about your day, jumping from farm to farm, happily turning off --

Finally, a loud voice pierces the moment. It's firm. It's authoritative. It's effective.

LEVI  
-- Jordan!

She freezes. Turns. Levi strides to her.

LEVI  
Let him down. Now.

He softens.

LEVI  
The only thing that's going to come  
from this, is you're going to feel  
really bad about it later.

It's nearly imperceptible, but she nods.

As Levi gently takes the bat from Jordan, he looks up at the  
worker in the tree.

LEVI  
Go.

Bill jumps down, scrambles to his truck and drives away.

Levi flips the bat, pushes it to Isaac.

LEVI  
(to Jordan)  
You're going to figure this out.

Levi returns to the car and hops back into the passenger  
seat. He impatiently hits the side of the car.

LEVI  
Let's go, Reverend.

Rev. Adams doesn't move, stunned by the moment. Levi leans  
over, HONKS the horn, very anxious to leave.

LEVI  
Come on.

Finally, Adams approaches the car.

ADAMS  
How do you know my wife's name?

Now it's Levi who's stunned.

LEVI  
Your wife?

He drops his head.

Levi punches the dash, then calmly gestures to Adams.

LEVI  
You promised me a ride.

Adams turns to his family, motions them inside the house.

ISAAC  
That's the guy.

Adams waves Isaac on and slides into the car with Levi.

INT. CAR - DAY

Levi stares out the window.

ADAMS  
So, you know my wife?

LEVI  
You could say that.

Adams doesn't like that answer.

ADAMS  
How?

Levi turns to Adams.

LEVI  
Rather than play this whole thing  
out, let's just agree to stop it  
right here. Right now.

ADAMS  
What are you talking about?

Levi grows frustrated.

LEVI  
I'm talking about the fact that God  
is punishing me, and it's the  
people around me who pay the price.  
I'm talking about telling God that  
He's finally gone too far. I'm  
talking about saying no. For once.

He struggles to keep it together.

LEVI  
Please. Just, turn the key. Drive  
me out of here.



ADAMS

I need to know how you know Jordan.

LEVI

I'm not here to steal your wife.  
Okay? The only thing I want -- the  
only thing -- is to die.

Levi gathers himself.

LEVI

Right now, I'll settle for a ride  
to Columbia.

Adams stares, deep in thought. Finally, he gestures to the  
rope burns on Levi's neck.

ADAMS

Would you like to talk about -- ?

LEVI

-- Fine. I'll walk.

He reaches for the door. The handle snaps off in his hand.

LEVI

Son of a bitch, Reverend. Would it  
kill you to buy a new car?

Defeated, Levi slumps forward, rests his head on the dash.

ADAMS

Why don't you stay the night? We'll  
get you a couple of good meals and  
a good night's sleep. Then I'll  
drive you all the way to St. Louis  
tomorrow. I promise.

Levi gently bangs his head on the dash, thinking. Finally, he  
hands the door handle to Adams.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A small flame flickers in the dimly lit dining room.

Levi and Isaac sit at a fully dressed table, surrounded by  
half-melted candles. Isaac glares at Levi. Levi takes it.

Adams and Jordan whisper in the adjacent kitchen, but not  
quiet enough.

ADAMS (O.S.)  
I went straight there and came  
straight back.

KITCHEN

Adams unpacks several takeout bags. Jordan plates the food.

JORDAN  
Well he hasn't said a word since  
you left. It's creepy, the way he  
looks at me.

DINING ROOM

Levi, embarrassed, smiles awkwardly at the glaring Isaac.

KITCHEN

The disagreement continues.

ADAMS  
It's one night.

JORDAN  
Whose idea was that?

ADAMS  
I'm not real comfortable with this  
either, but I feel like God wants  
me to help him somehow.

JORDAN  
We can barely afford to feed  
ourselves.

ADAMS  
What do you want me to do? Ignore  
every sermon I've ever given?

JORDAN  
What I want is for you to take care  
of your family. He makes me  
uncomfortable. Isaac, too.

ADAMS  
He needs help. I think he tried to  
kill himself.

Jordan relents, just a bit.

JORDAN  
I don't want him sleeping in the  
house.

ADAMS

He already insisted on sleeping in the barn.

JORDAN

Fine.

ADAMS

Seems he doesn't want to be around you any more than you want to be around him.

Jordan shoots Adams a look, angrily plops food onto a plate.

ADAMS

I don't mean anything by it. It's just, he knew your name. And Isaac's.

JORDAN

I told you I don't know him. And, I told you, I'm done answering these questions. You either believe me, or you don't.

Adams relents, pulls Jordan close.

ADAMS

I believe you. I do. I'm just trying to make sense of it all.

He kisses her. She softens ever so slightly.

ADAMS

I'm sorry. I'll do better.

JORDAN

Let's just get through the evening.

Finished prepping the meal, they grab the plates, put on fake smiles and head for the dining room.

DINING ROOM

They all pick at their food in awkward silence.

Feeling Jordan looking at the marks on his neck, Levi pulls his collar higher.

Embarrassed, Jordan tries to make conversation.

JORDAN

My husband didn't introduce you.

Levi glances around.

LEVI  
Call me Levi. Like the jeans.

This doesn't sit well with Isaac.

ISAAC  
His name's not Levi.

JORDAN  
(scolding)  
Isaac.

ISAAC  
He told me it was Jacob.

Isaac looks at Levi.

LEVI  
That's true.

ISAAC  
I knew you were lying.

ADAMS  
Isaac, that's enough.  
(to Levi)  
Would you rather we call you Jacob?

LEVI  
Call me whatever you want.

ISAAC  
How about a liar and a thief?

JORDAN  
Isaac, you'll treat our guest with  
respect, or you'll go upstairs.

Isaac accepts the deal, storms out.

ADAMS  
I'm sorry.

LEVI  
He forgot murderer.

Jordan and Adams exchange uncomfortable glances.

LEVI  
I killed a chicken, remember?

His comment does little to ease the tension.

JORDAN  
So, Levi. Do you have a wife?

LEVI  
No.

JORDAN  
So, no kids?

Levi drops his fork, stands.

LEVI  
If you don't mind, I'd rather eat  
in the barn.

Adams nods reluctant approval.

LEVI  
I appreciate the hospitality.

Levi takes the plate, turns to leave. He stops at the door.

LEVI  
For the record, my family is dead.

He walks out.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

A fly buzzes around Levi's empty dinner plate.

Levi looks out from the hayloft window. The moon is bright.  
The sky is clear.

The screen door SLAMS.

As Rev. Adams approaches the barn, Levi leans his head back  
in resignation.

The hayloft door groans open and Adams calls out from below.

ADAMS (O.S.)  
Can I come up? I've got pie. Apple.

LEVI  
We both know you're coming up, no  
matter what I say.

Adams laughs.

ADAMS  
That's true.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Adams and Levi sit, talking, in the glow of the moonlight that washes in from the window. Levi is nearly finished with his pie.

ADAMS

She's sending him an apology pie.

Levi laughs.

ADAMS

The look on that poor electrician's face. He thought she was going to kill him.

LEVI

I know I did.

When the laughter dies, Levi turns serious.

LEVI

Let's get this over with.

ADAMS

What?

LEVI

You came up here to save me. Last chance and all, with me leaving tomorrow.

ADAMS

I'm a Reverend. It is what I do.

LEVI

Well, you're too late. God judged me guilty long ago. Rightly so, I guess, since I killed a man. Three, actually.

Adams is a bit rocked by the statement. He gathers himself.

ADAMS

He hasn't judged you, yet. You're still here.

LEVI

I'm still here because that's God's punishment.

ADAMS

What are you saying?

LEVI

I'm saying your god is a vengeful, hateful prick, more interested in batting me around than solving real problems.

ADAMS

It sounds like you're the one making the judgment.

LEVI

Damn right. It's why I have to go. The longer I stay, the more dangerous it gets for everyone.

ADAMS

I don't believe that.

LEVI

As soon as I care about the people around me, he rips them away. It's happened over and over.

ADAMS

You think you're caught in some kind of karmic Groundhog Day?

LEVI

He doesn't just take them out of my life, Reverend. He kills them.

ADAMS

God wouldn't do that.

LEVI

Read your Bible.

ADAMS

But that's not --

LEVI

-- Believe what you want. I don't care to talk you out of your god.

Levi pushes the plate toward Adams.

LEVI

Thanks for the pie.

Adams gets the hint. The conversation is over. Reluctantly, he takes the plates, climbs back down.

LATER

Levi looks over the farm from his perch in the hayloft.

Down below, the rabbit, using the cover of darkness, nibbles on leafy goodness in Jordan's garden.

Levi hops down the bales.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Levi picks through piles of junk inside the old barn. He pulls out several long metal stakes and tosses them aside.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Levi, hammer in hand, sleeps outside in the morning sun.

He's a muddy, sweaty mess, but the garden next to him has a fresh, new fence.

A loud BANG shakes him awake, the sound of metal on metal.

Across the way, inside the open barn, Jordan works on an old tractor. She's not happy and the tractor takes her full fury as she repeatedly strikes it with a large wrench.

Levi saunters over, casually flipping the hammer as he walks.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Levi approaches.

LEVI

If you just need to beat on something, I'd recommend a different tool.

He offers her the hammer. Jordan stops.

JORDAN

It won't start.

LEVI

Want some help?

Jordan turns her attention back to the tractor engine.

JORDAN

I've got it, thank you.



Levi tosses the hammer onto one of several crowded work counters that fill this area of the barn.

JORDAN  
You left your suitcase, last time.

LEVI  
It never really was *my* suitcase.

Levi picks through old tools, scattered on the benches. Sideways glances keep him up to date on Jordan's progress, or lack thereof.

JORDAN  
I put in some fresh clothes, a little bit of food.

LEVI  
Thank you.

JORDAN  
You're welcome to shower, too.

LEVI  
Thanks.

Jordan looks at Levi.

