

BEAR TRAP
by
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FADE IN:

INT. TROPHY ROOM - MORNING

A polar bear, teeth bared and claws out, stands erect and ready to strike. The beast is one of many rare and endangered animals on display.

Dozens of animal heads hang on the walls. Various prizes and awards rest in a series of glass cases. Numerous photographs line the perimeter of the room.

One set of photos features a small boy who shows off the large fish he has captured. A second set depicts the boy, now a teenager, as he displays his hunting prowess.

A third set shows the teenager, now a young man, as he poses in remote locales. A fourth set depicts the young man, now in middle-age, with presidents and dignitaries.

A brown leather case with gold trim rests on a table in the middle of the room. A pair of male hands strokes the case and carries it out of view.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET #1 - MORNING

A school bus drives down the tree-lined street and stops next to a group of PARENTS with their elementary and middle school-aged CHILDREN.

SHELTON ALEXANDER (36, African-American), a lean and wiry bespectacled man with his black hair cropped very short, stands amongst the crowd.

JOCELYN (36, African-American), statuesque, stands by Shelton and turns to their children. KYLIE (12), withdrawn, and TRINA (8), precocious, don backpacks.

JOCELYN

Time to go, girls.

Shelton kneels down and gives Trina a hug.

SHELTON

Take care, Trina. I'll see you soon.

TRINA

Daddy, can you bring me a pine cone?

SHELTON

A pine cone? Why?

TRINA

We can plant it in the back yard and
make a big tree for a tree house.

Shelton smiles and pats Trina on the head.

SHELTON

I'll bring one back, I promise.

Kylie grimaces as Shelton embraces her.

SHELTON

You take care, Kylie.

KYLIE

Dad! People are looking!

Kylie squirms free and follows Trina onto the bus. Trina waves from inside the vehicle. Kylie slumps down in a window seat and shields her face from view.

Shelton, Jocelyn, and their fellow parents look on as the school bus drives away. Shelton and Jocelyn stroll down the sidewalk away from the others.

SHELTON

They're growing up fast. Too fast.
When did twelve become the cut-off
for a hug?

JOCELYN

You think she's bad now? Wait 'til
she starts high school. So, how
anxious are you?

SHELTON

On a scale from one to ten? Seventy.

He shakes his head.

SHELTON

What am I thinking, Jocelyn? I can't
spend a week in the wilderness.

She stops and places her hands on his shoulders.

JOCELYN

Shelton, this week could be the most
important week of your life. Promise
me you'll be ready?

He hangs his head and meekly nods. She smiles through her disappointment and leads him away.

EXT. LAGUARDIA AIRPORT - CENTRAL TERMINAL - MORNING

A mob of TRAVELERS weave past each other as they enter and exit the large building. A taxicab rolls to a stop nearby.

MIGUEL GUTIERREZ (30, Latin-American), a lean and muscular man with wavy black hair and a goatee, exits the vehicle.

MIGUEL

C'mon, just pop the trunk already!

LILLIAN (28), a curvy blonde, steps out of the taxicab.

LILLIAN

Settle down! You've got time!

The male CAB DRIVER scurries out from behind the wheel and opens the trunk. Miguel retrieves his luggage while Lillian hands a wad of cash to the driver.

LILLIAN

Thanks, man! Keep the change!

The driver enters his vehicle and drives off.

MIGUEL

How much you tip that guy?

LILLIAN

Ten.

MIGUEL

Yeah, ten too much. C'mon, I'm late.

He lugs one bag in his hand and another over his shoulder. She pulls a luggage bag on wheels behind her. The pair struggles to wade through the crowd.

LILLIAN

Wanna pick up the pace there, Miguel?

MIGUEL

I would, Lillian, if these morons would get the hell out of the way. Would you people move it already?!

The couple squeezes past the throng.

LILLIAN

You'd better haul ass if you wanna catch the plane.

MIGUEL

The last thing I need's for the TSA
to catch a brown person sprintin'
through LaGuardia.

LILLIAN

Brown?! You're Puerto Rican!

MIGUEL

Same difference.

LILLIAN

Gonna be this bitchy on the flight?

MIGUEL

Not gonna make the flight if these
idiots don't get out of my way. Walk
on the right, people! The right!

The pair reaches the main doors. He darts inside. She
tries to follow when the wheels on her bag catch a rut.

LILLIAN

Hey, wait up! I said, wait up!

She pulls the bag free but loses a wheel. She drags the
crippled bag through the entrance.

LILLIAN

Thanks for lendin' a hand, jerk!

INT. LOS ANGELES INT'L AIRPORT - DEPARTURE LOUNGE - MORNING

Several TRAVELERS and WELL-WISHERS sit in the spacious
lounge. A small group of GATE CREW MEMBERS staff the desk
next to the departure gate.

WARREN DELANEY (32), a tall and athletic man with his blonde
hair swept back, wades through the benches with a pair of
Styrofoam cups in hand.

REGAN (32), a pretty blonde woman who is eight months
pregnant, sits on a bench with a carry-on bag beside her.
Warren appears and hands her a cup.

WARREN

Your tea, Madame.

REGAN

Oh! Why, merci beaucoup.

She chuckles and sips her tea. He places the carry-on bag
on the floor and sits next to her.

WARREN

You sure you'll be okay on your own?

REGAN

At least I'll be around civilization. Do you have to do this, Warren? I mean, slogging through the woods for a week sounds like trouble to me.

WARREN

I've spent two months preparing for this, Regan. Besides, I've never been one to do anything too risky.

REGAN

I guess I'd be more trusting if I didn't have to leave you in the hands of such an eccentric. Where'd he get that funny name, anyway?

WARREN

His dad played for the Crimson Tide.

REGAN

What is that, a swim team?

A female gate crew member works a microphone and her voice echoes over the PA system.

GATE CREW MEMBER

Flight 316 from Los Angeles to Seattle is now boarding. Flight 316.

Warren grabs the carry-on bag and stands up.

WARREN

Well, time to go.

REGAN

Can you give me a hand?

Warren smiles and helps Regan to her feet.

WARREN

What are you going to do without me?

The travelers and well-wishers gather by the gate and say their goodbyes. Warren and Regan appear hand-in-hand and embrace one another.

REGAN

Good luck and stay safe.

WARREN

Take care of yourself ... and lay off
the ice cream, okay?

She smiles while he steps away and checks in with the gate crew. They wave goodbye as he heads through the gate.

INT. PASSENGER AIRCRAFT - FIRST CLASS SECTION - MORNING

Several PASSENGERS sit in the posh compartment. PARKER (32), a slender brunette, heads down an aisle.

Parker settles down in a window seat while a man appears and places a carry-on bag in the overhead compartment.

PARKER

First class and a window seat? I
could get used to this.

CHARLES O'ROURKE (32), a tall and strapping fellow with his black hair combed back, takes the seat next to her.

CHARLES

Well, if I pass this little test,
you'll get your chance.

PARKER

How did you get these seats, anyway?

CHARLES

I asked if I could take an indirect
flight through St. Louis.

She raises an eyebrow.

PARKER

They paid for my seat, too?

CHARLES

No, I paid for it.

PARKER

Charles, we're on a budget --

He pats her knee.

CHARLES

For now, Parker. For now. Things
will change once I get the promotion.

PARKER

You're not lacking in confidence.

CHARLES

You have to understand how this company works. The final decision won't come down to what I say in an interview or what fork I use at dinner. The person who performs best in the elements gets the promotion.

He leans back and smiles.

CHARLES

I always knew being a Boy Scout would pay off sooner or later.

PARKER

Strange way to pick an executive.

CHARLES

It's worked for thirty years. Who are we to argue? Trust me, our lives are about to change for the better.

PARKER

How, exactly?

A female FLIGHT ATTENDANT appears with a champagne tray.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Pardon me, would the two of you like a glass of complementary champagne?

Charles and Parker exchange a look and a smile.

PARKER

I definitely could get used to this.

INT. PRIVATE AIRPORT - HANGAR - MORNING

A large private jet rests inside the expansive hangar. A small group of FLIGHT CREW MEMBERS prepare the craft for flight. A limousine appears and parks nearby.

A male CHAUFFEUR exits the limo and opens the rear door. NORA HAMILTON (50), an elegant strawberry blonde, steps out of the vehicle and speaks into a cell phone.

NORA

Well, I was going to fly direct but I have to head to Alaska first.

The chauffeur opens the trunk and places several pieces of luggage on the ground.

NORA

Yes, that Alaska. At least I'm only staying for a few hours before I --

She glares at the busy flight crew.

NORA

Would you stop standing around and get my bags, please?!

The flight crew ceases their work and begrudgingly carries the luggage onto the craft. Nora approaches the jet as she speaks into her phone.

NORA

Sorry, the hired help were doing nothing as usual. ... Hmm? Oh, you-know-who's going on one of his little excursions again.

A man, face obscured, exits the limousine with the familiar brown leather case in hand. Nora takes notice as the man strolls toward the jet.

NORA

I have to go. See you in Tokyo!

Nora puts her phone away, turns to the new arrival, and takes note of his leather case.

NORA

You're bringing that with you? Troublemaker. Let's go.

Nora leads the man inside the jet.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOTEL - EVENING

The late-day sun shines on the grand building.

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - EVENING

A chime rings out as Warren enters the rustic room with luggage in hand. He strolls past a few HOTEL GUESTS and approaches the male HOTEL CLERK behind the front desk.

WARREN

Excuse me, my name's Warren --

HOTEL CLERK

Good evening, Mr. Delaney. We've been expecting you. Mr. Hamilton has requested you wait for him on the promenade terrace in the restaurant.

Warren glances toward the front doors as the chime rings once more. Charles carries his luggage through the entrance and heads for the front desk.

CHARLES

Hello there, I'm Charles --

HOTEL CLERK

Good evening, Mr. O'Rourke. You've been expected. You gentlemen may leave your bags here.

The clerk rings a bell on his desk and two male BELLHOPS step into view. Charles and Warren reach for their wallets as the bellhops take their luggage.

HOTEL CLERK

No need for that, gentlemen. Mr. Hamilton has fully compensated the staff for all expenses you will incur during your stay.

Charles and Warren exchange a surprised glance.

HOTEL CLERK

Could you gentlemen sign in, please?

The clerk steps away while Charles grabs a pen and signs the registry. Warren removes his coat, reveals a thick sweater, and rubs his hands.

CHARLES

What's with the sweater?

WARREN

It's freezing out there.

Charles hands Warren the pen.

CHARLES

It's fifty-five degrees.

Warren signs the registry.

WARREN

I know. Aren't you cold?

CHARLES
I'm from Chicago. You?

WARREN
Los Angeles.

CHARLES
No, really?

The pair shares a smile as the clerk steps into view and hands key cards to both of them.

HOTEL CLERK
Here are your room passes, gentlemen.
Please, enjoy your stay. You will
find the restaurant down the hall.

INT. HOTEL - RESTAURANT - EVENING

Several PATRONS dine in the grand eatery. Animal heads, mounted fish, and landscape paintings grace the walls. Charles and Warren step through a set of large wooden doors.

Shelton sits alone at the only table on a terrace across the room. Grand windows overlook the Alaskan landscape behind him while a grandfather clock stands nearby.

Shelton spots the pair and raises his hand. Charles and Warren wave back and stroll across the room. Shelton stands up as Charles and Warren join him on the terrace.

SHELTON
Thank goodness. I was starting to
worry I showed up a day early.

Shelton shakes hands with Charles and Warren.

SHELTON
Shelton Alexander. I'm from the
Washington branch.

CHARLES
Charles O'Rourke. Chicago.

WARREN
Warren Delaney. Los Angeles.

The men sit at the table.

CHARLES
How long have you been waiting here?

SHELTON
Oh, forty minutes or so.

WARREN

How'd you get here so early?

SHELTON

Caught the early flight to Juneau.

Charles and Warren share a look.

WARREN

Direct? I needed two flights.

CHARLES

Three. How'd you get here direct?

Shelton flashes a wry grin.

SHELTON

You don't think Alaska's congressmen would tolerate a layover, would you? So, we're waiting for one more?

WARREN

Yes, Miguel Gutierrez.

SHELTON

Where's he from?

The trio and other patrons turn to the wooden doors as a loud slam cuts through the air. Miguel noisily marches through the entrance and eyes the room with contempt.

MIGUEL

Great, I'm stuck in the middle of a Deliverance remake. God, this stupid hick town better have a Starbucks.

Miguel grimaces as he stalks toward the terrace. Charles turns to Warren and Shelton with a smile.

CHARLES

New York City.

The grandfather clock reads twenty minutes past six.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL - RESTAURANT - EVENING (LATER)

The grandfather clock reads ten minutes to seven. Charles and Warren sit quietly, Miguel fiddles with his fork, and Shelton eyes the menu.

SHELTON

Quite a menu they have here. I just wish we could order already.

CHARLES

I'm guessing this is our first test.

Miguel repeatedly taps his fork against a glass of water.

MIGUEL

Yeah, well, I didn't come all the way up here just to sit and wait.

Warren calmly pulls Miguel's glass out of reach.

WARREN

Personally, I'm going to assume we're being monitored at all times.

SHELTON

You think he's spying on us?

CHARLES

Didn't he do exactly that during his trip to Africa seven years ago?

Miguel smirks and shakes his head.

MIGUEL

Can't believe he forced a bunch of white-collar stiff's up and down Mount Kilimanjaro. Sounded like torture.

SHELTON

Frank Tillman didn't complain. Then again, he was the only white-collar stiff, as you say, to reach the top.

WARREN

Still talks about it from the comfort of his corner office to this day.

Shelton takes a deep breath.

SHELTON

I hope this week goes better than that sailing trip three years ago.

CHARLES

The one off the coast of Chile? I didn't know an earthquake could push a boat that far out to sea.

WARREN

I think they were more concerned with the lack of wind for an entire week.

SHELTON

Irene Ellis did a great job getting the group back to safety.

MIGUEL

Yeah, and gettin' the Asia portfolio.

Charles strokes his chin.

CHARLES

I've always wondered why he didn't use their radio to call for help.

WARREN

Oh, I'm sure he had the situation under control. It's not like he would put anyone in real danger.

Miguel arches an eyebrow.

MIGUEL

Sure about that? Remember his trip to the South Pole five years ago?

SHELTON

Wait, how was that his fault? A storm wrecked their supplies right from the start.

CHARLES

Well, from what I heard, a couple of people demanded they turn back but were forced to complete the journey.

WARREN

Those two were demoted once they came home and quit a few months later.

Miguel leans back in his chair.

MIGUEL

I work with one of the guys who went on that trip. He swears they didn't have enough supplies to begin with.

The group sits quietly until the wooden doors noisily swing open. The men look toward the entrance as Nora steps into view with cell phone in hand.

NORA

You wouldn't believe what a dreadful little town this is. When Target is the only boutique in sight --

She stops and eyes the décor.

NORA

Oh, God, there's dead animals all over the place. Hold on.

She calls to someone just outside the room.

NORA

Sweetie?

BEAR HAMILTON (54), a strong and sturdy man from Alabama with silver hair and a neatly trimmed beard, strides into view. He embraces Nora and kisses her cheek.

BEAR

Have a good time in Tokyo, darlin'.

NORA

Take care of yourself.

BEAR

Always do, Nora. Always do.

Nora departs while Bear heads for the terrace. Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton rise to their feet. Bear approaches Charles and Warren and shakes their hands.

BEAR

Charles. Warren.

CHARLES

Pleasure to finally meet you.

WARREN

Thank you for the invitation.

BEAR

Well, thank ya fer acceptin'.

Bear shakes hands with Miguel and Shelton.

BEAR

Miguel. Shelton.

MIGUEL

Great to meet you.

SHELTON

Good evening, Mr. Hamilton.

BEAR

We off the clock, boys. Call me Bear. Why y'all standin'? I ain't no king. Siddown, already!

The group shares a chuckle and sits at the table. Bear raises his hand and snaps his fingers twice.

BEAR

Hope y'all ready ta order. Starvin'.

A female WAITRESS arrives with pad and pen in hand.

WAITRESS

Good evening, Mr. Hamilton.

BEAR

Evenin', darlin'. Usual.

WAITRESS

One marinated porterhouse steak dish.

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton look over their menus.

MIGUEL

Gimme the continental beef steak.

WARREN

Poached salmon with aspic, please.

SHELTON

I'd like the Chef's salad.

CHARLES

The broiled lemon-chicken, thanks.

The waitress jots down the orders.

WAITRESS

And what would you like to drink?

BEAR

Scotch on the rocks.

MIGUEL

Gin and tonic here.

WARREN

What wine do you recommend?

Bear arches an eyebrow in Warren's direction.

WAITRESS

Our Sauvignon Blanc perfectly
compliments the poached salmon.

WARREN

Okay, I'll have a glass.

SHELTON

Do you have any Earl Grey?

Bear shoots a look at Shelton.

BEAR

Tea?!

Shelton stammers in response.

SHELTON

Well, I just ... I wondered if --

Bear turns to the waitress.

BEAR

Get this man a bourbon, straight up.

The waitress flashes a grin and turns to Charles.

WAITRESS

And you?

CHARLES

Water's fine, thanks.

Bear glares across the table.

BEAR

Water?

Charles raises his glass of water with a smile.

CHARLES

Water.

The waitress looks over the orders on her pad.

WAITRESS

Sit tight, I'll be back in a jiffy.

Bear stares daggers at Charles as the waitress steps away.
Warren, Miguel, and Shelton tense up as Charles sips his
water and returns Bear's gaze.

CHARLES

I'm sorry, is there a problem?

BEAR

Don't trust nobody who don't drink.

Charles arches an eyebrow.

CHARLES

A triple negative, Bear? Something tells me you've already had enough to drink for one night.

Charles flashes a disarming smile while Bear coldly glares in response. Warren, Miguel, and Shelton eye the pair nervously as silence lingers in the air.

The tension ends when a grin washes over Bear's face. The others relax and the group shares a laugh. The grandfather clock reads five minutes to seven.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL - RESTAURANT - EVENING (LATER)

The grandfather clock reads fifteen minutes to eight. Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton listen as Bear concludes a story.

BEAR

... so I turn ta the Vice-President an' say, "I ain't dealin' with no lawyers, Dickie, but if ya wanna handle it my shotgun's in the back."

The group shares a chuckle as the waitress appears and gathers their empty plates and glasses. She eyes Shelton's full glass of bourbon.

WAITRESS

Finished?

The others watch as Shelton picks up the glass, takes a sip, and strains not to cough.

SHELTON

Yes, thanks.

Bear chuckles as the waitress takes the glass away.

BEAR

Too strong fer ya?

SHELTON

Just a little.

Warren turns to Bear as the waitress steps out of view.

WARREN

Good thing drinking's not part of the job description, now isn't it?

Bear leans back in his chair.

BEAR

Y'all musta heard quite a few tall tales 'bout me, haven't ya?

The others exchange a look.

BEAR

Listen, boys, I started Hamilton Coal an' Steel with an ol' strip mine. Three decades later, I made it into a Fortune 500 company by always hirin' the right people fer the job.

CHARLES

How do you find the right people?

BEAR

Not with no résumé or interview, I tell ya what. Those don't tell ya nothin'. Nothin' 'bout how ya handle stress or adversity, how ya think or react on the fly. Nothin'.

MIGUEL

This trip's our interview, isn't it?

Bear shakes his head.

BEAR

C'mon, boys, I ain't basin' no decision just on whatcha do out here.

Bear leans across the table.

BEAR

Look, y'all, this ain't no interview. We just gonna have a little adventure together an' get ta know each other a bit. Don't that sound like fun?

The others share an uneasy glance.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - EVENING

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton step out of an elevator and into the corridor. Bear wobbles as he stays inside the compartment and holds the sliding doors open.

BEAR

Yup, now I had enough ta drink.

The group shares a smile.

BEAR

Next five days gonna be rough. Get some rest, boys, an' make sure ya call home. See ya in the mornin'.

Bear steps back and disappears behind the elevator doors.

INT. ALEXANDER HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jocelyn lies sound asleep in bed when a telephone on the nightstand rings. She darts awake, turns on the nearby lamp, and answers the call.

JOCELYN

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HOTEL - SHELTON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Shelton sits on his bed and speaks into his cell phone.

SHELTON

Hi, Jocelyn. It's me.

JOCELYN

Shelton? What's wrong?

SHELTON

Nothing, I just wanted to call --

JOCELYN

Did you forget what time zone you're in? It's past midnight over here.

SHELTON

I know, and I'm sorry. It's just, I ... Well, I miss you.

She sits up and smiles.

JOCELYN

I miss you, too. So, how was dinner?

SHELTON

Funny story, I wanted a cup of tea but Bear ordered me a glass of bourbon instead. My goodness, how could anyone stand the taste --

She rubs her forehead.

JOCELYN

Don't you think that was a test?

SHELTON

What? No, he told us all those stores about him weren't true.

JOCELYN

Did you really think he'd flat-out tell you he was judging every little thing you do up there? Come on, you're smarter than that.

He hangs his head.

SHELTON

I don't need this right now.

She curls up on the bed.

JOCELYN

You're under enough pressure as it is. You don't need me to pile on. So, did you get Trina's pine cone?

He chuckles and rises to his feet.

SHELTON

Hey, wait 'til I actually get out of the hotel first!

INT. GUTIERREZ HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lillian sits in bed with a tablet computer on her lap. A telephone on the nearby nightstand rings. She sets the tablet aside and answers the call.

LILLIAN

Yeah, who's this?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HOTEL - MIGUEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Miguel paces about and speaks into his cell phone.

MIGUEL

Who do you think?

LILLIAN

Jesus, it's about time!

MIGUEL

Hey, I said I'd call and I've called.

She smirks to herself.

LILLIAN

Nice to hear from you, too. So,
what's the boss like?

MIGUEL

Bear's my type of guy. He's lookin'
for a born leader. I've sized the
others up. They don't hold a candle
to me when it comes to assertiveness.

LILLIAN

Don't you mean belligerent ... ness?

He sneers in response.

MIGUEL

Hey, thanks for the support.

LILLIAN

Just teasin'. Look, watch yourself
out there. I don't want you comin'
back in a body cast or somethin'.

MIGUEL

I'm a big boy. Don't worry about me.

LILLIAN

I love you.

He hesitates for a moment.

MIGUEL

Yeah, I know.

LILLIAN

Miguel!

He grimaces to himself.

MIGUEL

I ... I love you, too.

She shakes her head.

LILLIAN

Like pullin' teeth with you.

MIGUEL

C'mon, Lillian, cut me some slack.

LILLIAN

So, you meet Sarah Palin yet?

He glances through a set of glass sliding doors which lead to a balcony outside.

MIGUEL

Nope. Can't see Russia either.

INT. DELANEY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Regan watches a police procedural on television. She downs a spoonful of ice cream from a carton as the telephone rings. She answers the call with a full mouth.

REGAN

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. HOTEL - WARREN'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Warren stands on the balcony outside his room and eyes the landscape as he speaks into his cell phone.

WARREN

Put the ice cream down, Regan.

She sets her carton aside.

REGAN

Warren! Hi! I thought you weren't going to call again 'til tomorrow.

WARREN

I wasn't, but ... It's always nice to hear your voice.

Regan grabs a home improvement magazine.

REGAN

Hey, I've found a nice shade of pink for the baby's room.

WARREN

We're having a boy.

REGAN

Did you know pink used to be a boy's color many years ago?

WARREN

The key words in that statement are "used to be" and "many years ago."

She sets the magazine aside with a smile.

REGAN

So, how do you feel?

WARREN

Honestly? A little tense, but a few butterflies are good for the nerves.

REGAN

Don't do anything too risky, okay?

WARREN

Come on, you know me. I always keep things on an even keel.

REGAN

What's the weather like?

WARREN

Fifty degrees and falling fast.

Regan sits up in alarm.

REGAN

Tell me you're wearing a sweater.

WARREN

Of course. I should probably get off this balcony, too.

REGAN

What?! You're going to catch cold! Get back inside right now!

WARREN

I'm going, I'm going! Sheesh!

EXT. PARKER HOME - PATIO - NIGHT

Several FAMILY MEMBERS converse as they enjoy barbecued meals. Parker works the grill when a cell phone rings. She sets her utensils aside and answers the call.

PARKER

Yes?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. HOTEL - CHARLES'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Charles, clad in a Chicago Cubs shirt, stands about and speaks into his cell phone. A large painting of the Alaskan wilderness hangs on the wall behind him.

CHARLES

Hey, Parker.

PARKER

Charles! How are you?

CHARLES

Fine, just fine. What the commotion?

PARKER

Mom and Dad are having a barbecue.

A frown washes over his face.

CHARLES

Cards beat the Cubs again?

PARKER

Three-game sweep! In your face!

He looks at the emblem on his shirt.

CHARLES

Come on, you ... You know I'm a Sox fan, right?

PARKER

Yeah, right. A hundred years of failure and counting.

CHARLES

This is our century. I can feel it.

She smirks to herself.

PARKER

So, ready for your little adventure?

CHARLES

As ready as I'll ever be.

PARKER

That's my little Cub Scout.

He takes a deep breath.

CHARLES

Look, we'll be roughing it for five days. If I don't get the chance to call you again, I just want to say ... I love you, Parker, and I'm going to miss you.

PARKER

It's only a week, Charles.

CHARLES

Still, I love you.

PARKER

I love you and I'll miss you, too.

Charles and Parker stay silent for a moment.

CHARLES

I wish you could have been at dinner.
Bear has some crazy stories to tell.

PARKER

How crazy?

CHARLES

Picture this. Bear goes off on
safari with Nelson Mandella, Mick
Jagger, and Bill Clinton ...

He steps away and leaves a clear view of the painting.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

A large passenger helicopter swoops into view and soars over
the majestic Alaskan wilderness.

INT. PASSENGER HELICOPTER - MORNING

Bear, Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton sit in the
comfortable craft. The group peers out the windows at the
expansive forest below.

CHARLES

Quite the view from up here.

BEAR

Gotta love Alaska. Pristine
wilderness no matter where ya look.

MIGUEL

How close is the nearest city?

Bear flashes a grin.

BEAR

Oh, only a few hundred miles away.

Shelton cringes as he scans the forest. Warren takes notice and taps his shoulder.

WARREN

You okay there?

Shelton shakes his head.

SHELTON

I'm not a fan of heights.

Bear turns to Shelton with a smile.

BEAR

Gonna hafta fix that, now doncha?

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

The helicopter flies toward the distant mountains.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #1 - MORNING

The helicopter rests amidst a clearing in the middle of the wilderness. Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton stand by a large red bag with an inflatable raft inside.

The men hold walking sticks and don utility belts and backpacks with sleeping bags. The belts hold Swiss Army knives, spools of string, and assorted items.

Bear places a hunting knife in his utility belt and stuffs a small yellow bag in his backpack. He dons the backpack and grips a walking stick and his brown leather case.

WARREN

So, where do we go from here?

Bear produces a map and highlights a river with many offshoots as well as numerous trails through the woods.

BEAR

Gonna spend the next five days hikin' through the trails as they follow the river south, 'though we hafta do a little raftin' an' climbin' 'long the way. Y'all keep pace, gonna get picked up in this clearin' sixty miles south on Saturday night.

Bear places the map in his pocket.

SHELTON

Don't we get copies of the map?

Bear smirks and arches an eyebrow.

BEAR

Why?

Warren examines the utility belt around his waist.

WARREN

Wait, I don't have a compass either.

Charles, Miguel, and Shelton eye their utility belts.

MIGUEL

None of us do.

CHARLES

Shouldn't we each have a compass?

Bear casually produces a compass from his pocket.

BEAR

One's all we need, boys.

SHELTON

Well, what happens if we get separated and end up lost --

BEAR

Stick with me, y'all won't get lost.

Charles retrieves his cell phone and prepares to dial.

BEAR

Whatcha doin'?

CHARLES

Oh, I just wanted to make a quick call before we --

Bear shakes his head.

BEAR

Won't do ya no good.

CHARLES

What? Why?

BEAR

Ya see any cell towers? We in the middle of nowhere, boys. Y'all be lucky ta get any sorta signal out here. Go ahead, give it a shot.

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton produce their cell phones and join Charles as they try to get a signal.

MIGUEL

No signal.

SHELTON

Me neither.

WARREN

What if there's an emergency, Bear?
How are we supposed to --

Bear reaches into his belt and produces a ...

BEAR

Satellite phone. Best fifteen
hundred bucks I ever spent. Don't
worry, boys, I got this.

Bear puts the satellite phone back in his belt.

BEAR

Got my hands full, so y'all hafta
take turns carryin' the raft.

Charles eyes the leather case in Bear's hand.

CHARLES

What's with the case?

Bear flashes a mischievous grin.

BEAR

C'mon, y'all, let's move.

Bear leads the others away as the helicopter turns on its engines and rises out of view.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #1 - MORNING

MONTAGE

A) Bear leads the group down a trail cut through the woods and past several massive old-growth trees.

B) Shelton trails the others when a RED FOX runs out of the woods behind him. The pair stares at each other for a moment. Shelton smiles as the fox scampers off.