JORDAN  
Seriously. Shower.

He laughs as he continues working his way around the room, examining various junk piles surrounding the tractor.

LEVI  
That guy, the other night. Brought you flowers. Who was he?

Jordan stops.

JORDAN  
Please don't cause me trouble.

LEVI  
I'm not telling anybody, if that's what you're worried about.

JORDAN  
I'm not.

Her attention returns to the tractor.

JORDAN  
He's my ex-husband. Sort of.

LEVI

Sort of?

JORDAN

It was a long time ago. We were only married about a month. Long enough to get pregnant.

LEVI

Isaac?

JORDAN

Yes. I hadn't heard from him in almost ten years. He moved to town right after we got this farm.

LEVI

You hoping to reconcile?

Jordan, still looking over the tractor, responds sharply to the question.

JORDAN

I'm married. Happily.

LEVI

You don't have to convince me.

He continues picking through the tools.

LEVI

It's just, he watched you take the flowers inside. Might've gotten the wrong idea.

JORDAN

I'm getting awfully tired of -- My husband's a good man.

Levi turns to her.

LEVI

I don't doubt that. But, there's a reason you're out here working on a tractor you know nothing about.

JORDAN

I know enough.

LEVI

Say you get this tractor running. What's your plan?

Jordan snaps.

JORDAN  
I'm going to plant these fields.

Levi backs off a bit, moves for the door.

LEVI  
It's none of my business.

Jordan gestures to the garden.

JORDAN  
Thank you for the fence.

LEVI  
I owed you. For the chicken.

He turns to leave, but Jordan stops him.

JORDAN  
I don't have a choice.

Levi turns back.

JORDAN  
This farm -- my grandpa gave it to  
me when he died. It's all I have.  
My husband left me once. If he -- I  
have to take care of my son.

Levi glances to the sky, shakes his head, then reluctantly  
grabs a wrench.

LEVI  
You replace the batteries?

JORDAN  
You know about tractors?

LEVI  
Little bit.

He turns his attention to the tractor.

LEVI  
This here's an I-H 806 diesel.  
Guessing about 1966. You drain the  
fuel and check the filters?

He doesn't even wait for an answer. He's a swirl of energy,  
grabbing tools and diving into the engine.

Adams pops his head into the barn.

ADAMS  
You ready to go?

Levi barely breaks his focus from the engine.

LEVI  
Gonna be a couple days.

Adams looks at Jordan. She shrugs.

INT. BARN - STORAGE AREA - DAY

A freshly-showered Levi stands in front of the pile of junk with Jordan. Isaac dawdles in the corner.

LEVI  
I put together a list.

Levi motions to Isaac.

LEVI  
It's on the counter.

Isaac reluctantly retrieves it.

LEVI  
The tractor's a priority, but we also need to fix the planter.

Jordan takes the list from Isaac and reads it over. Levi crawls over the junk, a man on a mission.

LEVI  
You've got two weeks to get this done. Planting season's about over.

JORDAN  
There's got to be a thousand dollars worth of items --

LEVI  
-- Three fields. About seventy-five acres total. We're planting beans, so, three hundred dollars an acre. That's twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars. Plus repairs.

Jordan is stunned.

JORDAN  
How are we -- ?

LEVI  
-- Gonna have to sell some stuff.

Levi reaches his destination on the other side of the pile.

LEVI  
Luckily, your grandfather was a bit  
of a collector.

Levi holds up a mannequin. Female, no legs. Naked.

LEVI  
Not so sure about this.

Isaac, in no mood to give Levi an inch, challenges him.

ISAAC  
I like it.

Levi tosses it to him.

LEVI  
I guess you would.

Isaac catches the mannequin. A wave of embarrassment quickly sweeps over him when he realizes he's caught it by its breasts. He drops the unlucky lady.

Levi points to an old sidecar motorcycle in the corner.

LEVI  
That one we're keeping. But,  
this...

He pulls at a tarp, revealing an even older motorcycle.

LEVI  
1911 Indian. Single-cylinder, 4  
horsepower.

He turns to Jordan.

LEVI  
This bike, by itself, is going to  
fill your fields.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

A lantern flickers inside the old barn where Levi works on the tractor.

The barn door slides open and Adams pushes through.

ADAMS

I'm heading into town to grab a few things. Anything you need?

LEVI

I'm good.

ADAMS

Jordan's working on your list. You were right about that motorcycle. Took her less than four hours to get an offer. Twenty-six grand.

LEVI

Her grandfather had good taste.

ADAMS

Electricity will be back on in a couple days, thanks to you.

LEVI

(sarcastic)

I'm a real godsend.

ADAMS

I've been thinking about you.

LEVI

Please don't.

Levi motions for a tool, Adams hands it to him.

ADAMS

Why did you stay?

Levi leans his forehead against the tractor, already worn out by the conversation.

LEVI

Just say what you came here to say.

ADAMS

I think, on some level you realize you don't need to escape. You need redemption.

Levi laughs.

ADAMS

God wants you to have it.

LEVI

You telling me that God killed seventeen people to redeem me?

ADAMS  
The tornado?

LEVI  
It's the reason I'm here.

ADAMS  
Far better to believe he killed  
them to punish you?

Levi lunges to Adams, his anger sparked.

LEVI  
Leave it alone, Reverend.

Adams holds his ground, barely. He searches Levi's eyes.

ADAMS  
You're filled with uncertainty.

LEVI  
Don't push me.

ADAMS  
You don't really know what's going  
on, do you?

Levi calms, concedes the point.

LEVI  
It's different this time.

ADAMS  
Because God's reaching out to you.

LEVI  
It's not that. It's -- He wants to  
break me.

ADAMS  
He'll open your eyes, in the right  
moment. You'll see His plan.

LEVI  
I told you. He wants to break me.  
For good, this time.

ADAMS  
Why would He want that?

LEVI  
Next time you talk to Him, ask Him.  
He doesn't seem to hear me.

Levi tosses the tool onto the counter and turns off the lantern. He strides out of the barn, leaving Adams alone in the darkness.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Adams fiddles with the radio as he turns out of the driveway. He pounds on the dash, trying to will the radio to life.

Distracted, he doesn't notice a pickup truck sitting on the shoulder of the country road.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Once Adams is past, the truck's headlights flip on and the pickup turns toward the farm.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi sits near the hayloft window, Isaac's ball cap in hand.

Outside, a CAR DOOR CLOSES. Levi peeks over the sill.

A large man reaches into a pickup truck, retrieves a box of chocolates. He knocks on the farmhouse door.

Jordan answers.

The man hands her the chocolates, but, with a glance to the hayloft window, she pushes them away.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Saul, in street clothes, stands on the porch. He pushes the candy back, but Jordan again declines.

SAUL

I'm just trying to be nice.

Jordan fidgets nervously.

JORDAN

Why are you here?

SAUL

To take Isaac fishing.

JORDAN

It's nearly ten o'clock.



SAUL  
Night fishing. He'll love it.

JORDAN  
You can't just take Isaac whenever  
you want.

SAUL  
He's my son, too.

JORDAN  
I'm trying to account for that.  
But, you can't --

SAUL  
-- I'm not trying to cause trouble.  
I'm sorry. I'll come back.

Again, she glances to the hayloft window. Levi isn't there.

JORDAN  
When my husband's home.

Saul notices the darkened house.

SAUL  
No electricity?

JORDAN  
It'll be back on soon.

SAUL  
Maybe I can help out around here?  
Get this farm up and running.

LEVI (O.S.)  
Not your concern.

Saul flips around to see Levi, approaching fast.

JORDAN  
Levi, this is Saul. My ex-husband.

Saul extends his hand. The gesture isn't as much friendly, as  
it is challenging. Levi rejects the overture.

LEVI  
Jordan doesn't need your help.

SAUL  
Well, it's good to know she's got  
someone looking out for her.

LEVI  
She's got a husband for that.

Saul chuckles at the thought, returns to his truck.

SAUL  
I'd like to take my son fishing.  
Maybe this weekend.

Levi steps toward the truck as Saul climbs in, answering Saul's earlier alpha behavior. Saul turns to Levi.

SAUL  
Nice to meet you, Levi.

The sincerity is questionable.

SAUL  
Good night, Jordan.

Finally, Saul pulls away, speeds down the driveway.

Levi, on his way back to the barn, calls out to Jordan.

LEVI  
You're playing with fire.

JORDAN  
You have something to say?

Levi spins to her.

LEVI  
I'm the last guy to give you advice  
on love. The last guy. But, if you  
think, in any way, that guy is part  
of the solution...

As Levi walks away, he points down the driveway, toward Saul.

LEVI  
That's a dangerous man.

INT. BARN - DAY

Jordan sets the shotgun next to the door and joins Levi as he pulls a dead battery from the tractor.

Levi glances at the shotgun.

LEVI  
You ever shoot anything besides  
clouds?

JORDAN  
I can handle myself.

LEVI  
I doubt that.

He grabs a fresh battery and swings it into place.

LEVI  
It's not in your nature.

JORDAN  
Yeah?

She grabs the shotgun and marches out.

EXT. BARN - DAY

A tin can sits on a bale of hay.

BANG! The tin can doesn't move.

JORDAN  
Not that it's your business, but,  
so you know, I'm not interested in  
Saul.

LEVI  
Why does your husband think  
different?

JORDAN  
I was, briefly. Obviously. A long  
time ago. Even then there was  
something about him. Something  
uncomfortable.

Jordan loads a fresh shell in the shotgun.

JORDAN  
When Saul showed up -- I don't  
know. My husband -- shrank. For the  
first time, I felt vulnerable  
around him. Almost alone.

BANG! She rocks back from the gun's kick. Her form matches  
the results. Not good.

Jordan glares at the can.

Another shell. Jordan pulls the trigger, but nothing happens.  
She cracks the gun open, looks at the shell.

LEVI  
Whoa, whoa, whoa.