C) Bear leads the men along the edge of a stream where several RIVER OTTERS hunt for food.

D) Miguel recoils as a RED SQUIRREL appears on a tree branch next to him. He swats at the animal with his walking stick and scares it back into the forest.

E) Bear leads the group past a large and majestic lake where two MOOSE drink the crystal-clear water.

F) The men march down a tree-shrouded trail when a PORCUPINE appears. Warren holds the others back and allows the animal to waddle across the path.

G) Bear leads the group past a ravine. Charles, Warren, and Miguel peer over the edge while Shelton refuses to look.

H) Charles eyes a BUTTERFLY as it flutters through the air. He extends his index finger and smiles as the creature gently lands on the perch.

I) Bear leads the men through a grassy clearing where a few CARIBOU graze in the distance.

END MONTAGE

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #2 - DAY

A modestly tall cliff overlooks the tree-shrouded clearing. Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton wearily remove their backpacks while Bear eyes the cliff face.

BEAR

Ya boys take a load off an' grab
somethin' ta eat. Gonna check out
that cliff over there.

Bear steps away while the others sit on fallen logs, rummage through their packsacks, and snack on some food.

MIGUEL

Oh, Christ. All my muscles ache,
even the ones I didn't know I had.

CHARLES

Someone should've upped his cardio.

MIGUEL

Why haven't you turned to Jell-O?

CHARLES

What can I say, I've always kept an
active lifestyle.

Shelton turns to Warren.

SHELTON

How are you holding up?

WARREN

Oh, I can't complain. Thank God I hired that personal trainer.

Shelton sips on water and shakes his head.

SHELTON

No, be thankful we're not on level ground or I would have left all of you in the dust a long time ago.

WARREN

Marathon man?

SHELTON

Long-distance track, to be precise. Went to Georgetown on scholarship. Still run five miles every morning.

Miguel stands up and stretches.

MIGUEL

Yeah, well, unless Alaska suddenly gets the Summer Olympics --

He stops and stares at the cliff face.

MIGUEL

Oh, my God! Look!

Charles, Warren, and Shelton leap to their feet. The group looks on as Bear free-climbs up the cliff face.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #1 - DAY

Bear quickly and expertly scales the obstacle.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #2 - DAY

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton eye the cliff face.

MIGUEL

What the hell's he doing?

Charles drolly turns to Miguel.

CHARLES

Climbing.

The men watch as Bear nears the summit.

SHELTON

You couldn't pay me enough.

WARREN

We'll see about that.

SHELTON

What's that supposed to mean?

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #1 - DAY

Bear reaches the summit and calls out to the clearing below.

BEAR

Hey, boys! View's amazin' up here!
Y'all oughta see this yerselves!

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #2 - DAY

Warren folds his arms and narrows his eyes.

WARREN

We're next.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #1 - DAY

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton don climbing harnesses. Bear holds the end of a climbing rope which ascends all the way to the top of the cliff.

WARREN

Are you sure this is safe? I mean,
I've never climbed before and --

BEAR

This cliff ain't that hard ta climb.
Anchored the rope ta the top an' I'll
keep ya boys on belay.

MIGUEL

Belay?

Bear holds up his end of the rope.

BEAR

Means I catch ya when ya fall.

MIGUEL

When?

Bear flashes a grin.

BEAR

If.

Miguel shakes his head.

MIGUEL

Hey, you're the expert.

BEAR

Guess so, unless any y'all done some climbin' before.

Charles tentatively raises his hand.

CHARLES

I've done a little climbing. Well, climbing rock walls in gyms but --

BEAR

Never the real deal 'til now, huh?
So, who's first?

Charles turns to Warren. Warren turns to Miguel. Miguel turns to Shelton. Shelton smiles nervously.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #1 - DAY

Shelton slowly and tentatively climbs the cliff.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #1 - DAY

Bear, Charles, Warren, and Miguel look on from below.

WARREN

That's it, Shelton! Slow and steady!

Shelton looks for a foothold only to freeze and stare at the ground dozens of yards below.

SHELTON

Oh, God. I can't do this. I can't.

CHARLES

Stay focused on the summit, Shelton!

Shelton looks up and continues his ascent. He places his foot on a small ledge and pulls himself up. He reaches for a handhold when his foot slips off the ledge.

Shelton wails as he loses his grip and falls from his perch. Bear digs his heels into the ground, tightens his grip on the rope, and stops the fall.

BEAR

I gotcha! I gotcha!

Shelton whimpers as he dangles in the air.

SHELTON

Oh, God! I'm going to fall! I'm
going to fall from here!

BEAR

Said, I gotcha!

SHELTON

Get me down from here!

Bear shakes his head.

BEAR

No down! Only up!

SHELTON

Get me down from here, please?!

Miguel rubs his temple with disgust.

MIGUEL

Oh, for God's sake! Man up, already!

WARREN

Shelton, listen to me! Swing back
and forth and grab those rocks!

SHELTON

I can't!

CHARLES

Yes you can, Shelton! Now, do it!

Shelton grits his teeth and swings himself through the air. He builds up momentum and grabs onto the cliff face. He presses his body against the rocks and breathes deeply.

BEAR

Good job! Now, get climbin'!

Shelton narrows his eyes and makes his way up the cliff.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #1 - DAY

Shelton pulls himself onto the summit, lies on the ground, breathes heavily, and weeps in anguish. He sits up, surveys the scenic vista, and smiles through his tears.

SHELTON

I ... I did it. I did it!

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #1 - DAY

Miguel grumbles as he hurriedly climbs the cliff.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #1 - DAY

Bear, Charles, and Warren eye Miguel from below.

CHARLES

Slow down, Miguel! Don't force it!

Miguel continues his ascent with reckless abandon.

WARREN

Take your time, Miguel! No rush!

Miguel mutters as he scales the cliff.

MIGUEL

Hangin' off a mountain in the middle
of nowhere and they want me to --

He scans the rock face for a new handhold.

MIGUEL

Great. Now what?

He reaches for a ledge only to find it out of reach.

MIGUEL

You've gotta be kiddin' me.

Miguel clenches his teeth and takes a small jump only to miss the ledge and tumble from his perch. Bear grips the rope, stops the descent, and shakes his head.

BEAR

Not too smart, Miguel!

Miguel thrashes about as he dangles in the air.

MIGUEL

Goddamn it, Bear! You make us hike
across the state 'til we're dead
tired and then force us to climb a
mountain when we've never done it
before?! Bullshit, Bear! Bullshit!

Bear cackles in response while Miguel settles down.

MIGUEL

You're still gonna make me climb this thing, aren't you?

BEAR

Whaddaya think?

Miguel shakes his head and mutters to himself.

MIGUEL

Son of a bitch.

Miguel swings himself back toward the cliff and resumes his ascent at a more measured pace.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #1 - DAY

Shelton pulls Miguel into view and onto the summit. Shelton sits by Miguel as he flops on the ground in exhaustion.

SHELTON

Hey! You did it!

Miguel glares at Shelton.

MIGUEL

Don't make me kill you.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #1 - DAY

Warren steadily makes his way up the cliff.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #1 - DAY

Bear and Charles watch Warren's ascent from below.

CHARLES

That's it, Warren! Looking good!

Warren murmurs as he continues his climb.

WARREN

Slow and steady. Slow and steady.

Bear smiles as Warren scales the rocks.

BEAR

Not bad fer a first-timer.

Miguel peers over the edge of the cliff while Shelton peeks over his shoulder.

SHELTON

How's he doing?

Miguel smirks and shakes his head.

MIGUEL

Hasn't slipped yet, the bastard.

Warren looks up as he nears the summit.

WARREN

Hey, guys. Sorry I'm late.

MIGUEL

Would you fall down, already? You're making us look bad.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #1 - DAY

Miguel and Shelton help Warren onto the summit. Warren sits on the ground, catches his breath, and smirks at the others.

WARREN

Well, now that us amateurs are out of the way ...

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #1 - DAY

Charles quickly and expertly scales the cliff.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #1 - DAY

Warren and Miguel look over the edge of the cliff while Shelton stands a yard or two behind them.

MIGUEL

Charles was really Spiderman all along? Who knew?

Charles rapidly and skillfully continues his ascent.

WARREN

Almost there, Charles. Just keep your focus on the --

Warren stops as a horrified look washes over his face.

WARREN

Bear! What are you doing?!

Charles looks over his shoulder down at the ground.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #1 - DAY

Bear releases the climbing rope and tosses it aside.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #1 - DAY

Charles tugs on his end of the rope and finds it slack.

CHARLES

Bear! Pick up the rope.

Bear looks up at Charles and shakes his head.

BEAR

Don't need no crutch, Charles!

Charles freezes in place and looks around nervously.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #1 - DAY

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton huddle by the edge of the cliff.

SHELTON

What do we do?! What do we do?!

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #1 - DAY

Warren spots the climbing rope's anchor a yard below the edge of the cliff. He dangles his upper body over the precipice and reaches for the rope.

WARREN

Stay there, Charles! Hold my legs, guys! I'll grab the rope and --

Charles waves Warren away.

CHARLES

No, Warren! Don't! If I fall, I'll just take you with me!

MIGUEL

No!? Then, how the hell are we supposed to help you up?!

Charles shakes his head.

CHARLES

You're not.

Charles grits his teeth and scurries up the cliff. He places a foot on a ledge only for the rocks to give way. He slips but maintains his grip on the handholds.

SHELTON

Charles!

CHARLES

I'm okay! I'm okay!

Charles grimaces and scolds himself.

CHARLES

Focus. Focus.

Charles resumes his climb at a more gradual pace and reaches the top of the cliff. Warren, Miguel, and Shelton take his arms and pull him onto the summit.

SHELTON

Oh, my God! Are you all right?!

Charles nods in response. The men rise to their feet and turn to the ground below.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #1 - DAY

Bear looks up at the others and slowly claps his hands.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #1 - DAY (LATER)

Miguel and Shelton sip water and eye the tree-lined horizon.

MIGUEL

Gotta admit, can't see anythin' like this in New York.

SHELTON

It's very nice, but I prefer the view from the ground.

Charles and Warren sit on a pair of boulders nearby and drink from their water bottles.

WARREN

Well, this may not be an interview, but Bear's definitely testing us.

CHARLES

It's one thing to test us. It's another to put our lives in danger.

BEAR (O.S.)

C'mon, y'all weren't in no danger!

Charles and Warren turn to the edge of the cliff as Bear climbs into view and approaches the pair.

BEAR

Just pushin' ya boys ta the edge.

Charles and Warren rise to their feet while Miguel and Shelton join the group.

CHARLES

You almost pushed me over the edge.

BEAR

Made it on yer own, didn't ya?

CHARLES

That's not the point. I put my trust in you and you hung me out to dry.

BEAR

I got lawyers, executives, an' politicians who try stabbin' me in the back every damn day. I gotta deal with them bastards on my own.

Bear steps forward and locks eyes with Charles.

BEAR

Expect the executives under my command ta do the same.

Bear glances at his wristwatch.

BEAR

We losin' time. We rappel down the cliff an' head fer the river.

Charles folds his arms.

CHARLES

I suppose you'll go last, right? You know, to make sure the anchor at the top doesn't suddenly come loose?

Bear smirks as the others share an uneasy look.

BEAR

Don't trust me, boys? Okay, I'll go first. See ya at the bottom.

The others look on as Bear chuckles and heads for the rope.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #1 - DAY

Charles and Warren stand by the inflated raft and assemble a set of oars. Shelton places the threesome's backpacks in the craft and grabs five lifejackets.

SHELTON

Either of you gone rafting before?

CHARLES

Rode a kayak back in Scouts.

WARREN

Went canoeing in summer camp.

Bear steps into view and tosses his backpack in the raft.

BEAR

Just some light rapids, boys. Bumpy at times, but nothin' ta worry 'bout.

Bear consults his map while Shelton hands both Charles and Warren a lifejacket.

SHELTON

Still, we'd better put these on.

Charles and Warren don the vests and take up seats in the middle of the craft. Shelton approaches Bear and offers him a lifejacket only to be waved away.

BEAR

Not now.

Charles and Warren raise their heads and share a look. Miguel strolls into view and tosses his backpack into the raft. Shelton offers him a lifejacket.

SHELTON

Here, put this on.

Miguel glances at Bear and enters the craft sans lifejacket.

MIGUEL

Hey, if he doesn't need one ...

SHELTON

Would you please put this on?

Bear grins as he takes a seat at the front of the raft.

BEAR

C'mon, he's a big boy. He don't want one, he don't need one.

Miguel smirks as he takes a seat at the back of the craft behind Charles and Warren. Shelton puts on his lifejacket and sits in the rear with the other two vests in hand.

BEAR

Let's get goin', boys.

Charles and Warren hand out the oars. The group pushes the raft into the river and paddles down the waterway. Bear turns to Shelton and extends his hand.

BEAR

Wanna gimme one of them vests there?

The men share a look as Shelton hands over a lifejacket. Bear dons the vest while the others turn to Miguel.

SHELTON

Changed your mind?

Shelton extends the last lifejacket as the others look on. Miguel eyes the vest, smirks at the group, and tosses the lifejacket into the water.

CHARLES

What's wrong with you?

WARREN

Let's turn around and --

BEAR

Currents only run one way, boys.

The discarded lifejacket bobs in the water as the craft drifts down the river.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #2 - DAY

The group cruises through some very light rapids as they paddle down the river. The raft passes over a small drop and jostles the passengers about.

BEAR

Little bumpy back there, boys?

The group shares a chuckle. Shelton takes out his cell phone and snaps a few pictures.

BEAR

Takin' a lotta pictures there.

SHELTON

Promised Jocelyn and the girls I'd take as many as I could.

BEAR

Girls?

SHELTON

Kylie's twelve and Trina's eight.

BEAR

Just put three girls through college myself. Next decade's gonna be rough on ya, I tell ya what. So, y'all hitched or what?

Charles and Warren flash their wedding rings.

WARREN

Six years now.

CHARLES

Four for me.

BEAR

Kids?

WARREN

Soon. Regan's due next month.

The others beam with joy.

CHARLES

Hey! Congratulations! Parker and I would like to have children one day. Maybe in a few years or so.

BEAR

Kiddin' aside, ya won't regret it. What 'bout ya, Miguel? Married?

MIGUEL

Oh, no. Not a chance.

BEAR

Still on the prowl, huh?

Miguel hems and haws.

MIGUEL

Well, I've been with Lillian for two years now and ... It's not official but ... I mean, I haven't given her a ring or anythin' ...

BEAR

Gotcha. Speakin' as someone who's been married ta his college sweetheart fer three decades, lemme give ya some advice. Don't do it!

The group shares a laugh as the craft approaches a fork in the waterway. The left path appears smooth and tranquil while the right seems rough and turbulent.

BEAR

Okay, here's where we take a right.

WARREN

You sure about that? The left path looks smoother.

BEAR

Wanna see the map?

CHARLES

I don't need to see the map to tell the difference.

BEAR

Listen up, y'all, I planned this trip with the best outfitters money could hire. They say we keep ta the right, we keep ta the right.

The group steers the raft to the right and disappears down the turbulent waterway.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #3 - DAY

The group bounces around inside the craft as they pass over a few rough patches in the river. The raft settles down as it reaches a calmer section of the waterway.

BEAR

There, that wasn't so bad.

The craft turns a bend as it moves down the river. Bear's eyes widen as he looks at the waterway ahead.

BEAR

God almighty ...

The others raise their heads as a lengthy stretch of violent rapids awaits them.

BEAR

Quick, boys, row fer shore!

The group tries to maneuver the raft to the shore. The currents catch the craft and drag it toward the rapids.

BEAR

We caught! Brace yerselves!

The men are thrown about inside the raft as they tumble through a series of very rough rapids.

BEAR

Hold on! Hold on!

The craft spins around as it exits the rapids. The group catches their breath as the raft settles down.

BEAR

C'mon, y'all, gotta turn this 'round!

Bear, Charles, Warren, and Shelton work their oars. Miguel looks over his shoulder with eyes as wide as saucers.

MIGUEL

Oh, shit!

The others turn around and watch helplessly as the craft speeds toward a steep drop in the river. The group yells as they tumble down the rocks.

Miguel screams as he is thrown from the raft into the river. He struggles to keep his head above water as the currents pull him toward an eddy.

MIGUEL

Help! Help me!

Charles sets his oar aside and prepares to dive into the water when Warren grabs him around the waist.

WARREN

No! Wait!

CHARLES

He's drowning!

WARREN

Wait!

Miguel coughs up water as he pulled into the eddy.

MIGUEL

Help me! Oh, God! Help!

Warren rummages through Bear's backpack.

WARREN

Bear! Shelton! Dig your oars into
the water and push against the rocks!
Try to pin us down!

Bear and Shelton do as ordered. Warren retrieves the
climbing rope and ties it around Charles's waist.

WARREN

Go! Go! Go!

Charles dives into the water and swims toward the eddy.
Warren secures the other end of the rope around his waist.
Miguel struggles to keep his head above water.

MIGUEL

Help! I ... I can't ...

Miguel is pulled below the river. The others watch as
Charles enters the eddy and dives under the water.

WARREN

Charles?! Charles?!

Bear, Warren, and Shelton look on for a lengthy moment.
Charles bursts through the water with Miguel in his arms.

CHARLES

I've got him! Pull us out!

Warren jams his feet against the side of the craft, tightens
his grip on the rope, and shouts at Bear and Shelton.

WARREN

Keep the raft steady!

Bear and Shelton lean on their oars while Warren pulls on
the rope. Charles and Miguel break free from the eddy and
are dragged toward the raft.

Warren hauls Miguel into the craft and helps Charles out of
the water. Miguel lies inside the raft while Charles and
Warren grab their oars.

WARREN

Row! Row! Row!

Bear, Charles, Warren, and Shelton paddle the craft out of
harm's way and into a calm section of the river.

BEAR

Clear now.

Warren turns to Charles as he gasps for air.

WARREN

Are you all right?

CHARLES

I'll ... I'll manage.

Shelton pulls Miguel up into a seated position, pats him on the back, and helps him cough the water from his lungs.

SHELTON

That's it, let it out.

The group drifts down the river in silence.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #4 - DAY

The men guide the raft toward an open section of shoreline. Bear leaps from the craft and slams his oar on the ground.

BEAR

Jesus Christ! God almighty! Them bastards sent us this way on purpose!

Bear clenches his teeth and stares into the distance.

BEAR

Gonna turn the screws so far, their great-great-grandchildren won't have a penny left to their names!

Bear shakes his head and stalks out of view. Warren exits the raft and helps Charles onto the shore.

WARREN

You sure you're okay?

CHARLES

I'll be fine. Just need to get changed and warmed up.

Shelton steps out of the craft and tries to help Miguel only to have his hand swatted away.

MIGUEL

Get your hands off me.

SHELTON

You're welcome.

Warren eyes Miguel as he exits the raft.

WARREN

Proud of yourself?

MIGUEL

Hey, what's your problem?!

WARREN

You're my problem. Why didn't you wear a lifejacket? What, you thought Bear wouldn't --

MIGUEL

I don't need a lecture from you!

Miguel shoves Warren.

WARREN

Don't push me!

Warren shoves Miguel.

MIGUEL

Don't push me!

Charles and Shelton pull Warren and Miguel apart as Bear steps into view.

BEAR

Hey, knock it off! Sun's goin' down soon. Gotta set up camp an' do a little fishin'.

Warren and Miguel stare daggers at one another.

CHARLES

Come on, Warren, I'll need a little help starting a fire.

Charles leads Warren away. Shelton pats Miguel's shoulder.

SHELTON

Hey, let's try a little fishing. That'll put you at ease, right?

Shelton leads Miguel out of view.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #4 - EVENING

The sun hangs low in the bright-red sky. Miguel and Shelton use fishing rods to cast lines into the water. Miguel reels in his line at once while Shelton works at a leisurely pace.

MIGUEL

You said this would put me at ease. Why can't I catch anythin'?

SHELTON

The river's not going anywhere. Just relax and take your time.

MIGUEL

I'm stuck in the middle of nowhere. I'm cold, I'm wet, I'm tired, and you tell me to take my time?

Miguel casts his line and reels it in immediately.

MIGUEL

How the hell am I supposed to catch anythin' with this piece of junk?

SHELTON

Maybe you should try reeling in the line after the hook's in the water.

Miguel glares at Shelton, casts his line, and reels it in at once. Charles sits on a log by the shore and watches Warren use a matchstick to set their campfire ablaze.

CHARLES

Much easier than the last time I had to build a fire.

WARREN

Scouts?

CHARLES

Had to start one by rubbing two sticks together.

WARREN

You'll have to show me how sometime.

CHARLES

If I have to show you how, we're in big trouble.

Bear appears and sits on a log across from the pair.

BEAR

Good job, boys. Warmed up yet?

CHARLES

Getting there.

BEAR

Charles, just wanna let ya know I appreciate what ya did back there. Yer a lifesaver, literally.

CHARLES

Thanks.

BEAR

Warren, ya weren't so quick on yer feet, we woulda had ta pull two outta the drink. Great leadership.

WARREN

Thank you.

Bear rises to his feet and turns to the river.

BEAR

Well, better check on them boys. See if they caught somethin'.

Bear steps away from the campfire. Charles takes notice as Warren stares at the fire with a look of concern.

CHARLES

What's wrong?

WARREN

Something's not right about this.

Warren turns to Charles.

WARREN

If one of the world's richest men paid you a king's ransom to chart a safe path down a river, would you put lives in danger and send him down the wrong path on a lark?

Warren shakes his head.

WARREN

There's no way Bear was told to go the wrong way. Not possible.

Charles sits up straight.

CHARLES

You ... You think Bear sent us down that path on purpose?

Warren leans back and stares at the fire.

WARREN

I don't know, and that's a problem.

Miguel and Shelton cast their lines into the water as Bear appears beside them.

BEAR
Caught anythin'?

SHELTON
No, not yet.

MIGUEL
These rods are useless.

BEAR
Maybe yer right.

Miguel and Shelton watch in bewilderment as Bear wades into the middle of the river.

SHELTON
What are you doing?

Bear flashes a smile.

BEAR
Fishin'.

MIGUEL
Fishin'?

Bear scrutinizes the waters as he speaks.

BEAR
Don't need no rods or reels ta catch
no fish. Just need a little
patience, a little concentration ...

Bear plunges into the river and emerges with a salmon in his hands and a grin on his face.

BEAR
... and some quick reflexes.

Miguel and Shelton share a dumfounded look.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #4 - NIGHT

Three tents have been erected close to the fire. Bear pulls on a rope and hoists a bag into a tree.

BEAR
That'll keep them critters away.

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton sit by the fire and finish their salmon dinners. Shelton turns to Miguel as he crunches his meal.

SHELTON

Salmon's not supposed to be crunchy.

MIGUEL

That's 'cause it's burnt to a crisp.

SHELTON

That's because you're not supposed to place it directly in the fire.

Miguel grimaces while Charles, Warren, and Shelton share a chuckle. Shelton looks across the fire at Charles and Warren before he elbows Miguel in the ribs.

MIGUEL

What now?

SHELTON

Don't you have something to say?

Shelton nods toward the others. Charles and Warren perk up their heads. Miguel grimaces and rises to his feet.

MIGUEL

It's getting late. I'd better --

Shelton shakes his head.

SHELTON

My children have better manners.

MIGUEL

Oh, for God's sake ...

Miguel sits back down and takes a deep breath.

MIGUEL

Thanks for, you know, helping me out.

WARREN

No problem.

CHARLES

Don't mention it.

Miguel scowls and lowers his head.

MIGUEL

Now you tell me.

Bear appears and addresses the others.

BEAR

Feelin' better? Hope so, 'cause we
got another long day ahead of us
tomorrow. Get some rest, boys. Yer
gonna need it.

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton head for two of the
tents. Bear sits by the fire and sips a cup of coffee.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

The moon glows in the star-filled night sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

The sun creeps over the horizon and starts a new day.

INT. MIGUEL AND SHELTON'S TENT - MORNING

Miguel slumbers in his sleeping bag. Shelton awakens and
quietly climbs out of bed.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #4 - MORNING

Shelton emerges from his tent and scans the area. Bear sits
on a log by the fire and sips a cup of coffee. Bear arches
an eyebrow as Shelton approaches.

BEAR

Up already?

SHELTON

Early riser.

BEAR

Coffee?

SHELTON

Thanks.

Bear pours another cup of joe as Shelton sits beside him.

SHELTON

Long day today?

Bear nods in response.

BEAR

Long day today.

Bear grabs a skillet and a wooden spoon.

BEAR

Wanna do the honors?

Shelton glances at the utensils and smiles.

INT. CHARLES AND WARREN'S TENT - MORNING

Charles and Warren are nestled in their sleeping bags. The pair bolts awake as clangs cut through the air.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #4 - MORNING

Charles and Warren stumble out of their tent and join Bear and Shelton by the fire.

BEAR

Rested an' ready?

CHARLES

We were.

WARREN

So, what's the agenda?

BEAR

Crossin' a river an' canyon today.

Miguel peeks out of his tent and glowers at the others.

BEAR

Mornin'!

Miguel glares at the group, grumbles to himself, and ducks inside his tent while the others share a look and a laugh.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #5 - DAY

Bear leads the others out of the woods and toward a section of the river which runs through a moderately deep ravine. A rope bridge connects the sides of the gorge.

The rope bridge consists of two main cables anchored to the ground and a pair of guide cables attached to wooden poles. Wooden slats line the length of the main cables.

BEAR

Stay here. Gonna test the bridge.

Bear marches down the trail toward the bridge. The others look at the span as it sways in the breeze.

SHELTON

Why would they use a rope bridge?
Isn't that dangerous?

CHARLES

That bridge may look primitive but
the technology's sound.

Bear reaches the edge of the bridge, glances back at the others, kneels by the main cable anchor, and reties one of his boots. The others eye the span as they converse.

MIGUEL

Sound technology, huh? Sure doesn't
look safe to me.

CHARLES

The Incas used similar bridges for
hundreds of years.

MIGUEL

Yeah, and where are they now?

Bear reaches the middle of the bridge, tugs on the guide wires, and lightly bounces on the wooden surface.

BEAR

Okay, boys, safe an' sound.

Bear heads for the far side of the ravine as the others reach the foot of the bridge. Bear places his hand on the left guide rope and glances over his shoulder.

BEAR

Gonna check the trail up ahead.

Bear disappears into the woods as Miguel, Warren, Charles, and Shelton make their way across the bridge in order.

The men grip the guide ropes as the span creaks and sways under them. Shelton peers at the river below.

SHELTON

You sure this is safe?

WARREN

Don't look down and you'll be fine.

SHELTON

It would help if the bridge didn't
move with every step.

MIGUEL

Why, does this bother you?

Miguel crows as he bounces on the bridge like a trampoline. Shelton tightens his grip on the left guide rope.

SHELTON

Don't do that!

MIGUEL

What, scared?

SHELTON

Stop it, please!

CHARLES

Okay, settle down.

The men approach the middle of the bridge. The left guide rope on the far side of the span starts to unravel.

Shelton places a hand on the left guide rope and breathes heavily. The others stop as Shelton hyperventilates.

CHARLES

What's wrong?

SHELTON

I'm not sure. I feel dizzy.

MIGUEL

Oh, for God's sake ...

WARREN

Give him a minute, okay?

Charles places a hand on Shelton's shoulder.

CHARLES

Panic attack?

SHELTON

I don't know. I ... I just need to stop for a moment and --

Shelton leans his hands against the left guide rope. The far end of the rope snaps and gives way. Miguel, Warren, and Charles grab the other guide rope.

Shelton screams as he falls forward and threatens to plunge into the river. Charles reaches out, grabs Shelton's backpack, and pulls him to safety.

MIGUEL

Jesus Christ!

WARREN

Is everyone all right?

MIGUEL

What the hell just happened?!

WARREN

Is everyone all right?!

Bear rushes back into view by the far side of the bridge.

BEAR

God almighty! Get off the bridge!

Miguel, Warren, and Charles scurry across the bridge as it creaks and sways under them. Bear helps the threesome off the span and back onto land.

BEAR

Where's Shelton?

Bear, Miguel, Warren, and Charles look back at the bridge. Shelton rests on one knee with his arms wrapped around the right guide rope and stares at the river below.

MIGUEL

Get off the bridge, you idiot!

Bear, Miguel, Warren, and Charles flinch as a loud snap cuts through the air. The men spot the right guide rope as it starts to unravel from its post.

CHARLES

Shelton, you've got to get off the bridge right now!

Shelton shakes his head and keeps his eyes on the river.

SHELTON

I ... I can't!

Warren eyes the rope as it continues to unravel, looks at the bridge, and turns to the others.

WARREN

Grab that rope and don't let go!

Warren takes a few steps onto the bridge.

CHARLES

Warren, what are you --

WARREN

Just do it!

Bear, Charles, and Miguel grab the right guide rope. Warren scurries across the bridge and kneels beside Shelton.

WARREN

Let's go, Shelton.

CHARLES

I can't!

Warren pulls Shelton back onto his feet.