He snatches the gun and closes it, securing the unspent shell. Jordan quickly takes it back.

LEVI  
Never open a gun that soon after a misfire. If that shell cooks off --

JORDAN  
-- I'm doing just fine.

LEVI  
It's called a hangfire, Jordan.  
It's rare, but it can be deadly.

She cracks the gun, replaces the shell, and lines up another shot. Levi shakes his head, then relents to helping.

LEVI  
Rest it against your shoulder and widen your stance.

She does. BANG. Miss.

LEVI  
The Reverend -- when you married him...?

JORDAN  
I can't describe it. It was just, right.

She lines up the next shot. Levi adjusts her stance.

JORDAN  
I want to feel that certainty again.

BANG. Miss. Dejected, she loads another shell, lines up another shot.

JORDAN  
Guess I'm not very good at this after all.

LEVI  
You're doing fine.

JORDAN  
I haven't hit one yet.

Levi presses the barrel of the gun toward the ground.

He marches over to the target, tosses the can to the side and flings the bale of hay on end, into an upright position.

He moves her closer, pushes the gun up.

LEVI

Go.

BANG. The bale rocks backwards. Bits of hay float to the ground as Levi grins.

LEVI

Now, can we go back to something you're actually going to use? Lord knows, when it counts, you'd never pull the trigger anyway.

Levi strides back toward the barn.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Darkness blankets the farm.

The barn door slowly slides open. The glow from a small lantern highlights the shape of the tractor and two people inside the barn.

Someone swings into the driver's seat.

It's Jordan, revealed as Levi lifts the lantern.

Suddenly, the tractor springs to life, belching puffs of black smoke from the exhaust. The weather cap flaps against the fumes.

Jordan laughs, leans down, high-fives Levi, then sits back tall in the seat.

The tractor lurches forward. Stops. Then lurches again.

It turns from the barn and churns down the drive, leaving Levi in the doorway, silhouetted by the light of the lantern.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

The metal discs of the planter bite at the fertile soil.

Levi sits over the tire of the tractor as Jordan drives.

Levi looks back, checking the progress of the planter. He gives a thumbs up to a smiling Jordan.

In the distance, Adams stands near the field's edge, watching the two revel in their success. He squirms, clearly fighting feelings he would rather not be having.

Levi gives him a nod, catching Jordan's attention in the process. She gives Adams a big, happy wave.

Adams waves back, then turns to the house.

He stops, reaches into his pocket and pulls out his cellphone. He's received a call.

After a brief conversation, he waves for Jordan to come over. She stops the tractor and runs to him.

Levi hops down, watches the two interact.

She takes the phone. Listens. Then hangs up.

Jordan says something to Adams and they hug tightly. He picks her up and swings her around.

It's big. It's happy.

They walk, arm-in-arm, to the house together, lost in the moment, chatting excitedly.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Levi, Adams and Isaac eat a country breakfast. The electricity is back on and the house has returned to normal.

Levi salts his eggs.

ADAMS

Easy. That stuff'll kill you.

Levi considers the information, then vigorously shakes more salt on all his food.

ISAAC

Can I touch it?

Confused, Levi looks at Isaac, realizes he's staring at the symbol on his forearm. Levi holds his arm out.

LEVI

(to Adams)

You never told me why bad things happen to good people.

ISAAC

Where'd you get it?

LEVI  
I didn't get it. It was given.

ADAMS  
We're all sinners.

LEVI  
So they deserved it?

ISAAC  
What's it mean?

LEVI  
It means I'm screwed.

ADAMS  
Levi, please. Language.

LEVI  
It means I'm going to be around for  
a while.

ISAAC  
Here?

LEVI  
Around.

ADAMS  
The wages of sin --

LEVI  
-- is what? Death? If only.

ADAMS  
I'm saying that we, as humans,  
brought death into this world. Now  
we pay the price. But, just because  
we're sinners and subject to death,  
doesn't mean God can't use us for  
His glory. We're all instruments of  
God.

LEVI  
Fuck that.  
(to Isaac, re: his  
language)  
Sorry.

Isaac hides a very small smile.

LEVI  
When does God take responsibility?

ADAMS

For sin?

Levi holds up his fork.

LEVI

If my fork is a piece of shit, I don't blame the fork. I blame the guy who made it. By his own admission, God cranks out one crappy fork after another.

Jordan bursts into the room, a whirl of nervous energy.

JORDAN

It won't start.

Levi looks at her quizzically.

JORDAN

The tractor.

Levi stands, motions to Isaac.

LEVI

Time to get your hands dirty.

Levi and Jordan start out of the room. Isaac doesn't move.

LEVI

I'm not asking.

Isaac looks to Adams for support, but he gets none, so he pulls himself up.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Levi and Jordan march toward the barn, Isaac trailing behind.

JORDAN

Every time I feel like we're making progress, something else happens. I feel cursed.

LEVI

It's a tractor, Jordan. Nothing mysterious about it.

JORDAN

Everything's falling apart. We can't keep up. Last week it was the well pump, then the mower -- it's too much.



INT. BARN - DAY

As they enter the barn, Levi motions to Isaac.

LEVI  
Try to start her up.

Jordan holds Isaac back.

LEVI  
You're going to need help. He's  
plenty old enough.

She lets Isaac go. Isaac smiles as he climbs into the driver's seat and turns the key. Nothing.

Levi inspects the engine. A WIRE is loose.

JORDAN  
You found something?

Levi ignores her, replaces the wire and signals to Isaac. When the tractor roars to life, Levi looks at Jordan.

LEVI  
Bring Isaac up to speed.

Levi marches out of the barn.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Levi rides the sidecar motorcycle into town, scanning, looking for something, someone.

He spots a familiar pickup truck, parked in front of a diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

A WAITRESS offers Levi a menu as he presses into the diner.

WAITRESS  
Welcome to Mac's.

He brushes past, on a mission.

The diner is mostly empty. A few people in a booth, and one man at the counter: Saul, who's attacking a big breakfast.

Levi sits next to him, grabs a small plate and a nearby ketchup bottle.

He squeezes out half a bottle of ketchup onto the plate and, with his hands, proceeds to eat hash browns off Saul's plate, stopping to dip them in the ketchup.

Levi takes a sip from Saul's drink.

LEVI

I know what you're doing.

When Levi dips another bit of hash browns, Saul angrily smashes Levi's hand down into the ketchup.

SAUL

That's my son. My wife.

Levi, flashing in his own anger, leaps up and grabs Saul by the neck and face.

LEVI

Nothing else breaks. You hear me?

Saul doesn't back down.

SAUL

Walk away.

Levi squeezes harder. Ketchup oozes between his fingers.

Suddenly, Levi's memory sparks. Just a flash: He's squeezing Saul's throat, much like today. Only, it's not ketchup. It's blood that oozes between his fingers.

He snaps back to reality. Everyone in the diner stares at the two men.

SAUL

It's not too late.

Levi lets go of Saul, and calmly sits.

LEVI

It is for you.

Saul is curious.

LEVI

She's pregnant.

Saul laughs as he wipes the ketchup from his jaw.

He slaps a ten-dollar bill on the counter, then slides the plate in front of Levi.

SAUL

Keep the potatoes. I really just  
wanted the bacon.

Saul takes the bacon and swaggers away.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

An unlit, dusty light bulb hangs by a wire in the center of  
the loft. A sound: PFFT. The bulb explodes.

Levi sits underneath the window, Isaac's BB gun in hand. He  
picks another target. PFFT, ping.

Something BUMPS in the distance. A car door? He works his way  
to the window and peers out over the farm. A pickup truck  
sits in the dark, a short distance from the unlit farmhouse.

Near the house, a shadow slithers. A man.

Levi drops the BB gun and races down the bales.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi sneaks past the truck. He's searching, but sees nothing.

Continuing around the house, he looks up, in time to see a  
man slip into an open window. Like the man must have done,  
Levi climbs a large, rusty TV antenna and hops onto the lower  
roof, next to the window.

Levi peeks in.

INT./EXT. FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Isaac sits on his bed while Saul rifles through the closet.  
Saul grabs a fishing pole, hands it to a hesitant Isaac.

ISAAC

I have to ask my mom.

Saul puts his hands on Isaac's shoulders.

SAUL

I'm giving you permission.

Levi climbs in.

LEVI

Get your hands off him.

Saul immediately spins to Levi. The two men stand face to face, inches apart. Saul sizes up Levi.

SAUL  
Last chance.

LEVI  
Isaac, get your dad.

ISAAC  
My dad's not home.

SAUL  
His dad is standing right here.

They continue their stare down, neither man giving an inch.

Suddenly, Saul violently pushes Levi out the window and onto the roof. Saul grabs a nearby baseball bat and scurries out the window toward Levi.

Levi jumps to his feet but Saul overtakes him. He presses Levi against the house, bat across his throat.

SAUL  
You think you can turn my son  
against me?

Saul turns to the window where Isaac watches, wide-eyed.

SAUL  
Nothing to be afraid of, Isaac.  
We're just going fishing.

When Isaac balks, Saul grows a little more forceful.

SAUL  
Let's go!

Isaac climbs out of his room and down the TV antenna.

LEVI  
I won't let you take him.

Saul leans in.

SAUL  
Someone tells you, you can't see  
your own son, what would you do?

LEVI  
You're not a father. You're a  
donor.

Saul steps back and swings hard. The baseball bat catches Levi square in the midsection. The next blow in the knees. He rolls on the roof, in screaming pain.

Saul turns for the antenna.

Leaping to his feet, Levi bull rushes Saul. Together, they smash into the side of the house. The bat tumbles from the roof, to the ground.

Saul pounds on Levi, breaks his grip, then pummels Levi with punch after punch. He's younger, stronger, faster.

He kicks Levi backwards, off the roof.

THUD. Levi lands next to a terrified Isaac. The impact takes Levi's breath away.

Saul hops off the antenna, turns to Isaac.

SAUL

You ready?