WARREN

Yes, you can! We'll do it together,
okay? Come on, let's --

The bridge shudders as a loud crack cuts through the air. Warren and Shelton stumble to their knees and grab the wooden slats for support.

SHELTON

What was that?!

Warren looks toward the near side of the bridge and spots the main cables as they unravel from their anchors.

WARREN

Move. Move!

Warren pulls Shelton off the slats and pushes him toward the far side of the bridge. Bear, Charles, and Miguel strain to hold the right guide rope as it unravels.

Warren and Shelton advance until they are about six yards away from safety. Bear, Charles, and Miguel lose their grips and fall to the ground as the right guide rope snaps.

Warren and Shelton stumble to their knees and grip the wooden slats for support. The bridge shudders and sways as the main cables fray at a rapid pace.

SHELTON

We're not going to make it!

WARREN

Yes, we are! Now, move!

Warren rises to one knee and shoves Shelton toward the far side of the bridge. Bear, Charles, and Miguel reach out and pull him to safety.

Warren scrambles to his feet, leaps through the air, and reaches the other side of the ravine. The main cables snap and the bridge collapses behind him.

The group sits on the ground and eyes the collapsed bridge. Charles, Warren, Miguel and Shelton glare at Bear while he wipes his brow with a handkerchief.

Bear returns their gaze, rises to his feet, and heads into the woods. Miguel and Shelton pull themselves off the ground. Charles stands up and offers Warren a hand.

WARREN

Go on ahead. I'll be a minute.

Charles, Miguel, and Shelton nod and step out of view. Warren leans over the edge of the ravine, grabs the end of the right guide rope, and examines the frayed end.

Warren stops when something else catches his eye. He grabs the Swiss Army knife from his utility belt, unveils a blade, and reaches for something over the edge of the ravine.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #3 - DAY

Bear, Charles, Warren, and Miguel are perched on fallen logs in the middle of the tree-shrouded clearing. Shelton sits at the base of a nearby tree with his head in his hands.

BEAR

Mind tellin' me what happened back there, Shelton?

SHELTON

I looked down and I ... I just froze. God, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

BEAR

Yeah, well, sorry ain't gonna cut it.

SHELTON

I know.

BEAR

Bad enough ya weren't born with self-preservation in mind, but ya almost took Warren with ya too.

SHELTON

I know.

BEAR

How am I supposed ta trust somebody who can't even cross no bridge --

Shelton glares at Bear.

SHELTON

I said I know, all right?! I know!

Shelton wipes the tears from his eyes and places his head back in his hands. Miguel glances in Bear's direction.

MIGUEL

Yeah, well, we wouldn't be havin'
this conversation if that bridge
didn't collapse in the first place.

Bear narrows his eyes and grits his teeth.

BEAR

Excuse me? There weren't nothin'
wrong with that bridge.

MIGUEL

Oh, no! Of course not! Bridges
collapse all the time!

BEAR

I tested that bridge myself!

MIGUEL

Well, you didn't test it good enough!

BEAR

Right, shoulda bounced on it like a
trampoline fer no damn reason.

Bear rises to his feet and marches off. Miguel turns to
Shelton as he eyes him from under the tree.

MIGUEL

Hey, it wasn't my fault. You know it
wasn't my fault, right? Right?

Shelton shakes his head dismissively and turns away. Miguel
grumbles as he stands up and paces about. Warren places a
hand on Charles's shoulder.

WARREN

I need a word with you, Charles.

The pair approaches another log across the clearing and sits
with their backs to the others. Warren retrieves a length
of rope from his pocket and hands it to Charles.

WARREN

This is the end of the second guide
rope. Tell me what you see.

Charles examines the rope.

CHARLES

Frayed. Ripped apart by the stress.

WARREN

Exactly. Now, take a look at this.

Warren retrieves another length of rope from his pocket.

WARREN

This is the end of the first rope.
Notice a difference?

Charles inspects the rope. Half the strands are frayed while the rest have been cleanly severed.

CHARLES

Half these strands have been cut
cleanly. Hold on, are you saying ...

WARREN

The evidence speaks for itself.

Charles eyes the length of the first guide rope.

CHARLES

You cut this loose with your Swiss
Army knife, right?

WARREN

Right.

Charles shows Warren the cleanly cut end of the rope.

CHARLES

Notice how bumpy the cuts are?
That's because you needed several
strokes to cut through the rope.

Warren nods while Charles turns the length of rope around.

CHARLES

This part was cut with one smooth
stroke. One smooth stroke with a
large knife.

WARREN

Like a hunting knife.

Charles and Warren peer over their shoulders. Bear crouches down across the clearing and uses a honing stone to sharpen his hunting knife.

Bear eyes the sharpened blade and turns to the pair across the clearing. Charles and Warren quickly spin away and exchange a pensive look.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #2 - DAY

The group emerges from the woods and arrives atop a cliff much taller than the one they scaled previously.

MIGUEL

Where are we supposed to go now?

Bear peers over the edge of the precipice.

BEAR

Ledge 'bout twenty yards below. We
rappel down, set up a new anchor
point, and go from there.

Bear retrieves a set of climbing ropes and rope anchors from his backpack while Warren looks over the edge of the cliff.

WARREN

You sure about this? This cliff's
much taller and steeper than the
other one.

Bear loops small lengths of rope around two nearby trees.

BEAR

C'mon, boys, why d'ya think I had
y'all climb that cliff yesterday?
Charles, wanna lend me a hand?

Charles crouches next to Bear as he uses the loops around the trees to create a V-angle anchor point.

BEAR

Want ya ta rappel down first an'
belay the others.

CHARLES

Why? Shouldn't you go first? You're
the experienced one --

BEAR

Others don't have no faith in my
judgment. Can't blame 'em, after
what happened on that bridge. Ya go
first, they'll see ya still trust me.

Bear attaches the climbing rope to the anchor point.

BEAR

Ya still trust me, doncha?

Charles and Bear exchange a tense look.

CHARLES

Of course.

Bear flashes a warm smile.

BEAR

Good. Let's get goin'.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #2 - DAY

Warren and Miguel look on from nearby as Charles assists Shelton off the rock face and onto the ledge.

SHELTON

Well, that was easy.

WARREN

Don't celebrate just yet. We still have a ways to go.

Charles tugs on the climbing rope and calls to the heavens.

CHARLES

We're ready for you, Bear!

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #2 - DAY

Bear disconnects the climbing rope from the V-angle rope anchor. Charles tugs on the rope once more only to watch it tumble from the sky and land on the ledge.

Charles picks up the rope and shares a shocked look with both Warren and Shelton. Miguel gnashes his teeth and shouts to the heavens.

MIGUEL

Bear! What the hell are you doin'?!

Bear dons the small yellow bag and hugs both his backpack and brown leather case against his chest. He rushes toward the precipice and leaps off the edge of the cliff.

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton watch in horror as Bear plummets from the sky. Bear releases a parachute from the small yellow bag and safely glides to the earth.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #2 - DAY

Bear lands on the ground, discards his spent parachute, and calls out to the others.

BEAR

Good luck, boys! See ya at camp!

Bear cackles as he strolls away.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #2 - DAY

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton remain frozen in shock.

SHELTON

Oh, my God! What do we do?!

Warren scans the area.

WARREN

Maybe ... Maybe we can anchor the rope here and --

CHARLES

We don't have any anchors.

WARREN

Can't we just tie it to the rocks?

CHARLES

How?

Warren rubs his forehead and thinks for a moment.

WARREN

Isn't there supposed to be a way we can tie the rope to one another and belay each other as we climb down?

Charles throws up his hands in exasperation.

CHARLES

I ... I don't know.

MIGUEL

You don't know?! You're supposed to be the expert!

WARREN

Look, we need to stay calm if we --

MIGUEL

Stay calm?! We're stuck on the side of a cliff with no way down and you want us to stay calm?!

Miguel turns away and leans on the rock face. Shelton slumps against the side of the cliff and shakes his head.

SHELTON

We'll never make it down from here.

Warren glances down the cliff and narrows his eyes.

WARREN

Yes we will. We'll free-climb.

Miguel glares at Warren.

MIGUEL

What?! Are you nuts?!

WARREN

Do you have a better idea?

Miguel shakes his head in defeat.

WARREN

Charles, you'll have to go first and find a path for us to follow.

Charles eyes the cliff below and nods.

WARREN

Miguel, you'll follow Charles. He'll talk you through it.

Miguel hangs his head and grumbles to himself.

WARREN

Shelton, I'll go third and help talk you down.

Shelton nods glumly. Warren pats Charles on the shoulder.

WARREN

Ready?

CHARLES

Let's do this.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #2 - EVENING

Charles deftly climbs down the cliff while Miguel hastily follows. Miguel carelessly kicks a stone loose which nearly strikes Charles as it tumbles down the rock face.

CHARLES

Easy! Easy!

MIGUEL

You're goin' too slow.

CHARLES

If we speed up, we'll all reach the ground very quickly and very painfully. Take it easy.

Warren meticulously climbs down the rock face while Shelton hesitantly follows from above. Shelton reaches for a loose stone when Warren calls out from below.

WARREN

No, not that one! The one below!

Shelton shifts his hand onto a secure handhold only to freeze in place as he eyes the distant ground below.

SHELTON

We're not going to make it.

WARREN

Yes, we are. You're doing fine.
Look, we're almost there. Keep your
focus and you'll be all right.

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton continue their descent.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #2 - EVENING

Warren helps Shelton off the rock face and onto the ground.

SHELTON

We made it.

WARREN

Told you.

Shelton smiles in relief while Warren pats his back and leads him away. Charles and Miguel sit on a fallen log in silence until the latter mutters under his breath.

MIGUEL

I'm gonna kill the son of a bitch.

CHARLES

Settle down.

MIGUEL

Settle down? I've almost died three
times in the past two days, and you
tell me to settle down?

CHARLES

Look, we'll talk to him once we reach
the camp. Set him straight.

MIGUEL

You wanna talk to Bear, go ahead but
I'm sick of his bullshit. I swear,
once I get my hands on him --

Warren and Shelton step into view.

WARREN

Enough.

SHELTON

Look, maybe we should rest for a while. We can clear our heads and --

Warren shakes his head while Charles and Miguel stand up.

WARREN

Sun's going to set soon. We'd better reach Bear's camp as soon as we can.

Charles points out a faint glow in the distance.

CHARLES

He's over there. Let's move.

The group marches off in search of the campsite.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - NIGHT

Bear is perched on a tree stump next to a warm fire. His tent has been erected nearby while the brown leather case rests by his side.

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton stagger into view and drop their backpacks next to a pile of large rocks. Bear eyes the group as he sips a cup of coffee.

BEAR

Evenin', boys. Enjoy the climb?

WARREN

What the hell is wrong with you? We could've been killed back there!

BEAR

Y'all made it back, didn't ya?

CHARLES

I don't know what point you're trying to prove here but this has gone on long enough. You're going to call for the helicopter and you're going to fly us out of here right now.

Bear grins devilishly.

BEAR

Y'all got cell phones.

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton retrieve their cell phones and try to place calls to no avail.

CHARLES

Hand over the satellite phone.

Bear sips his coffee.

BEAR

No.

SHELTON

You can't do this to us! You don't have the right!

Bear cackles with amusement.

BEAR

Who's gonna stop me? You?

Miguel grits his teeth and takes a step forward.

MIGUEL

Hand over that phone, or there's gonna be trouble.

Bear places the brown leather case on his lap.

BEAR

Trouble? Trust me, boys --

Bear unlatches the case and slips his hands inside.

BEAR

-- last thing y'all want's trouble.

SHELTON

What ... What is that?

Bear closes the case and rises to his feet.

BEAR

Gettin' late, boys. Better set up them tents an' get a good night's sleep. Gonna be a long day tomorrow. A very, very long day.

Bear steps out of view with the case in hand while the others share a resigned look.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

The moon shines bright amidst the starry sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

The sun rises beyond the horizon to start a new day.

INT. MIGUEL AND SHELTON'S TENT - MORNING

A beeping alarm cuts through the silence. Miguel bolts awake, grabs his watch, and turns off the alarm. Shelton stirs awake as Miguel crawls out of his sleeping bag.

SHELTON

Where are you going?

MIGUEL

Shut up. Go back to sleep.

Shelton looks on with concern as Miguel heads for the exit.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - MORNING

Miguel quietly emerges from his tent, does not see anyone about, and creeps over to Bear's enclosure.

INT. BEAR'S TENT - MORNING

Miguel slowly pokes his head inside the tent and scans the area. The sleeping bag appears to be filled but a large blanket obscures the occupant from view.

Miguel searches Bear's belongings but does not find the satellite phone. He spots the brown leather case, seizes it, and slips out of the enclosure.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - MORNING

Miguel scurries over to the tree stump, rests the case on it, and whispers to himself as he unfastens the latches.

MIGUEL

What have you got in here?

He opens the case and finds a padded insert in the outline of a rifle but no weapon inside. He freezes as the barrel of a high-powered rifle is placed against his temple.

BEAR (O.S.)

Lookin' for this?

Miguel looks up helplessly as Bear stands over him with the rifle in hand. Shelton emerges from his tent, spots the pair across the campsite, and scrambles to his feet.

SHELTON

Warren! Charles!

Charles and Warren stumble out of their tent, discover the situation, and rush to Shelton's side.

WARREN

Bear?! What are you doing?!

CHARLES

Put that down! Put it down now!

Bear shakes his head as he keeps his eyes on Miguel.

BEAR

Shouldn't go messin' with other
people's belongin's.

Charles steps forward and raises his hands defensively.

CHARLES

Look, I don't know what you're doing
but, whatever it is, it stops right
now! You hear me?! It's over!

Bear eyes Charles, Warren, and Shelton with menace.

BEAR

Over? Just gettin' started.

Miguel jumps up and tries to yank the rifle from Bear's grasp. Bear grapples with Miguel for a brief moment only to wrest the weapon away and flip him forward.

Miguel scrambles to his feet only for Bear to strike him in the face with the butt-end of the rifle. Miguel spins away and Bear kicks him square in the back.

Miguel wails as he collapses by the remnants of the fire and next to the cast-iron skillet. Charles, Warren, and Shelton step forward until Bear points the rifle at them.

BEAR

That's far enough, boys.

WARREN

The rapids, the bridge ... Those
weren't accidents.

Bear smirks in response.

BEAR

Catch on fast, doncha?

CHARLES

Hand over the satellite phone. We're going home.

Bear shakes his head.

BEAR

Y'all ain't goin' nowhere. I gotcha boys fer another three days, the longest three days of yer lives.

SHELTON

Why? Why are you doing this?

BEAR

Why? 'Cause I can.

SHELTON

You're crazy! Certifiable!

BEAR

Crazy like a fox, I tell ya what.

Bear steps forward.

BEAR

Been ta the highest mountains an' the lowest valleys. Been ta the hottest deserts an' the coldest ice sheets. Where y'all been? Nowhere.

Bear glowers at Charles, Warren, and Shelton.

BEAR

No, ya boys sit in air-conditioned offices an' push pencils all day. What kind of life's that? Can any y'all say ya actually lived?

Bear narrows his eyes.

BEAR

When I through with ya, y'all learn what it's like ta be pushed ta yer limits. Learn how it feels ta stare death in the face. Learn what it takes ta survive in the real world.

SHELTON

You ... You can't do this.

BEAR

Oh, I can and I will. I gotcha boys
all ta myself fer three whole days,
and there ain't nothin' nobody can do
ta stop --

The cast-iron skillet hurtles through the air and strikes Bear in the side of the head. Bear wails as he drops the rifle and collapses to the ground in anguish.

Charles, Warren, and Shelton remain frozen in shock. Bear comes to his senses and reaches for his weapon. Miguel leaps into view, seizes the rifle, and stands over him.

MIGUEL

Where's the phone?! Hand it over or,
I swear, I'll shoot you right now!

Charles, Warren, and Shelton step forward.

SHELTON

Miguel --

Miguel spins around and absentmindedly waves the rifle in Charles, Warren, and Shelton's direction.

MIGUEL

Don't tell me to settle down!

WARREN

Hey! Watch where you point that!

MIGUEL

Don't dare tell me to settle down!

CHARLES

Get you finger off the trigger!

Miguel aims the rifle at Bear once more.

MIGUEL

I'll settle down when he gets us
outta here! Hand over the phone!

BEAR

Don't point that rifle at me unless
yer prepared ta shoot.

MIGUEL

Oh, I'm ready. I'm ready, all right.
This is the last time I'm gonna ask.
If you don't gimme that phone right
now, I swear to God I'll --

A low and menacing growl cuts through the air. The group freezes in place and perks up their ears as another snarl echoes through the clearing.

MIGUEL

What ... What the hell is that?

The growls continue as the nearby trees loudly rustle. Bear slowly rises to one knee and extends his hand.

BEAR

Miguel, gimme the rifle.

MIGUEL

What?! Do I look stupid to you?!

CHARLES

Hand him the rifle, Miguel.

Miguel waves the rifle in Bear's direction.

MIGUEL

What the hell is this, another one of your stupid games?

BEAR

Shut yer trap an' gimme the rifle.

The snarls and rustles grow louder and louder.

WARREN

Hand it over, already.

SHELTON

Just give it to him.

Miguel turns his back to the surrounding trees and addresses Charles, Warren, and Shelton.

MIGUEL

What's wrong with you people?! This nutcase brought us to the middle of nowhere, spent the past two days tryin' to kill us, pointed this thing at my head just a minute ago, and you want me to give it back?! Haven't you been payin' attention?! What do I hafta do to make you listen --

Miguel perks up his ears as a loud crash echoes from the woods behind him. He spins around as a massive GRIZZLY bursts through the trees and roars with fury.

Miguel remains frozen in terror as the grizzly gallops toward him. Bear shoves Miguel out of the way at the last moment and is promptly tacked to the ground by the beast.

Bear raises his left arm to protect his face only for the grizzly to clamp its jaws down upon the limb. Bear yells in anguish as the beast digs its teeth into his flesh.

Shelton shrieks in horror and immediately sprints away from the scene. Miguel, rifle in hand, scrambles to his feet and rushes away from the grizzly.

CHARLES

Miguel! The rifle!

WARREN

Shoot it! Shoot it!

Miguel ignores the pleas and flees the area. Charles and Warren scan the clearing, spot the pile of large rocks, and heave stone after stone at the grizzly.

The grizzly roars at Charles and Warren as it steps toward the pair. Bear retrieves his hunting knife with his right hand and plunges the blade into the beast's side.

BEAR

Run!

The grizzly turns its attention back to Bear and bites his left arm once again. Bear frantically stabs the beast with his knife as he shouts at the others.

BEAR

Run! Get outta here, now!

Charles and Warren share a helpless look and sprint away from the scene while Bear tangles with the grizzly.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #2 - MORNING

Miguel stumbles down the path, gasps for air, and collapses against a tree in exhaustion. He watches in panic as Shelton disappears down the pathway far ahead of him.

MIGUEL

No, Shelton! Don't leave me!

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - MORNING

The grizzly clamps its jaws on Bear's left arm. Bear grips the knife in his right hand and slashes the beast.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #2 - MORNING

Miguel trudges forward only to stop when a group of trees up the path loudly rustle. He grips the rifle and eyes the trees in terror.

MIGUEL

Oh, shit! There's another one!

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - MORNING

The grizzly raises a paw and takes a swipe at Bear's face. Bear wails as the beast's claws rip into his flesh.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #2 - MORNING

Miguel eyes the trees up the path, takes aim with the rifle, and prepares to fire. Shelton leaps into view from behind, grabs onto the weapon, and aims it skyward.

SHELTON

No, don't shoot!

MIGUEL

There's another one!

SHELTON

Warren and Charles --

MIGUEL

There's another one! I can see it!

Miguel shakes Shelton loose, takes aim at the nearby trees as they rustle, and places his finger on the trigger.

MIGUEL

I've got you ... I've got you ...

Charles and Warren burst through the trees. Miguel yelps in fright. Shelton again points the rifle skyward.

CHARLES

Keep going!

WARREN

Move! Move!

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton sprint down the path.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - MORNING

Bear screams as the grizzly swats the knife from his hand and clamps its jaws down upon his neck.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #6 - MORNING

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton emerge from the woods. The men slog across the shallow section of the river when a horrific scream echoes through the wilderness.

The group stops as silence envelops the area. The men listen intently until a deafening roar pierces the air. The group scurries across the river and into the woods.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #5 - MORNING

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton reach the tree-shrouded clearing and collapse in exhaustion.

SHELTON

What ... What was that beast?!

CHARLES

Looked ... Looked like a grizzly.

MIGUEL

A grizzly?! You sure?

CHARLES

Pretty sure, yeah.

SHELTON

Oh, my God. Bear's dead, isn't he?
That beast killed him, didn't it?

Shelton puts his head in his hands and bursts into tears.

WARREN

This doesn't make sense. Grizzly's rarely attack people. Why did it attack the camp?

CHARLES

We must be in its territory.

MIGUEL

What the hell does that mean?

CHARLES

If we don't leave this area, it's going to come after us again and it's going to keep on coming until we leave ... or it kills us all.

Miguel rushes to his feet.

MIGUEL

Well, what are we standin' around for?! Let's get outta here!

WARREN

If that grizzly was still chasing us, it would've caught up to us by now. We'll rest here for a moment. Then, we'll head back to the camp.

MIGUEL

What?! Are you crazy?!

WARREN

We don't have a choice.

MIGUEL

Why do we hafta go back?!

WARREN

The satellite phone and all our supplies are back at the camp. If we get the phone, we can call for help.

Shelton raises his head.

SHELTON

What if we can't find the phone?

CHARLES

We'll use the supplies to rough it out for the next three days.

SHELTON

Don't we need the map and compass? What if we can't find the pick-up point by Saturday night?

CHARLES

They'll send a search party and, as long as we stay with the river, they should find us by Sunday.

Miguel shakes his head.

MIGUEL

You guys are nuts. There's no way I'm goin' back there. No way.

Warren stands up and folds his arms.

WARREN

Fine, but we're going to the camp.
You want to run off into the woods
all by yourself, you go right ahead.

Miguel eyes the forest, turns to the others, and scowls.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - DAY

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton cautiously emerge from the woods and survey the scene. The tents are slashed beyond repair and their supplies are scattered about.

A torrent of blood is splattered on the ground in the middle of the clearing but there is no sign of Bear's body. The men grimace as they eye the blood-stained soil.

CHARLES

Let's make this quick. No reason to
stay any longer than we have to.

WARREN

Anyone sees or hears anything, we're
out of here.

Charles examines Bear's tent while Warren and Shelton search the others. Miguel grips the rifle and scans the area.

SHELTON

We still have our sleeping bags.

WARREN

Yeah, but it took our rations.

CHARLES

Found the satellite phone.

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton snap to attention. Charles holds up the phone which is damaged beyond repair.

CHARLES

So much for an early rescue.

Charles tosses the broken device away.

WARREN

Okay, let's grab as many supplies as
we can and get out of here.

Charles and Warren roll up sleeping bags, Miguel scans the area with rifle in hand, and Shelton gathers loose supplies.

CHARLES

Keep an eye out for our cell phones.
We might get lucky and get a signal.

Shelton grabs the skillet from the ground when a glint in the trees catches his eye. He parts the nearby bushes, looks toward the shiny object, and shrieks in horror.

Charles, Warren, and Miguel rush over to Shelton's side and peer past the bushes. Charles and Warren recoil in shock while Miguel grimaces at the sight.

MIGUEL

Serves him right, the bastard.

Charles, Warren, and Shelton glare at Miguel.

MIGUEL

What? He got what was comin' to him.

WARREN

We can assign blame later. Right now, we need to gather what's left of our supplies and get out of here.

SHELTON

We can't leave him like this.

MIGUEL

Who cares? He's dead.

Shelton scowls at Miguel.

SHELTON

We can't leave him like this.

MIGUEL

What do you want us to do, huh?

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #4 - DAY (LATER)

Shelton places the last rock atop a burial mound in the middle of the clearing. He grabs his backpack with sleeping bag attached and steps away.

Warren and Miguel hold walking sticks and sport backpacks with sleeping bags. Miguel hands Shelton a walking stick as he joins the group.

Warren examines Bear's hunting knife and places it in his utility belt. Charles kneels nearby and secures his sleeping bag to his backpack.

CHARLES

You couldn't find our cell phones?

WARREN

None that worked, no.

SHELTON

What do we do now?

WARREN

Well, without the map, our best bet is to follow the river south.

MIGUEL

Wow, that's a great idea. There's just one little problem. We couldn't find Bear's compass either, genius!

Charles rises to his feet.

CHARLES

As long as we follow the river --

MIGUEL

The river twists and turns all over the place. How are we supposed to keep goin' south without a compass?

CHARLES

We'll use the sun.

MIGUEL

The sun?! What's next, are you gonna ask the Indian sprits to guide us?! How can we use the sun --

Charles points out the compass directions as he rages.

CHARLES

The sun rises in the east! The sun sets in the west! East! West! North! South! We go south! Christ!

Miguel looks on meekly as Charles grabs his backpack and walking stick from the ground and storms off.

MIGUEL

Hey ... Hey, I was just wonderin'.

Miguel scurries off in pursuit of Charles. Shelton pats Warren on the shoulder and motions toward the burial mound.

SHELTON

Warren? He went after that grizzly.
He went after it knowing it would ...
He saved our lives.

WARREN

Yes, he did. Let's make sure it
wasn't in vain, all right?

Warren pats Shelton on the back and leads him away.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #7 - DAY

Charles sits across from Warren and Shelton with a group of tree branches between them. Charles weaves a few branches together and secures them in place with twine.

CHARLES

Weave them together like this, secure
the ends in place ... There, now
you've made a net. Can you do that?

WARREN

I think we can manage.

SHELTON

Learned this in Scouts?

CHARLES

I knew those merit badges would come
in handy. Once you've made enough
nets, take Miguel into the river with
you and try to catch some fish.

WARREN

What about you?

CHARLES

I'm going to search the woods for
some materials I need.

SHELTON

Why?

CHARLES

You'll see.

Miguel kneels nearby and uses a makeshift bow, fireboard, drill, and socket assembly to try and start a fire.

MIGUEL

Well, I'm glad you ladies are workin' on your sewin' badges. I mean, it's not like I'm bustin' my ass tryin' to make a fire 'cause you people were too stupid to carry any matches.

WARREN

We recovered as many supplies --

MIGUEL

I don't wanna hear your excuses.

CHARLES

Not excuses. Facts.

MIGUEL

You want facts? We're stuck in the middle of nowhere. We can't get any help for another four days. I'm wastin' my time rubbin' sticks together like some sorta caveman --

A puff of smoke drifts in front of Miguel's face.

SHELTON

Miguel?

MIGUEL

Shut up. Seriously, what makes you think these Boy Scout routines can work out here? You think we can rub a couple of sticks together and --

SHELTON

Miguel!

Miguel finally notices the plume of smoke.

MIGUEL

No way.

The group huddles around the fireboard. Charles carefully transfers the burning coal to a pile of nearby tinder.

MIGUEL

Careful! That's my fire!

Charles places the coal amidst the tinder and gently blows.

MIGUEL

Hey, you're puttin' it out!

CHARLES

Just feeding the embers. Watch.

The group looks on as the tinder catches fire. The men share a look and laugh with joy and amazement.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #7 - DAY (LATER)

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton stand in the middle of the river with their makeshift nets in hand.

SHELTON

I see one. I see one!

Shelton plunges his net into the river but comes up empty.

MIGUEL

Guess it saw you, too.

Miguel thrusts his net below the surface only to come up empty-handed as well.

MIGUEL

We won't catch anythin' with these.

WARREN

Come on, you two. Remember what Bear said? We just need a little patience, a little concentration ...

Warren plunges into the river, reemerges with a salmon in his net, and grins at the others.

WARREN

... and some quick reflexes.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #7 - EVENING

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton huddle by their campfire and munch on salmon dinners when Charles emerges from the woods.

SHELTON

Charles! Where have you been?

CHARLES

Oh, I've been busy.

MIGUEL

With what?

CHARLES

These.

Charles reveals the hand-carved bow and arrows in his hands.

WARREN

You made a bow and arrows? Who was your Scout leader? MacGyver?

Miguel stands up and shakes his head.

MIGUEL

We're stuck in the middle of nowhere with a grizzly in the area and you wasted the whole afternoon tryin' to be Errol Flynn?

Charles glares at Miguel, draws an arrow, and takes aim at a tree about twenty yards away.

MIGUEL

Seriously, I bet you couldn't even hit the broadside of a barn --

Charles narrows his eyes, steadies his hands, and releases the bowstring. The arrow flies straight and true before it firmly embeds itself into the side of the tree.

CHARLES

You were saying?

Charles smirks at Miguel while Warren and Shelton stand up.

SHELTON

Can you kill the grizzly with those?

CHARLES

They'll barely be able to pierce the skin. If I can shoot it in the mouth or eyes, though, I think I can repel it or at least buy us some time.

Warren looks at the sky.

WARREN

It's getting late. We'd better prepare for nightfall.

Warren and Miguel step out of view. Charles prepares to follow when Shelton grabs his arm.