Isaac meekly shakes his head, drops the fishing rod.

Saul snatches the rod, grabs Isaac's collar and aggressively pulls him to the front of the house. Isaac actively resists.

Levi struggles to regain his bearings, but Isaac's screams provide the motivation.

Levi sees the bat, grabs it and limps to the front.

As Levi turns the corner, Jordan bursts out of the house.

JORDAN

You're hurting him.

SAUL

Isaac's tough. And, if he's not, he will be.

With Saul's attention on Jordan, Levi rears back and delivers the hardest blow he can to Saul's back, rocking him enough to make him let go of Isaac.

JORDAN

(to Isaac)

Run!

Isaac takes off for the hayloft as Saul turns to Levi.

SAUL  
Who are you? An ex-boyfriend? A  
lover?

Levi stares, wags the bat defensively. He can barely stand.

LEVI  
I'm just a guy.

SAUL  
I don't think so.

He swivels to Jordan.

SAUL  
(mocking)  
Are you having an affair?

LEVI  
Leave them alone.

Saul lunges at Levi, snaps the bat aside. Again, he lays a severe beating on Levi, blow after blow, eventually forcing Levi to the ground.

Jordan beats at Saul's back, but he turns and hits her hard. She crumbles into a heap.

Saul gives Levi one last kick, then heads for the barn.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Beams of moonlight pierce the darkness as Saul slides the door open and enters the hayloft.

SAUL  
Isaac... I didn't mean to scare  
you. I'm sorry. I just want to  
spend some time with you.

When he gets no response, he climbs the bales toward the window. There, he sees the suitcase and a makeshift bed, but no Isaac.

He hops back down.

The corners of the loft are dark and Saul lacks the courage to explore them.

SAUL  
I bought glow-in-the-dark bait.

There's a bump in the darkness behind him. He spins, but sees nothing. His irritation returns.

SAUL  
Isaac. Come out. Now.

Still nothing.

SAUL  
Shit.

He glances around, but it's just too dark.

SAUL  
Fine.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

As Saul strides out of the barn, Adams' car rambles down the long driveway.

Jordan is gone, but Levi, battered and beaten, limps toward the barn. Saul pushes him down and drags him back to the center of the farmhouse driveway.

Saul kneels and pulls Levi's head up as Adams pulls to a stop and jumps out of his car.

ADAMS  
What are you -- ?

SAUL  
-- Isaac, if you don't come out,  
I'll kill him!

JORDAN (O.S.)  
No. You won't.

Saul turns to see Jordan standing, defiant, with her shotgun.

ADAMS  
Whoa! Everyone calm --

SAUL  
(to Jordan)  
-- Ten years. Couldn't even bother  
to tell me.

JORDAN  
Was I wrong?

SAUL

You decide who's a father, and  
who's not? Who made you God?

She trembles as Saul slowly steps toward her.

Suddenly, Saul flinches. Blood dots his cheek.

SAUL

What the hell?

He looks up. Isaac stands tall in the hayloft window, BB gun  
drawn. Saul flinches again.

SAUL

You little shit.

ADAMS

Isaac, stop!

Saul lunges toward Jordan.

JORDAN

Please.

Jordan cries as Saul rips the shotgun from her with no fight.  
He immediately turns it on her.

SAUL

Isaac. Put your peashooter down.  
I'm taking you home.  
(to Jordan)  
That boy needs a good whooping.

JORDAN

Stay where you are, Isaac!

Saul slaps her.

Adams lunges for Saul, but Saul swings the gun around. The  
move stops Adams in his tracks.

Saul quickly pivots back to Levi.

SAUL

You're like an itch, I just have to  
scratch.

ADAMS

Don't do this, Saul.

Levi looks to Isaac in the hayloft window and mouths the  
words: "IT'S OKAY."



He looks back at Saul, and down the barrel of the shotgun.  
With every bit of energy left, Levi stands. And smiles.

SAUL  
You don't think I've got it in me?

LEVI  
We've all got it in us. It's just --

SAUL  
What?

Levi holds up his arm, displaying the mark.

LEVI  
I can't die. I'm completely  
incapable. God knows I've tried.

SAUL  
Let me see if I can't help.

Saul pulls the trigger. CLICK.

He looks at the shotgun. It's a MISFIRE.

LEVI  
If it makes you feel better, I  
still think of you as a murderer.

Saul fumbles with the shotgun. He points it downward to get a good look and cracks the gun open. And now it's a HANGFIRE.

The shell EXPLODES, sending shrapnel two directions: out the back end, striking his face -- and down the barrel, into his left foot.

He drops the gun and uses his hands to stem the bleeding from the fresh wounds that now dot his face.

Jordan runs to Levi, who picks up the shotgun. She slaps a shell in his hand and he quickly reloads the gun.

Saul flinches again. He's under attack from above. Isaac is letting fly.

With no options left, Saul hops to his truck. Seething, and with blood dripping down his face and neck, he points toward Isaac. He tries to speak, but his anger chokes his words.

Saul points to Levi, threatening.

A BB pings off the truck hood as Saul drags himself into the driver's seat.

Levi limps to the truck as Saul quickly starts it up.

SAUL  
There's a fox in your henhouse,  
Reverend.

Levi leans into Saul, through the driver's window.

LEVI  
I killed you once. I'll do it  
again.

Confusion sweeps over Saul's face. The look in Levi's eyes says he's serious.

SAUL  
You're fucking crazy.

Saul peels out, speeds down the driveway.

Jordan runs to Levi as Adams tries to process what he just witnessed. She puts her arm around Levi, supporting him.

Isaac runs to them both.

Adams watches as Jordan and Levi limp to the house with Isaac's help.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Levi sits on the sofa as Jordan gently presses a pack of ice on his swollen face. He puts his hand on hers, holding the pack in place.

Adams slips into the doorway. Jordan pulls her hand away.

JORDAN  
I'll get you another pack.

She slides, silently, past Adams, but he stops her.

ADAMS  
Are you okay?

She pulls away.

JORDAN  
I need to get this.

Her irritation is obvious.

ADAMS  
What did I do?

JORDAN  
Nothing. You did nothing.

She continues into the kitchen. Adams turns to Levi.

ADAMS  
I think you were right.

LEVI  
To which particular point are you referring?

ADAMS  
You need to leave.

LEVI  
That's not happening.

ADAMS  
You said it yourself, the longer you're here, the more dangerous it becomes. Well, it became real dangerous tonight.

Levi pulls himself up.

LEVI  
He's coming for you, Reverend. He's coming for her. For Isaac, and this farm. Are you going to stop him?

Adams paces the room, still processing the night's events.

ADAMS  
The shotgun. How did you know -- ?  
And, what you said to Saul. You killed him? I don't understand.

LEVI  
Understand this. I know this man. He's wounded. He retreated. But, he won't quit.

Isaac runs into the room, panicked.

ISAAC  
Something's wrong with Mom.

They all rush from the room.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The simple sounds of the house are deafening against a tortured silence. A clock ticks. A sink drips. The house groans against the pressures of even the smallest breeze.

Levi and Isaac sit amidst the stillness. It's difficult to tell which of them is more uncomfortable.

LEVI

So this is your farm?

Isaac picks at the sofa cushion.

LEVI

When we first met, you said, "Get off my farm." Like it's yours.

Isaac shrugs.

LEVI

I used to have my own land. A long time ago.

The silence returns. Eventually, Isaac breaks it.

ISAAC

Thank you.

Levi glances up.

ISAAC

For helping my mom and me.

LEVI

You're pretty good with that BB gun.

Isaac smiles, but it doesn't last.

ISAAC

He scares me.

LEVI

I got your back. You understand? We stick together.

Isaac nods.

ISAAC

I'm sorry I called you a liar and a thief.

LEVI  
You weren't wrong.

ISAAC  
You were just hungry.

LEVI  
I'm not a good person, Isaac. Not  
like you.

Outside, a car door closes. Levi and Isaac jump up. The front door opens and Adams leads Jordan into the house by the arm.

She pulls away. It's not harsh, just independent.

JORDAN  
I'm fine.

She heads straight up the stairs. Adams, slightly frustrated, watches her go. Isaac escorts her.

LEVI  
What'd they say?

ADAMS  
Doctor wants her on strict bed rest  
for a while. She's gonna be okay.  
Baby, too.

LEVI  
Saul?

ADAMS  
Jordan told them she tripped, hit  
the table. Didn't even mention him.

LEVI  
What?

ADAMS  
She doesn't want any more trouble.

LEVI  
It's too late for that.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Morning breaks as Levi kneels on the rooftop and taps on Isaac's window.

Eventually, a groggy Isaac appears, slides it open.

LEVI  
Let's go. We've got work to do.

Isaac pushes the window closed, but Levi pulls it back open.

LEVI  
We don't finish seeding, this  
farm's dead.

Still, Isaac hesitates.

LEVI  
I'm not going to care more about  
your farm than you do.

Isaac relents.

ISAAC  
We stick together.

Levi nods, smiles.

MONTAGE - LEVI AND ISAAC BOND

-- Levi pushes the barn door open. The tractor lurches out, Isaac at the wheel, barely in control. Jordan watches from the window, alternating between fear and laughter.

-- In the field, Levi sits next to Isaac as the boy steers the tractor, pulling a planter behind.

-- Re-filling the planter. Isaac struggles to lift a large bag of seed. Levi chuckles, but doesn't help. Isaac fills the seed bins.

-- Isaac drives, alone. Levi stands proud at the end of the field. Isaac turns the tractor, it's too sharp and the tractor tire hits the planter. Levi runs to stop him.

-- Changing the tire. The tractor sits on a jack in the field. Levi and Isaac roll a new tire up to the tractor.

-- Night. Isaac sleeps against the new tractor tire. Levi approaches, smiling. He nudges Isaac awake.

END MONTAGE

EXT. FIELDS/FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi and Isaac walk back toward the house where Adams emerges to greet Isaac with a hug.

Levi beams with pride.

LEVI  
This boy's a farmer.

Isaac proudly slips past Adams.

LEVI  
Good job today, Isaac.

Isaac disappears into the house.

Levi shuffles to an old water spout and pumps the handle.

Adams follows him.

ADAMS  
You worked him hard.

LEVI  
I did.

ADAMS  
I don't mean to sound ungrateful,  
but, why?

LEVI  
Why?

Levi rinses his face.

ADAMS  
You obviously know what you're  
doing. You don't need the help of a  
ten-year-old.

LEVI  
I won't be here forever.

ADAMS  
But, you don't do any of the work.  
Maybe you could give him a break.  
Take over once in a while?

Levi runs water through his hair.

LEVI  
Can't.

ADAMS  
Seriously, I appreciate what you're  
teaching him, but --

LEVI

-- You can take over. I'll show you, same as him.

ADAMS

My work at the church is the only thing keeping us anywhere close to solvent. All I'm asking is, you spell him once in a while.

LEVI

Told you. I can't.

Levi locks down the pump handle and heads back to the barn. He hollers back over his shoulder.

LEVI

Early start again tomorrow. Have him ready.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Levi lies in his makeshift bed, struggling to sleep. Ball cap on his chest, he stares at the loft ceiling.

The loft door groans open, snapping him to attention.

JORDAN (O.S.)

I'm coming up.

Levi scrambles to the edge just as Jordan's head pops over the top row of bales.

LEVI

What happened to bed rest?

He reaches out to help her.

JORDAN

I wanted to see your view of things.

Levi pulls her up. She ends up close to him. Face to face.

She quickly diverts to the window.

Levi joins her. They look out, over the sprawling farm.

JORDAN

We must seem so insignificant to God.



LEVI

I haven't seen you for a while,  
except for your appearances in the  
window. The look on your face as  
Isaac drives the tractor --

He makes a panicked face, playfully poking fun. Jordan  
laughs, lightly slaps his shoulder.

JORDAN

That's enough.

Levi studies her face as she giggles.

LEVI

I forgot how much I love to see you  
laugh.

The comment makes Jordan more curious than uncomfortable.

JORDAN

What's your story?

LEVI

I'm just a guy.

JORDAN

No. You definitely have a story.  
I've never seen you before, but --

Levi shakes her off.

JORDAN

I won't think you're crazy, if  
that's what you're worried about.

LEVI

My whole life, I've had but one  
short window of actual happiness.

He stares out the window, choking back a memory.

JORDAN

Your family?

LEVI

I actually thought for a moment --  
a brief moment -- that God...

JORDAN

And now?

LEVI

All I know -- and I'm certain of this -- God wants me here. And that scares the shit out of me.

JORDAN

I want you here, Levi. You've been good for us. Good for Isaac.

LEVI

It won't last. It never does.

In the house below, the dining room light flips on. Adams takes a seat at the table and spreads his work out. Seeing him, Jordan slips away from the window.

JORDAN

I should tuck Isaac in bed.

LEVI

It was nice to have a visitor.

She smiles as she climbs down, slips out of sight.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Adams works at the dining room table. He flips through his Bible, taking notes on a pad.

Movement outside catches his eye. It's Jordan walking back from the barn. Once inside, she heads straight upstairs.

Adams stares out the window, clearly struggling to contain his thoughts.

His trance is broken when headlights appear down the driveway. The Sheriff's car approaches the house.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The Sheriff closes the cruiser door, looks toward the house.

As he adjusts his belt, the passenger door opens and Saul, in full deputy's uniform, slides out.

He walks with a limp and his face is bandaged, but he's definitely smiling. Saul is happy to be here.

He glances up at the barn window, but no one's there.

The Sheriff and Saul approach the house.

Saul kicks at the welcome mat as the Sheriff reaches to knock. Before he can, Adams swings the door open.

SHERIFF

Sorry to bother you tonight,  
Reverend. But, I need to ask you  
some questions. May we come in?

Adams hesitates, his displeasure obvious.

SAUL

Nice to see you again, Reverend.

Adams can't even look at Saul.

ADAMS

(to the Sheriff)  
He's not welcome in my house.

The Sheriff assesses the two men. The tension is clear.

SHERIFF

(to Saul)  
Why don't you wait with the car?

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Sheriff sits across from Adams. Jordan sets cups of coffee in front of them and takes a seat next to her husband.

Outside the window, a grinning Saul leans on the car, basks in the moment.

SHERIFF

I know there's a history here. But,  
this is serious. So, I need to ask.

ADAMS

Go ahead.

SHERIFF

My deputy says he was out here  
visiting the other day, saw a man  
living in the barn. Says he didn't  
recognize him, so he did a little  
digging. Fugitives, missing  
persons, the usual.

The Sheriff slides a piece of paper across the table.

SHERIFF

Says he thinks it was this man.

Jordan catches her breath. It's light, but noticeable. Adams grabs her leg under the table.

They're looking at an FBI "wanted" bulletin. Levi's picture. The charge: MURDER. Name: UNKNOWN.

SHERIFF

You know him?

Adams quickly interjects.

ADAMS

You think he was in our barn?

SHERIFF

Saul swears by it. Even says the man shot him.

The Sheriff studies Jordan as she reads the bulletin.

SHERIFF

Went missing from Kansas. Death row. Real dangerous man. They say he was seconds from execution when a tornado ripped the prison apart. Same storm that did so much damage 'round here.

Jordan reads the bulletin. The Sheriff presses further.

SHERIFF

He killed a guy -- over a hamburger.

ADAMS

Saul says he was out here visiting?

SHERIFF

His son, yes.

ADAMS

Ever consider your deputy might be using you to cause trouble for us?

SHERIFF

What's between you two is none of my business.

ADAMS

And yet, here you are, when you ought to be talking to him about stalking my wife and my son.

The Sheriff points to the bulletin.

SHERIFF

This right here is my business.  
But, if you've a complaint, I can  
take it down.

Adams, frustrated, storms away. The Sheriff sips his coffee,  
still eyeing Jordan closely.

SHERIFF

You got something to tell me?

Jordan wants nothing to do with the question.

JORDAN

Let me see if I can calm him down.

She chases after her husband.

LIVING ROOM

Adams paces while Jordan desperately tries to soothe him.  
Their whispered words strain with anxiety.

JORDAN

Take a breath.

ADAMS

You know how many sins I just  
committed? I'm covering for a  
murderer, to spite Saul.

JORDAN

He's not a murderer.

ADAMS

He is. He told me straight out.

JORDAN

I don't believe it.

ADAMS

Well, I do.

JORDAN

Why is he here?

Adams doesn't understand.

JORDAN

You said it yourself. God brought  
him here for you to help him.

Jordan presses in close.

JORDAN

Levi protected us. We owe him this.  
At least.

ADAMS

We don't know anything about him.  
Not really.

Jordan turns away.

JORDAN

We know he's saving the farm.

ADAMS

Do you love him?

Jordan spins back, angry, but Adams cuts her off.

ADAMS

-- There's a connection. I see it.

She softens.

JORDAN

It's not love.

ADAMS

Then what is it?

JORDAN

I don't know.

Adams paces, struggles to understand.

JORDAN

Did you know that you look at me  
differently? Since Saul came back.

ADAMS

I can't compete with him. Or Levi,  
for that matter. If that's what you  
need --

JORDAN

-- I need you. Without the  
judgment. I need the safety of  
seeing that you know me, the real  
me. I need to know that you still  
believe in me.

ADAMS

I don't want to lose you.

JORDAN

Then trust me. And, if you can't do that, trust your God.

With no other choice, Adams steels himself.

DINING ROOM

Adams strides into the room.

ADAMS

Did he call it in? When he supposedly got shot?

SHERIFF

I'll be the first to admit, his story doesn't add up. If it did, I'd have that barn surrounded, Reverend or not. But, I've got to check things out.

Adams folds the "wanted" bulletin, jams it in his pocket.

ADAMS

How long has Saul worked for you?

SHERIFF

'Bout six months.

ADAMS

I'm not a perfect man. I'm the first to admit that. The whole town knows about Saul and me. But, I've been a pastor here for what -- five years? I baptized your grandson last year. Your granddaughter, the year before that. You know me. Do you really know him?

The Sheriff sighs. He rubs his face with his hands, struggles with the moment. Finally, he stands.

SHERIFF

I'm sorry to bother you.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Jordan and Adams see the Sheriff out.

SHERIFF

Thanks for your time.

He notices the fields. The tractor.

SHERIFF  
Got the farm up and running?

ADAMS  
Learning as fast as we can.

SHERIFF  
Nate's got to be pleased with that.

JORDAN  
He'll be more pleased when all the  
seed's in the ground. We're close,  
but not there, yet.

The Sheriff heads for the car. As he does, Isaac runs out of the house. Seeing Saul, he tucks in close to his mother.

ISAAC  
Should I get Levi?

Jordan pulls Isaac tighter, as if to signal his silence. Saul perks up. The Sheriff stops.

SAUL  
That's his name. Levi.

The Sheriff turns.

SHERIFF  
Damn it, Reverend.

He's torn, but he has a job to do.

SHERIFF  
I'm going to ask one more time. You  
got something to tell me?

Adams doubles down.

ADAMS  
Levi is the name we gave our  
shotgun.

Jordan glares at Saul.

JORDAN  
Our protection.

ADAMS  
I told you, your deputy has been  
threatening my wife and son. They  
don't feel safe when he's around.

The Sheriff, processing, glances at the barn, back at Adams.



SHERIFF

Probably best if I take a quick  
peek. Settle my deputy down.

The Sheriff motions to Saul, heads to the barn. Saul smiles at Jordan and Adams, then follows the Sheriff.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The loft door slides open. Flashlights pierce the darkness as the Sheriff and Saul press into the hayloft, guns drawn.

SHERIFF

Anybody in here?

Saul shines his flashlight toward the window.

SAUL

He sleeps up there.