SHELTON

How did you make those?

Charles pats Shelton's shoulder and leads him away.

CHARLES

It's not that hard if you know what to do. First, you need a straight stick five or six feet long ...

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #7 - NIGHT

Charles, Warren, Miguel, and Shelton unroll their sleeping bags close to the fire.

CHARLES

One of us needs to keep watch.

WARREN

I'm too wired to sleep. I'll take first watch.

SHELTON

I'm an early riser. Wake me when you're done.

CHARLES

Miguel, you should let Warren have the rifle in case --

Miguel crawls into his sleeping bag and sets the rifle down under the covers next to him.

MIGUEL

Not a chance. This stays with me.

CHARLES

Miguel --

WARREN

Don't bother.

Warren sits by the fire as Charles and Shelton settle down in their sleeping bags.

SHELTON

Good night, Warren.

WARREN

Let's hope it stays that way.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

The moon is slightly obscured by scattered clouds.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

The sun peeks through the trees and starts a new day.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #7 - MORNING

Shelton idly sits by the fire while Charles, Warren, and Miguel slumber in their sleeping bags. Shelton stiffens up when a low growl pierces the air.

Shelton raises his head as several trees across the river loudly rustle. He grabs the skillet and wooden spoon at his feet and nervously taps the utensils together.

Charles and Warren awaken, share a look, and scramble to their feet. Warren takes the spoon and skillet from Shelton's hands and sets them aside.

CHARLES

What is it?

Shelton points across the river.

SHELTON

Over there.

Charles, Warren, and Shelton scan the trees across the river as they violently shake about. The trio stiffens when a second low growl echoes throughout the area.

SHELTON

Oh, God. What do we do?

WARREN

Let's not panic, okay?

The grizzly emerges from the woods across the river and idly patrols the far shore.

SHELTON

Can we panic now?

Miguel opens his eyes as another low growl cuts through the air. He unzips his sleeping bag and reveals the rifle.

CHARLES

The grizzly's not threatening us.
We'll take what we can and back away.

SHELTON

Where do we go?

CHARLES

There's a path through the woods back there. Just take it easy and --

Charles, Warren, and Shelton flinch as a gunshot rings out and a bullet strikes a tree next to the grizzly.

The threesome spins around and watches as Miguel wildly fires three more rounds in the beast's direction.

MIGUEL

I've got you, you son of a bitch!

Warren rushes toward Miguel and forces the rifle down.

WARREN

No! Stop before it --

The grizzly raises its head, unleashes a mighty roar, and gallops toward the river.

CHARLES

Grab your bags and go!

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton seize their backpacks and walking sticks as they head for the nearby path. Charles kneels beside his bag and grabs his bow and arrows.

WARREN

What are you doing?!

CHARLES

Get out of here, now!

Warren grimaces as he reluctantly follows Miguel and Shelton into the woods. Charles takes aim at the grizzly in the river and fires an arrow.

The grizzly moans as the arrow lodges in its neck. The beast shakes the arrow loose and gallops onward. Charles grabs his backpack and heads for the woods.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #3 - MORNING

Shelton races through the woods far ahead of Warren while Miguel breathes laboriously and lags behind.

MIGUEL

Wait! Wait!

Shelton disappears down the path while Warren circles back and pushes Miguel onward.

WARREN

Move it. Move it!

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #8 - MORNING

Shelton arrives at the foot of a rope bridge which crosses a turbulent section of the river. He tentatively steps onto the bridge and slowly advances down the span.

Shelton stops and breathes heavily as he eyes the raging water below. Warren and Miguel rush onto the bridge only to stop when they run into Shelton.

WARREN

Shelton! Let's go!

SHELTON

I ... I can't --

MIGUEL

We don't have time for this!

Warren and Miguel push Shelton across the bridge.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #3 - MORNING

Charles races down the path as the grizzly's roars pierce the air. He stops, kneels down, and readies another arrow.

CHARLES

Come on ... Come on ...

Charles spots the grizzly as it appears up the path. He fires the arrow into the beast's side. The grizzly roars as it stops and shakes the arrow free.

Charles turns to run when his foot catches an exposed tree root. He drops his weapons, tumbles to the ground, and grabs his ankle in pain.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #8 - MORNING

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton reach the far side of the bridge when a human scream cuts through the wilderness.

SHELTON

Charles?! Oh, no. Oh, no!

Shelton heads down the path and disappears into the trees.

MIGUEL

Charles. It got Charles.

WARREN

No, it didn't! Now, move before --

Warren and Miguel freeze as a low growl cuts through the air. The pair looks across the bridge as the trees on the other side shake and rustle.

MIGUEL

I see it. I see it!

Miguel raises the rifle and takes aim across the bridge. Warren grabs the weapon and tries to wrest it away.

MIGUEL

Let go! I see it!

WARREN

No, Charles is still --

Miguel pulls the rifle free, shoves Warren to the ground, and takes aim across the bridge as something draws near.

MIGUEL

I've got you! I've got you!

Miguel fires a round into the trees. A human voice shrieks in anguish. Warren stands up and forces the rifle aside.

Charles staggers into view with a bullet wound in his right shoulder. Warren furiously grabs Miguel by the lapels.

WARREN

What did you do?!

Warren rushes onto the bridge while Miguel stands in place and blankly looks at the rifle in his hands.

Charles staggers a third of the way across the span and collapses against one of the guide cables.

Charles leans on the cable and cradles his injured arm as Warren helps him onto his feet.

CHARLES

Why? Why did you shoot --

WARREN

Later. Let's move before --

The grizzly emerges from the woods with a mighty roar. The beast rams the wooden poles which support the guide cables. The poles snap and the guide cables fall slack.

Charles yelps as he slips over the edge of the span. Warren dives onto the bridge surface and grabs Charles's left hand before he plummets into the river.

Charles wails as he dangles above the water. Warren grits his teeth and tightens his hold. The grizzly snarls as it slams its front paws onto the bridge surface.

Warren struggles to maintain his grip as the span shakes about. He turns to Miguel who remains frozen in place on the far side of the bridge.

WARREN

Miguel! Get over here! Miguel!

Miguel glances at Warren and then looks at the grizzly. The beast raises its head and roars in response.

Miguel stares at the grizzly in terror. Warren grimaces as Charles starts to slip from his grasp.

WARREN

Your hand! Your other hand!

Charles clenches his teeth and tries to raise his right arm only to whimper in anguish.

CHARLES

I ... I can't lift it!

Charles and Warren share a desperate look as their hands slip free from one another. Charles shrieks as he tumbles through the air and crashes into the river.

Charles gasps for air and struggles to stay afloat as he is thrown about in the water. Warren's eyes widen in terror as he spots a waterfall down the river.

A fallen log reaches halfway across the river just in front of the waterfall. Warren spots Shelton as he runs along the shore not too far from the log.

WARREN

Shelton!

Shelton spins around, eyes Warren on the bridge, and spots Charles in the river.

SHELTON

Charles!

Warren shouts at Shelton as he points at the fallen log.

WARREN

Get out on that log and grab him!

Shelton eyes the smooth and slick surface of the log.

SHELTON

What?! I ... I can't!

WARREN

Get out there, Goddamn it! Now!

Shelton gets on all fours and shimmies across the log. Charles is thrown about in the river. Shelton wails as he nearly slips off the log.

Shelton closes his eyes, takes a deep breath, and crawls to the end of the log. He looks up the river as Charles draws near and reaches out for him.

SHELTON

Charles! Take my hand!

Charles spots Shelton, swims against the rapids, and nears the end of the log. Charles and Shelton extend their hands as the current draws them close.

Charles and Shelton touch fingers but fail to take hold of one another. Shelton looks on helplessly as the currents pull Charles away from the log.

SHELTON

Charles! No!

Charles looks down the river and widens his eyes in terror as he is pulled toward the waterfall.

EXT. WILDERNESS - LAKE - MORNING

Charles screams as he slips over the edge of the waterfall. The lake falls silent as he plunges into the body of water and disappears from view.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #8 - MORNING

Warren hangs his head and wails in despair.

WARREN

No. No!

Warren raises his head as a snarl cuts through the air. He glares at the grizzly on the far side of the bridge before the beast disappears into the woods.

Warren scrambles to his feet and scampers across the bridge where Miguel remains frozen in shock. Warren angrily shoves Miguel to the ground and heads down the path.

EXT. WILDERNESS - LAKE - MORNING

Shelton stands by the lakeshore and scans the water as Warren scurries out of the woods.

WARREN

Where is he?!

SHELTON

I don't know!

WARREN

Charles?! Charles?!

Warren spots Charles as he floats facedown in the lake.

WARREN

Charles!

Warren tosses his belongings aside, dives into the water, and swims across the lake. He turns Charles's lifeless body over and drags him back to shore.

Shelton helps Warren out of the water and the pair place Charles on the ground. Shelton steps back as Warren diligently performs CPR.

WARREN

Breathe, damn it. Breathe.

Shelton looks over his shoulder as Miguel appears with the rifle in hand and a stunned look on his face. Warren ignores the others as he performs CPR to no avail.

WARREN

Come on. Come on!

Warren tears up as he continues the chest compressions and artificial respiration to no response.

EXT. WILDERNESS - LAKE - DAY

Warren places the final rock atop a burial mound by the shore and wearily leans against the memorial.

WARREN

We can't go back to the camp. Too risky. We'll make do with what we have and continue south.

Miguel and Shelton nod in response.

WARREN

Miguel, give me the rifle.

MIGUEL

What?

Warren glares at Miguel.

WARREN

Give it to me.

Miguel clutches the rifle to his chest.

MIGUEL

No.

Shelton shakes his head.

SHELTON

You've caused nothing but trouble
ever since --

MIGUEL

Don't you dare blame me for what
happened to Charles! It was an
accident, okay?! An accident!

Shelton narrows his eyes.

SHELTON

Look, we've already lost Bear and
Charles. We can't lose anyone else,
and we can't have a trigger-happy --

MIGUEL

What?! I'm not trigger-happy!

WARREN

Not when it comes to the grizzly.
Why didn't you shoot it when you had
the chance?

Miguel diverts his eyes.

MIGUEL

I ... I didn't wanna miss and shoot
you instead.

WARREN

Hand it over, and you won't shoot
anyone period.

MIGUEL

No.

SHELTON

Haven't you done enough damage --

MIGUEL

Nobody's taking this from me, all right?! Nobody!

Miguel stares down Warren and Shelton.

WARREN

We need to put distance between ourselves and that grizzly. Let's get moving.

Warren and Shelton march into the woods. Miguel grips his rifle and trails after them.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #3 - DAY

Warren, Miguel, and Shelton emerge from the woods and find themselves atop a steep cliff.

SHELTON

Where do we go now?

WARREN

Down.

MIGUEL

How?

Warren peers over the edge of the precipice.

WARREN

There's a ledge about fifty feet below. We'll anchor the climbing rope to the trees, rappel down, and go from there.

SHELTON

Can't we go back and see if there's another way down?

WARREN

I think it's best we reach the bottom before nightfall. We don't have time to backtrack, especially if that grizzly's stalking us.

SHELTON

You ... You think it's following us?

WARREN

It followed us down the river, didn't
it? I'm not taking any chances.

Warren retrieves a climbing rope and rope anchors from his
backpack while Miguel and Shelton share an uneasy look.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #3 - DAY

Miguel stands on a ledge fifty feet below the edge of the
precipice as Shelton uneasily rappels toward him.

Miguel helps Shelton onto the ledge, tugs on the climbing
rope, and bellows toward the heavens.

MIGUEL

He's down, Warren!

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF TOP #3 - DAY

Warren grabs the rope which is secured to a tree and steps
toward the edge of the precipice. He stops and widens his
eyes as a low growl echoes from the trees behind him.

WARREN

Oh, no.

Warren spins around as the grizzly bursts through the trees
and races toward him. Warren leaps over the edge of the
cliff with rope in hand.

The grizzly grabs the rope in its teeth and drags it ten
feet to the side. Shelton spots the end of the rope as it
slips off the ledge.

SHELTON

The rope!

Shelton dives for the rope but fails to grasp it. Warren
stops his decent ten feet next to the ledge. Shelton stands
at the tip of the ledge and reaches for Warren.

SHELTON

Give me your hand!

Warren extends his hand only to end up a few feet short.

SHELTON

Miguel! Pull him in with the rifle!

Miguel remains frozen in place as he stares at the grizzly above. The beast snarls as it pulls the rope another ten feet away from the ledge.

Warren and Shelton watch helplessly as they are pulled further apart. The section of rope which bends over the precipice becomes lodged in a crevice.

SHELTON

Warren!

WARREN

Hold on!

Warren pushes his feet against the rocks and sways back and forth. Each push brings him closer to the ledge. Shelton eyes the grizzly as it gnaws on the rope.

SHELTON

Hurry! It's biting through the rope!

WARREN

Almost there! One more!

Warren grits his teeth, pushes off against the rocks once more, and sways toward the ledge. Shelton grips the rock face and reaches out to him.

The grizzly clenches its teeth, pulls on the rope, and causes it to snap. Warren screams as he tumbles from his perch and plummets down the cliff.

Warren's screams subside as he slams against the rock face and disappears into the trees below. Shelton crumples to his knees and wails in despair.

SHELTON

Warren! Oh, God, no!

Miguel snaps out of his stupor and looks down at the base of the cliff. He turns to the precipice above and spots the grizzly as it stares back at him.

The beast unleashes a mighty roar and gallops out of view. Miguel screams with fear and anger as he aims the rifle skyward and fires three rounds into empty space.

Shelton looks on as Miguel breathes heavily and lowers the rifle. Shelton rises to his feet with fire in his eyes and shoves Miguel against the rock face.

SHELTON

Why didn't you do anything?! Why?!

Shelton tussles with Miguel only to be struck in the stomach with the butt-end of the rifle and sent to the ground.

SHELTON

Oh, God, what's the use? We're going to die. We're all going to die.

MIGUEL

No, I'm not!

SHELTON

Yes, you are! We all are, Miguel! All of us!

Miguel grabs Shelton by the lapels, drags him to his feet, slams him against the rocks, and slaps him across the face.

MIGUEL

Get a grip, already! You're a man, Goddamn it! Start actin' like one!

Shelton settles down and glares at Miguel.

SHELTON

I'll start when you start.

Miguel releases his grip and backs away.

MIGUEL

I don't need this shit. Not from you. Sun's goin' down soon and we've gotta get off this cliff.

SHELTON

How?

MIGUEL

We'll hafta climb down.

Miguel gestures toward the cliff face below.

MIGUEL

You first.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF FACE #3 - EVENING

Shelton slowly and tentatively climbs down the cliff face while Miguel rapidly approaches from above. Shelton wails as Miguel steps on his hand.