SHERIFF

Can you climb?

Saul nods, starts the climb.

As he peeks over the top, he sees a figure in the corner, sleeping. It can only be one man. Saul pulls his gun, frantically signals to the Sheriff.

To Saul's surprise, the Sheriff motions for them to back out.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Saul trails the Sheriff as they both hustle to the car.

SAUL

We need to take him.

SHERIFF

That man's on the Most Wanted list.  
I'm not screwing this up because  
you want to be a hero.

The Sheriff sees Jordan, Adams and Isaac huddled on the front porch, watching.

SHERIFF

You. Don't go anywhere.

He grabs the car radio.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

The farm crawls with police cars. Lights flash everywhere. SWAT teams and heavy equipment surround the barn.

The Sheriff holds a bullhorn.

SHERIFF

This is your last warning.

Saul stands next to the Sheriff, bathed in smug satisfaction. Jordan, Adams and Isaac remain on the front porch.

The Sheriff motions to the SWAT team. They stack by the door.

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The SWAT team sweeps into the loft. "Move, move, move."

Flashlights canvass the room. The leader motions, they're going up. The team climbs toward the window.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

The SWAT team saunters out of the barn carrying a body.

TEAM LEADER

We got him.

SWAT TEAM MEMBER

He's in pretty bad shape.

They hold up the mannequin, laughing.

TEAM LEADER

Can we get a medic?

Everyone has a laugh at Saul's expense. The Sheriff, angry and embarrassed, approaches Saul.

SHERIFF

I don't want to hear of you coming out here ever again. Understand?

Saul glares at Adams as the Sheriff shuffles away.

The team tosses the mannequin to Saul.

SWAT TEAM MEMBER

Why didn't you tell us he was such a looker?

INT. HAYLOFT - NIGHT

The hayloft door slides open and Adams pushes into the barn.

ADAMS

You can come out. It's clear.

A hay bale moves, mid-stack, and Levi wiggles out from a hidden compartment he's built amidst the bales.

Levi jumps down to Adams. His jaw is locked, his eyes filled with determination.

LEVI

I'm going to need the shotgun.

Adams hands Levi the folded bulletin.

ADAMS

Did you do it?

Levi reads it, shoves it back.

LEVI

I already told you I'm a murderer.

ADAMS

I need to know.

LEVI

Why? Would it make me less guilty  
if I said no?

Levi grabs a shovel from the corner, tosses it near the door.

ADAMS

I just committed a felony for you.

LEVI

He's coming. Maybe tonight.

ADAMS

God is a God of redemption. But, if  
you kill Saul --

LEVI

-- I don't give a shit about  
redemption. He's coming to kill my  
family.

He searches the hayloft.

ADAMS

Your family?

LEVI  
Jordan is --

Levi catches himself.

ADAMS  
Say it.

LEVI  
-- Jordan was my wife. Isaac my  
son. I'm sorry.

Levi spots a length of rope hanging high on the wall. He  
looks for a foothold, a way to reach the rope.

Adams spins with a mixture of confusion, jealousy, anger.

ADAMS  
Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't  
she -- ?

Levi finds a foothold.

LEVI  
It wasn't her. I mean, it was, but  
it wasn't. I'm the same. She's not.

He still can't reach the rope, so he jumps down.

LEVI  
For God's sake, Reverend, it was  
another life. For them, literally.  
She doesn't even know.

Adams is incredulous.

ADAMS  
You can't --

LEVI  
-- I killed my brother. And, to  
punish me, God used Saul to kill  
them. So, I killed him, too.

Finding another way up, he grabs the rope and hops back down.

ADAMS  
Kill them? What? I don't --

Levi coils the rope.

LEVI  
I've lived so long without them.  
Watched thousands die.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Some I cared about, most I didn't.  
Happened so much, I'm numb to it  
all. But God isn't happy with numb.  
He wants me to hurt.

Levi slips the rope over his shoulder.

LEVI

That asshole that you so blindly  
worship -- He brought them back.

Levi locks eyes with Adams.

LEVI

You understand what I'm saying? He  
brought my wife and son back to  
life. And, now, he's going to kill  
them again, just to see me suffer.  
Saul did such a good job the first  
time, God called him again.

ADAMS

So -- it's about revenge?

Levi grabs Adams.

LEVI

You're not listening. He can screw  
with me all he wants, but I won't  
watch them die again.

ADAMS

None of this makes sense.

Levi releases him.

LEVI

We're all instruments, Reverend.

ADAMS

Not like that. No. God wouldn't --

LEVI

You think I'm crazy?

Levi holds his arm in the air, the mark on his arm prominent.

LEVI

Seems I'm the only one God's not  
willing to kill.

Levi grabs the shovel and heads for the door, but Adams  
blocks his way.

ADAMS

Whatever you're dealing with, I  
can't let you kill a man.

LEVI

Get out of my way, Reverend.

Levi pushes past. Again, Adams stops him.

ADAMS

I know you think you know her. But,  
I'm her husband. I'm Isaac's  
father. In this life, if that's  
what this is. I deserve to handle  
this.

Levi tosses the supplies to Adams' feet.

LEVI

Then handle it.

Adams walks past the shovel and rope and stops at the door.

ADAMS

My way, Levi. I'll talk to him  
tomorrow. Man to man, like I should  
have done months ago.

LEVI

Jesus, Reverend.

ADAMS

My family. My decision.

Adams ducks out, leaving Levi alone with his frustration.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

A full moon casts long shadows across the farm.

A figure moves through the darkness, from the front to the  
side of the house. A man.

A light snaps on in an upstairs window. The figure ducks  
behind a bush. Jordan's shadow hangs by the window for a  
moment. The light turns off.

The figure slides along the house to the back door. He checks  
it. Surprisingly, it's unlocked.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The man gently closes the door behind him, clearly not wanting to attract attention.

As he sneaks into the quiet light of the living room, his face is revealed.

It's Levi.

Choosing his steps carefully, he moves silently across the room, searching.

Finally, Levi sees what he's here for. The shotgun.

He grabs it and checks the chamber. Two shells. Satisfied, he quietly retraces his steps.

Before closing the back door behind him, he stops to lock it, but the knob falls off. He quickly gathers it and sets it, tenuously, back in place. He pulls the door closed.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi hops off the TV antenna and onto the roof near Isaac's bedroom window.

He peeks inside. Isaac is snug in bed.

Levi settles in. On watch.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Rev. Adams flips on the dining room light and tosses his Bible onto the table.

Cup of coffee and a notepad nearby, he skims through the Bible, book of Genesis.

A verse catches his eye. He reads more closely.

ADAMS

The Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest  
any finding him should kill him.

He flips the page back, then back again, searching. Almost frantic, he runs his finger down the page.

His hands shake as he reads.

ADAMS

When thou tillest the ground, it  
shall not henceforth yield unto  
thee her strength; a fugitive and a  
vagabond shalt thou be...

He drops his pen, looks toward the barn.

KITCHEN

Bible in hand, the Reverend opens the fridge and grabs a  
bottle of beer.

LIVING ROOM

Adams plops onto the couch and, hands still shaking, takes a  
large swig of beer. Resting the Bible on his chest, he sinks  
back into the couch and looks to the sky.

ADAMS

If you've got anything to say, I'm  
listening.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Levi sleeps, his head propped against the windowpane.

Behind him, visible through the window, a sleepy Isaac slides  
out of bed and trudges out of the room.

Down the driveway a truck turns in, headlights snap off.

Saul has arrived.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Isaac, still half asleep, makes his way downstairs.

He shuffles past Rev. Adams, asleep on the couch.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Saul sneaks into the hayloft.

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Isaac sips a glass of water. Finished, he sets his glass in  
the sink and glances up to see Saul run from the barn.



The hayloft window shines bright, an orange glow broken only by the dark smoke seeping from within.

ISAAC

Levi.

LIVING ROOM

Isaac dashes past Adams, who stirs awake.

It takes the Reverend a second to process, but he soon sees the burning barn through the dining room window.

ADAMS

Oh my God.

He jumps up, sending the Bible flying. As he turns for the door, he trips on the rug.

He quickly scrambles back to his feet.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Isaac sprints for the burning barn.

ISAAC

Levi!

ROOF

Levi bolts upright. He tosses the shotgun aside and quickly scrambles to the ground.

LEVI

Over here!

Isaac can't hear him.

DRIVEWAY

Saul peels away.

Levi sprints for the barn as Isaac disappears into the burning hayloft.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Jordan shuffles into the dining room, where, outside the window, smoke billows from the loft window.

She gasps as Levi pushes into the barn.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Adams rushes from the house, Jordan follows close behind.

Suddenly, Levi, holding Isaac, leaps from the loft window, chased by flames. They land in the pond with a large splash.

Adams scrambles into the pond as Levi emerges with a lifeless Isaac. The Reverend rips the boy away as a distraught Jordan meets them at the pond's edge.

Adams rushes Isaac clear of danger, lays his son's limp body on the grass.

ADAMS

Please, God --

Levi pushes Adams aside and checks Isaac for signs of life.

He quickly begins mouth-to-mouth.

After a few cycles, he puts his ear to Isaac's mouth, listens. Still nothing. He punches the ground, hard, fights to contain his anger.

LEVI

He did nothing --

He resumes CPR while Adams frantically prays over them.

Isaac's chest heaves as he draws a deep breath. He's alive. Jordan throws herself around Isaac.

Levi collapses back, exhausted from the effort. He looks to the sky and sneers.

LEVI

Fuck you, you son of a bitch.

Adams spins with relief...

ADAMS

Thank you, God. Thank you.

Across the driveway, the barn crumbles into a burning heap.

INT. FARM - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Levi frantically searches drawers, shotgun in hand. Finally, he finds what he's looking for: more shells.

He loads up.

As Levi turns to leave, Adams appears in the doorway blocking his exit. Adams puts his hand on the shotgun.

ADAMS

Not this way.

Levi pushes past.

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Levi, shotgun in hand, storms out of the house. Adams trails closely behind.

ADAMS

Saul is trying to destroy the family and the farm. We have to show him that he can't stop us.

Levi arrives at the motorcycle, which sits next to the tractor and planter.

LEVI

If you're not going to do what needs to be done, I will.

Adams grabs Levi's arm, points to the tractor.

ADAMS

This is what needs to be done.

LEVI

Someone has to stop him.

ADAMS

Isaac didn't risk his life so you could go on killing.

Ignoring him, Levi drops the shotgun in the sidecar. Adams turns away from him.

ADAMS

I'll figure it out myself.

Adams picks up a bag of seed, but Levi spins and smacks it out of his hands. When Adams leans down to pick it back up, Levi pushes him to the ground.

Adams stands back up, defiant in his passivity.

Levi charges Adams, knocking him to the ground. He pounds the defenseless Reverend.

LEVI  
Fight, you coward.

Levi releases his full fury. It's brutal.

Suddenly, Adams has a flash of memory: Levi, thousands of years ago, large rock in hand, rears back to finish him off.

Adams snaps back to present day: Levi rears back for the finishing blow, Adams struggles to speak through the blood bubbling from his mouth.

God has fully opened his eyes.

ADAMS  
You gonna kill me again, Cain?

Levi stops, nearly frozen by the question. A look of recognition sweeps over his face.

LEVI  
Abel.

Adams pushes the stunned Levi aside and pulls himself to a sitting position, propped against the tractor tire.

Eventually, Levi stands, leans against the tractor.

Adams closes his eyes.

ADAMS  
I always thought my name was a sort  
of curse. Reverend Abel Adams.

He laughs at the thought.

LEVI  
Stand up.

Adams opens his eyes to see that Levi stands over him, holding the shotgun.

Adams shakes him off.

LEVI  
I said stand up.

Adams painfully pulls himself up.

ADAMS  
Surrender to God, Cain.

LEVI

It's always surrender with you,  
Abel.

Levi spins the gun around, slams the stock into Adams' hands  
and kneels on the ground.

LEVI

I killed you.

Levi presses the shotgun barrel to his own forehead.

LEVI

All this -- That's what it's about.

Levi closes his eyes, spreads his arms.

LEVI

God put you in this moment. Your  
chance for revenge.

Adams tosses the gun aside.

ADAMS

Just because you don't think you're  
worth saving --

Levi leaps up, grabs Adams by the collar.

LEVI

-- God damn it, Abel.

He pushes Adams back against the tractor.

ADAMS

We don't beat Saul by becoming him.  
We beat him by showing that we  
won't become him.

Levi lets up, just a touch.

ADAMS

He breaks the tractor, we fix it.  
He burns down the barn, we build a  
new one. He knocks us down, we get  
up. That's how we make him stop.

Adams points.

ADAMS

We plant these fields tonight. We  
send a message.

Adams wipes blood from his chin, squints through a quickly-swelling black eye.

ADAMS

But, I need your help.

Levi tosses Adams aside.

LEVI

God you're naive.

Levi picks up the shotgun, notices...

Isaac.

He's obviously been standing there for a while. His anger and disappointment are palpable. His bloodied father, the raging Levi. It's almost too much.

Behind Isaac, Jordan seethes.

She approaches Levi.

LEVI

We can't let Saul --

She delivers a hard slap to Levi's face.

Isaac climbs into the seat of the tractor and starts it up. Jordan tends to her husband as Levi retreats to the house.

INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A shotgun shell sits upright on the lace of the dining room table. It's knocked aside by a glass of ice water.

JORDAN

Drink.

Levi sits alone at the table, the shotgun, along with a pile of shells, near him.

Jordan retreats to the kitchen. Levi palms the glass with one hand, nervously flips a shotgun shell with the other.

LEVI

I won't see you again. After tonight.

Jordan returns to the doorway.

Levi can't look at her. She can't look at him.

JORDAN

This is my fault. I brought Saul  
into this.

She turns for the kitchen. Levi lunges, grabs her arm.

LEVI

I know this won't mean anything to  
you, but I loved you.

She freezes. They lock eyes.

LEVI

I still do.

Jordan's expression changes. The look is familiar to Levi.  
It's realization.

LEVI

You recognize me.

She pulls free, sweeps out of the room.

KITCHEN

Jordan slumps against the counter, Levi hurries to her.

LEVI

Do you remember?

JORDAN

Do I remember? What? That six  
thousand years ago, God chose Abel  
to be my husband, and you killed  
him?

She spins, hits him. Hard. Repeatedly.

JORDAN

You took my husband from me.

LEVI

I had no idea what death was. The  
permanence. No one did. On some  
level you understood that. I mean,  
you married me.

JORDAN

Who else was I to marry?

He grabs her, fights to calm her.

LEVI

I was good to you.

It's almost a question.

JORDAN  
I learned to love you. But, I  
always hated you.

He's practically pleading.

LEVI  
I provided.

JORDAN  
You want to be a good person? Do  
the right thing.

LEVI  
That's what I'm trying to do.

JORDAN  
By nearly killing my husband?  
Again.

LEVI  
I'm sorry --

JORDAN  
-- I'm not your wife. Isaac is not  
your son.

LEVI  
I know that.

JORDAN  
Do you?

LEVI  
Tell me what to do. Abel says if I  
kill Saul, I dishonor Isaac. You  
say I dishonor you by protecting  
you.

JORDAN  
So, you're protecting me?

LEVI  
He won't stop.

JORDAN  
And you will?

LEVI  
I'm not Saul.



JORDAN

Then show it. Because what I saw  
out there...

LEVI

I can't let him --

JORDAN

-- Just go do what you were always  
going to do.

She storms out of the room.

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Muddy shoes hang off the end of Isaac's bed, as Levi, ball  
cap on his chest, lies prone, staring at the ceiling.

He looks around the room, notices the BB gun hung on the  
wall, the mannequin in a chair by Isaac's desk.

LATER

He stands in Isaac's closet, smelling the clothes.

INT. FARMHOUSE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Levi stands at the front door, shotgun in hand, looking back  
into the house.

He soaks it in.

One picture catches his eye. A family portrait. Adams, Jordan  
and Isaac. Happy.

He sets the gun in the corner and reaches for the doorknob.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Lightning flashes in the distance, silhouetting the tractor  
as it sits idle near the field. Overhead, storm clouds churn.

Levi marches through the first drops of rain.

Isaac approaches him, heading for the house. He tracks Levi,  
his eyes filled with the pain of betrayal. Levi looks away.

Adams, cold and beaten, drags behind. He ignores Levi.

When they pass, Levi reaches out, stops Adams.

Isaac continues into the house, letting the SCREEN DOOR SLAM.

Levi stares at Adams, searches his face. He kisses him on the forehead then cradles his brother's head on his shoulder.

LEVI  
My brother.

Adams doesn't hug him back. Eventually, Levi lets go.

ADAMS  
The fields are planted. It's in  
God's hands now.

Adams disappears into the quiet of the farmhouse, leaving his brother alone in the rain.

Levi whispers to himself...

LEVI  
Good-bye, Abel.

Levi climbs onto the sidecar motorcycle and heads into the building storm.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

"Wanted" bulletins line a board inside the tiny, underfunded law enforcement outpost. In the center, ONE FOR LEVI.

A hand reaches up, rips it off the board.

Levi, soaked from the rain, walks to an empty counter, RINGS a bell. Waits.

Eventually, the dispatcher, BEN, 50s, shuffles out, adjusting his trousers. He sees Levi.

BEN  
Sorry, I was in the john.

Levi offers him the bulletin.

It takes a few seconds for the information to register, but soon Ben's hands begin to shake.

Ben takes a quick drink from a nearby coffee cup.

SAUL (O.S.)  
I got this.

Saul approaches fast.

BEN  
I'll call the Sheriff.

SAUL  
Let him sleep.

Levi kneels and Saul quickly has him cuffed.

Saul pulls Levi to his feet. He's not particularly gentle.

SAUL  
I'll drive him down to Jeff City.

BEN  
That's not procedure.

SAUL  
And what part of procedure includes  
you drinking scotch?

Ben shifts the coffee cup to under the counter.

Saul leads Levi out the front door.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jordan gently presses a wet cloth on Adams' bruised and muddied face.

JORDAN  
I remember, I was so lonely, after  
Cain killed you. I married him  
but...

She strokes Adams' cheek.

JORDAN  
He was just -- It was such a  
different time.

She looks away, hiding her shame.

JORDAN  
Still, he couldn't protect me from  
Saul.

Jordan looks back to Adams, tears in her eyes.

She stares into the distance, back in the moment.

JORDAN  
I remember Saul's hands. Choking.

Jordan reflexively strokes her neck.

JORDAN

I knew I was dying. But, the thing  
I remember most -- I wasn't afraid.

Jordan returns to lovingly cleaning Adams' face.

JORDAN

I understand it now. Somehow, even  
in that moment, I knew we'd be  
together again.

He sits back on the couch and stretches out his legs. As he  
does, he accidentally kicks the Bible, still on the floor  
from the night before.

He picks it up. Clutches it.

JORDAN

Levi's a deeply flawed man. But,  
you said before, God brought him  
here for a reason.

Adams' face strains with emotion.

ADAMS

If God hasn't given up on him...

Jordan places her hands over her husband's.

ADAMS

I can't let him do this alone. He's  
my brother.

JORDAN

I'm going with you.

ADAMS

No, you're not.

She sweeps toward the door.

JORDAN

You don't have a choice.

The Reverend chases after her.

ADAMS

What about Isaac?

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rocks crunch as a car skids to a stop on a gravel drive.

The car door opens and Adams sprints around the front. He hustles a sleepy Isaac out of the car and up to the house where Tom and his WIFE, 60s, wait in their pajamas.

Tom's Wife takes Isaac and leads him inside.

ADAMS  
You have it?

TOM  
(about Adams' face)  
You alright?

ADAMS  
Do you have it?

Tom holds his shotgun up.

ADAMS  
I wouldn't ask...

Tom sits back in a rocking chair near the front door, lays the shotgun across his lap.

TOM  
I won't move until you're back.

ADAMS  
And if we don't come back -- If  
Saul --

TOM  
-- No one's getting to that boy.

Adams runs back to the car.

ADAMS  
You're a good man, Tom.

Adams peels away, into the storm.

INT./EXT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

A bobblehead Moses, complete with tiny stone tablets, dances on the dash of Saul's police cruiser as rain pounds the windshield. Saul, driving, stares into the darkness ahead.

Levi calls out from the backseat, behind a metal cage that separates the front seat from the back.

LEVI

I didn't take you for a religious fellow.

Saul taps the bobblehead. It swings wildly.

SAUL

My Nana gave me that. Said, "You never know when you're going to need divine intervention."

He looks into the rearview mirror.

SAUL

But, I don't wait for divine intervention.

Saul reaches down and checks his left pant leg. He's got a GUN hidden underneath.

LEVI

Not sure you'd get the type of intervention you'd be hoping for anyway. How many of those commandments have you broken?

SAUL

Let's see. I've coveted.

Saul thinks hard.

SAUL

And, Lord knows I've taken his name in vain. Probably dishonored my parents once or twice.

LEVI

You're missing at least one.

The cruiser approaches the steel truss bridge.

SAUL

Thou shalt not kill.

Saul pulls hard on the steering wheel.

WHAM! The car slams into the first upright of the bridge.

Levi smashes against the metal cage, then slumps back, his face bloodied. He's out cold.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff's office glows bright, a standout on a dark and sleepy Main Street.

Adams' clunker of a car skids to a halt in front of the entrance. The front bumper continues on, bouncing down the wet pavement.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ben stares at the phone, nurses the coffee cup. Levi's poster lies nearby.

Rev. Adams bursts in.

ADAMS  
Where's Saul?

BEN  
Hey, Reverend.  
(about his face)  
Jesus...

ADAMS  
Saul?

BEN  
Took a prisoner to Jeff City.

ADAMS  
Prisoner?

Ben holds up the poster of Levi.

ADAMS  
Shit.

Ben is taken aback by the singular burst of profanity.

BEN  
Reverend.

Adams calls back as he heads for the door.

ADAMS  
Nobody believes that's coffee, Ben.

Once Adams is gone, Ben downs the remaining "coffee" and stares at Levi's picture.

He tosses the coffee cup into a nearby trash can, pops a breath mint and picks up the phone.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Levi shakes awake.

Up front, Saul recovers, punches the airbag out of his way.

Moving slowly, Saul reaches into the glove box, retrieves a paper clip and bends it open.

He steps out of the car and opens the back door.

Saul tosses the paper clip onto the floor of the back seat.

SAUL

Kick the back window out.

Levi looks at him, confused. Saul pulls the gun from his gun belt, points it at Levi.

SAUL

Turn around. Kick it out.

Levi rotates onto his back and complies, kicking hard until the window finally gives way.

Saul rips Levi out of the car, marches him to the middle of the bridge, where he throws him to the ground and uncuffs Levi's right hand.

He steps back, holsters his gun and takes the belt off, then tosses it into the rushing water below.

SAUL

Stand up.

Levi slowly pulls himself to his feet.

Saul punches him.

SAUL

Let's go.

Levi has no problem complying with this order.

He charges Saul and slams him into one of the bridge uprights, then knees him hard in the groin. Saul crumples, but not for long.

He rips Levi's leg out from under him, sweeping him to the ground, then jumps on top of him.

Saul punches Levi in the face, but Levi bucks him off.



The men wrestle for control. They claw, scratch, bite. It's all out war and it's primal.

Saul again pins Levi, but Levi rolls them to the side of the bridge where he pushes Saul's head over the edge. Hands around Saul's neck, he chokes him.

Saul grabs the handcuff dangling from Levi's left arm and pulls Levi's arm out from under him.

Using the handcuff almost as a brass knuckle, he punches Levi in the face, sending him backwards. It's a devastating blow.

Saul snaps the gun from his ankle holster, pulls himself up and stands over Levi.

He grinds the gun into Levi's forehead. BANG!

Levi flinches, but he's unhurt.

ADAMS (O.S.)

Drop it.

Reverend Adams holds the shotgun in the air. Smoke drifts from the barrel.

Saul turns his gun on Adams. Adams aims his at Saul.

SAUL

You're interfering with the recapture of a wanted man.

ADAMS

Not what it looks like to me.

SAUL

That's what it's going to look like to everyone else.

JORDAN (O.S.)

I won't fight you.

Jordan approaches the bridge.

LEVI

Jordan, no.

ADAMS

What are you doing?

JORDAN

You can have the farm. I'll be your wife. But you have to let them go.

SAUL

I'll take that deal.

ADAMS

No. Jordan --

JORDAN

(to Adams)

-- Saul is my sin.

She steps between Adams and Saul so that Adams can't shoot.

LEVI

This is on God, Jordan. You have  
nothing to do with this.

When she's close enough, Saul grabs her and spins her around,  
using her as a shield. Adams lunges, so Saul presses his gun  
into Jordan's temple.

He motions for Adams to drop the gun. Adams does.

SAUL

(to Levi)

Cuff yourself to the bridge. Now.

Levi crawls to the railing and does as he's ordered.

JORDAN

But, you agreed --

SAUL

-- I almost missed it. But, you  
didn't include Isaac. Honest  
mistake, right?

With Levi secured, Saul tosses Jordan to Adams and saunters  
over to scoop up the shotgun.

SAUL

Prisoner escapes with help from the  
two people that most hold a grudge  
against me.

Saul aims the shotgun at a bridge upright. BANG! Pellets  
dimple the metal.

SAUL

Shoot-out ensues.

Saul drops the shotgun and kicks it aside.

He kneels down, gets in Levi's face.

SAUL

Before I kill you, I'm going to let  
you watch them die.

Saul stands.

SAUL  
Isaac will finally have the father  
he deserves.

Levi, his uncuffed arm behind his back, reaches around,  
searching for something. Anything.

Saul keys the mic on his radio, points his gun to the sky.

SAUL  
Officer needs assistance at the  
Gardner Bridge! Shots fired!

He pulls the trigger. BANG!

SAUL  
I repeat. Shots fired!

BANG! Saul releases the mic. The Sheriff's voice crackles  
over the radio.

SHERIFF (O.C.)  
Hang on Saul. I'm not far.

Saul points the gun at Jordan, but Adams quickly shields her.

SAUL  
You want to go first? Fine.

Adams turns to Jordan, pulls her close.

ADAMS  
You. Me. Isaac. We were always  
meant to be together.

Jordan looks down, but Adams gently nudges her chin up.

ADAMS  
I'm not afraid.

The look on his face says, "IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY."

ADAMS  
Even if it takes another six  
thousand years...

They kiss.

Adams turns back to Saul as Jordan presses her face into her  
husband's back.

Saul raises the gun.

Levi finally finds what he's looking for: the BROKEN METAL BAR from his suicide attempt. He swings it hard, catching Saul at the knees.

The gun goes flying.

Saul quickly gathers himself and charges Levi.

Grabbing him by the throat, Saul chokes him, bending him back, over the bridge's edge.

Levi struggles to get the words out...

LEVI  
She was never my wife.

SAUL  
What?

LEVI  
Not really, anyway.

SAUL  
You're one crazy son of a bitch.

Saul squeezes harder, ready to finish him off.

BANG!

Saul lets go. He stands, turns to Adams.

Smoke trails from the barrel of the gun in the Reverend's trembling hands.

Saul staggers, then drops to the pavement. Dead.

Adams, in shock, doesn't move.

Jordan runs to Saul, takes the keys off him and quickly uncuffs Levi as SIRENS wail in the distance.

Levi limps to the stunned Adams. He pushes gently on Adams' arm, helping him lower the gun.

ADAMS  
You need to get out of here.

Levi takes the gun. The SIRENS grow closer.

LEVI  
You don't know me.

Adams is confused.

Levi reaches into his pocket, pulls out Isaac's ball cap. He hands it to Adams.

LEVI  
I know you'll take care of him.

The Sheriff's car skids to a stop.

Levi raises the gun. BANG! He shoots Saul's body.

Levi grabs Adams, spins him around, puts the gun to his brother's temple, whispers in his ear.

LEVI  
If I could take it all back --

ADAMS  
-- I forgive you, Cain.

Levi watches as the symbol on his forearm, the mark of Cain, slowly disappears.

The Sheriff throws the car door open, draws his weapon.

SHERIFF  
Give it up.

LEVI  
Stay back. I already shot Saul.

SHERIFF  
Just drop the weapon.

LEVI  
If these two hadn't driven up --  
I'd already be three towns over.

Levi locks eyes with Jordan. She mouths: "THANK YOU."

Levi whispers to Adams.

LEVI  
Baptize me.

ADAMS  
I can't -- how?

SHERIFF  
No one else needs to get hurt.

LEVI  
(to Adams)  
Say the words. Please.

Adams' voice trembles.

ADAMS

Levi --

LEVI

-- My name is Cain. Cain of Adam.  
Brother of Abel.

SHERIFF

Let him go. Now!

ADAMS

Cain of Adam, in the name of the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, for the forgiveness of your  
sins --

LEVI

-- God bless you, brother.

He pushes Abel aside, points the weapon at him.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The Sheriff's shots land accurate and hard.

Levi staggers back, to the edge of the bridge.

He watches as Jordan rushes to Adams' side and Adams throws  
his arms around her.

Levi falls backwards, arms splayed.

The rushing water below welcomes him.

EXT. STREAM - NIGHT - LATER

A man floats peacefully down the stream, past a rusting  
electric chair.

He gazes unceasingly at the stars above.

It's Levi.

Finally dead.