SHELTON

Get off my hand!

Miguel raises his foot.

MIGUEL

Hurry up, Goddamn it!

SHELTON

I'm going as fast as I can!

MIGUEL

Go faster!

Miguel and Shelton continue their descent.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #3 - EVENING

Miguel and Shelton reach the bottom of the cliff and collapse in exhaustion. They perk up their ears as the rumble of thunder pierces the air.

MIGUEL

Gonna rain soon. Let's go.

Miguel marches away from the area. Shelton starts to follow when he glances toward the nearby trees. Shelton calls to Miguel with horror on his face.

SHELTON

Oh, God! Look!

Miguel and Shelton slowly approach a large tree. Warren's crumpled body is caught in its branches and dangles upside-down from the tree limbs.

Shelton falls to his knees and weeps in despair. Miguel approaches the tree, removes the hunting knife from Warren's belt, and hands the weapon to Shelton.

MIGUEL

He doesn't need this. We do.

Shelton blankly looks on as Miguel marches away.

SHELTON

We can't leave him like this.

Miguel stops and stares into the distance.

MIGUEL

He's dead. What does it matter?

Shelton narrows his eyes and grits his teeth.

SHELTON

We're not leaving him like this.

Miguel closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

EXT. WILDERNESS - CLIFF BASE #3 - EVENING (LATER)

Light rain falls from the sky. Miguel watches as Shelton places the last rock atop a burial mound next to the tree.

MIGUEL

There, satisfied? Let's move.

Miguel stalks away from view while Shelton leans on the mound and glares in his direction.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #6 - NIGHT

Heavy rain pours down from above. Miguel and Shelton emerge from the darkness and collapse in exhaustion. The pair quietly sits across from one another for a lengthy moment.

SHELTON

You could have shot that grizzly before it chewed through the rope. You could have used that rifle to pull Warren to safety before he fell.

MIGUEL

Don't you dare blame me for any of this. You'd still be stuck on that cliff if it weren't for me.

Shelton shakes his head derisively.

SHELTON

You slap me in the face and tell me to be a man while you're paralyzed with fear every time you see that grizzly? You blindly fire that rifle into the woods at the drop of a hat but can't shoot the beast when it's standing right in front of you? You think I'm the coward? You're the coward, Miguel. You are.

Miguel moves forward and kneels in front of Shelton.

MIGUEL

Gimme the knife.

SHELTON

Why?

MIGUEL

Give it to me.

Shelton retrieves the hunting knife and hands it over. Miguel eyes the blade as he speaks.

MIGUEL

I'm only gonna say this once. I'm not endin' up like the others. Oh, no. I'm gettin' outta here in one piece. Do you want outta here, too? Don't cross me, 'cause if you do ...

Miguel pokes Shelton's chest with the tip of the knife.

MIGUEL

I'll be the only one who makes it home. Understand?

Miguel hands Shelton the knife, takes a seat on the other side of the clearing, and places the rifle in his lap.

MIGUEL

I don't feel like sleepin'. I'll take first watch.

Shelton grips the hunting knife in his hand.

SHELTON

I'm not that tired myself.

MIGUEL

I guess we'll both just sit here.

SHELTON

I guess so.

The men quietly stare daggers at one another.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

Lightning emanates from the thick rain clouds above.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

The morning sun is diffused by the overcast sky.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #9 - DAY

Miguel and Shelton approach a fallen log as they walk along the edge of the river. Shelton stops and takes a seat on the log. Miguel spins around and glares at him.

MIGUEL

Get up. I said, get up!

SHELTON

I've marched God knows how many miles without a bite to eat or a minute of sleep since yesterday. I'm tired.

Miguel takes a deep breath and sits on the log.

MIGUEL

We're not gonna find that rendezvous point on our own, are we?

Shelton shakes his head.

SHELTON

We're stuck out here for two more days, and that's only if they find us on Sunday. I wouldn't be surprised if they don't rescue us 'til --

Miguel and Shelton freeze in terror as a low growl echoes through the air. The pair slowly rises to their feet as the trees on the other side of the river thrash about.

SHELTON

Quick, let's get out of --

Miguel shakes Shelton loose as he grips the rifle and bellows across the river.

MIGUEL

You think I'm scared of you?!

Miguel fires four rounds into the trees across the river.

SHELTON

Stop, you're wasting bullets --

MIGUEL

You want some of this, huh?!

Miguel stops as Shelton lowers the rifle. The pair looks and listens but does not see or hear the grizzly.

MIGUEL

Yeah, that's what I thought.

Miguel sneers at Shelton.

MIGUEL

Still think I'm a coward?

Shelton shakes his head with derision. Miguel tucks the rifle into his backpack.

MIGUEL

You think I'm scared of that grizzly?
As long as I have this rifle, nothin'
out here can scare --

Miguel and Shelton stiffen as a roar cuts through the air. The pair spins around and watches as the grizzly bursts out of the trees and splashes into the river.

Miguel throws Shelton to the ground, grabs his backpack, and sprints into the forest. Shelton scrambles to his feet, grabs his belongings, and heads for the woods.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #4 - DAY

Miguel scurries down the path only to stop when his backpack catches a tree branch. Shelton weaves through the trees further up the path and calls out to him.

SHELTON

Wait, Miguel! Wait for me!

MIGUEL

Not a chance!

Miguel pulls his backpack free and continues down the path. Shelton dodges and weaves his way through the trees. The grizzly snarls as it rampages after them.

Miguel breathes laboriously as his pace slows dramatically. Shelton darts into view and rapidly catches up. The grizzly roars as it chases the pair.

Miguel looks over his right shoulder just as Shelton passes him on the left. Miguel faces forward only to shriek in horror as Shelton leaves him in the dust.

MIGUEL

No, Shelton! Wait for me!

Miguel hurries down the trail with the grizzly in pursuit.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #10 - DAY

Shelton arrives at a log which spans a moderately deep section of the river. The water flows toward some nearby rapids and spills over a small waterfall a few yards tall.

Shelton takes a deep breath and slowly advances halfway across the slick log. Miguel emerges from the trees and looks over his shoulder as he scurries across the log.

Miguel turns around, runs smack into Shelton, and knocks them both down. Miguel's backpack, rifle tucked inside, lands in the water and tumbles over the rapids.

MIGUEL

My rifle. My rifle!

Miguel grabs Shelton by the lapels and punches him square in the face. Miguel leaps into the river and tumbles over the edge of the small waterfall.

Shelton rubs his jaw as he crawls his way across the log. Miguel's backpack snags on a rock in a shallow section of the river past the waterfall.

Miguel pops through the water, spots his backpack, and swims down the river. Shelton reaches the other side of the log, steps on the far shore, and eyes the river.

Miguel rises to his feet, trudges through the water, and reaches his backpack. He yanks the rifle from the backpack and waves it in Shelton's direction.

MIGUEL

You son of a bitch! Didn't I tell you not to cross me?!

SHELTON

Who cares?! Let's go before --

MIGUEL

Didn't I tell you what would happen?!

SHELTON

We don't have time for --

Shelton's eyes widen as he looks past Miguel.

SHELTON

Miguel!

Miguel freezes as a thunderous splash drenches him with water from behind. His eyes widen in terror as a low growl cuts through the silence.

Miguel slowly turns around and eyes the grizzly as it stares him down from just five yards away. Shelton bellows at Miguel as he remains frozen in terror.

SHELTON

Shoot it! Shoot it!

Miguel snaps out of his stupor and eyes the rifle in his hands. He screams defiantly, aims the weapon at the grizzly, and pulls the trigger only to hear a click.

MIGUEL

No. No!

Miguel whimpers as he vainly tries to fire. The grizzly rises up on its hind legs and bears its claws. Miguel looks up at the beast and drops the rifle in the water.

Miguel screams as the grizzly lunges forward and tackles him into the river. Miguel raises his arm only for the beast to bite down upon the limb and thrash him about.

The grizzly swipes its claws and slashes Miguel's face open. Miguel cries out as the beast clamps its jaws down upon his neck and rips his throat out.

Miguel's lifeless body collapses into the river. The crystal-clear water turns red with blood. The grizzly raises its head and glares at Shelton.

The beast unleashes a mighty roar as blood drips from its mouth. Shelton grabs his belongings and sprints into the woods. The grizzly gallops across the river in pursuit.

EXT. WILDERNESS - TRAIL SECTION #5 - DAY

Shelton swiftly weaves through the obstacles in his path. The grizzly barrels down the trail after him.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RAVINE EDGE #1 - DAY

Shelton emerges from the woods and finds himself at one edge of a deep tree-lined ravine. A lengthy rope bridge spans the gorge and sways in the stiff breeze.

Shelton wails at the sight of the bridge and searches in vain for another escape route. He glances back at the woods as a low growl echoes through the air.

He turns to the bridge, takes a deep breath, and slowly makes his way across the span. The wooden slats creak and sway under his feet.

He advances a quarter of the way across the span when another low snarl echoes through the area. He leans on one of the guide cables and looks over his shoulder.

The grizzly roars as it bursts into view and plows down the guide cable anchor posts. Shelton wails as he loses his balance and threatens to fall off the bridge.

Shelton grips the wooden slats with both hands and dangles over the edge of the bridge. His backpack and walking stick fall through the air and disappear into the ravine.

The grizzly clamps its jaws down upon one of the main cables and gnaws through the rope. Shelton shrieks as the cable is severed and the span violently shudders.

The grizzly bites down upon the other main cable and chews through the rope. Shelton whimpers as the crippled bridge creaks and trembles in his hands.

The second main cable snaps and the near end of the span falls free. Shelton screams as he slips from his perch and plummets toward the bottom of the ravine.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RAVINE SLOPE #1 - DAY

Shelton smashes through a group of trees partway down the gorge. He slams into the rocky slope below and tumbles down the side of the ravine.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RAVINE BASE - DAY

Shelton's bloodied and crumpled body comes to a stop at the bottom of the gorge. His head collapses atop a large rock and cracks one of the lenses in his glasses.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RAVINE EDGE #1 - DAY

The grizzly stands at the edge of the ravine and peers at the body below. The beast stands before the overcast sky, raises its head, and unleashes a triumphant roar.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

Clouds obscure the moon as thunder rumbles in the distance.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RAVINE BASE - NIGHT

A RACCOON skitters across the ravine. The animal approaches Shelton's body and sniffs his hand. The raccoon scurries off when Shelton's hand twitches.

Shelton grimaces as he slowly and painfully pulls himself onto his knees. He scans the area with dazed eyes and spots his walking stick nearby.

He crawls toward the stick and uses it to pull himself onto his feet. He looks to the heavens as thunder rumbles and lightning flashes in the distance.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RAVINE SLOPE #2 - NIGHT

Steady rain pours from the sky as Shelton slowly navigates the rocky far slope of the ravine. He progresses until his foot slips off the mossy surface of one of the stones.

He tumbles several feet down the slope and slams chest-first against a tree trunk. He pulls himself off the ground, clutches his ribs, and painfully resumes his ascent.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RAVINE EDGE #2 - NIGHT

Shelton's hand appears over the far edge of the ravine. He pulls himself into view, collapses atop the edge of the gorge, places his head in his hands, and cries in relief.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #7 - NIGHT

Shelton arrives in a small clearing dominated by a large pine tree which overlooks a section of the river below.

Shelton shivers as he drops his walking stick, collapses to the ground, and curls up at the base of the pine tree.

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

Thick rain clouds blot out the moon.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT (LATER)

The clouds have dispersed and the moon glows in the heavens.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #7 - NIGHT

Shelton lies sound asleep under the pine tree until several high-pitched barks cut through the night.

Shelton rises to one knee, leans against the tree, and looks down at the river clearing below.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #11 - NIGHT

The area by the river is covered with large stones smoothed by erosion. A small mountain of fallen logs dominates one side of the clearing.

A FEMALE GREY WOLF stands between two WOLF CUBS and a LYNX which stalks the group. The lynx snarls as it closes in on its prey while the female wolf barks defiantly.

A MALE GREY WOLF growls ferociously as it leaps out of the woods and rushes toward the lynx. The male wolf tackles the lynx and the two animals bite and claw at each other.

The male wolf and the lynx back off for a moment and circle one another. The two animals attack each other once more only to separate a moment later.

The male wolf barks ferociously. The lynx snarls in response. The male wolf moves forward. The lynx takes a few cautious steps back.

The male wolf charges only for the lynx to turn tail and disappear into the night. The male wolf joins the female and nuzzles with their cubs.

EXT. WILDERNESS - FOREST CLEARING #7 - NIGHT

Shelton leans against the pine tree as he eyes the scene below. He retrieves a wallet from his back pocket and removes a photograph from inside.

The photo shows Shelton, Jocelyn, Kylie, and Trina as they smile for the camera. Shelton eyes the photograph with a mixture of longing and despair.

A pine cone falls from the tree and lands nearby. Shelton puts his photo and wallet away, takes hold of the pine cone, and eyes it for a moment.

Shelton's eyes narrow as a determined look washes over his face. He stares at the pine cone as he tosses his broken glasses away and rises to his feet.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #11 - DAY

MONTAGE

A) Shelton places a long and straight stick over his shoulders, repeatedly flexes it over his upper back, and gradually imparts a curve.

B) Shelton stands in the river, eyes the salmon as they swim below the surface, and thrusts his hands into the water but fails to catch a fish.

C) Shelton takes a length of string attached to one end of the long and now curved stick, bends the stick some more, and wraps the string around the other end.

D) Shelton carves a deep groove into one end of his walking stick with his Swiss Army knife and wedges the hunting knife's handle into the slot.

E) Shelton kneels by a fireboard, drill, and socket assembly, works a small bow, and tries to generate a spark with the fire-making equipment.

F) Shelton carves a groove into the end of a small and thin stick with his Swiss Army knife, places a feather in the slot, and secures it with a length of string.

G) Shelton stands in the river, plunges his hands into the water, and snags a salmon only to watch it slip from his grasp and disappear below the surface.

H) Shelton takes the small and thin stick with a feather in the end, sharpens the other end to a point with his Swiss Army knife, and adds it to a pile of completed arrows.

I) Shelton secures the hunting knife to the end of his walking stick with a length of string and takes a few practice swings with his makeshift spear.

J) Shelton kneels over his fire-making apparatus and works his bow until a puff of smoke drifts in front of his face and the embers start to glow.

K) Shelton aims his bow at a tree two dozen yards away, fires an arrow straight and true, and watches the arrow embed itself firmly into the tree trunk.

L) Shelton stands in the river, thrusts his hands below the surface, catches a salmon with his bare hands, and eyes the fish with a smile.

END MONTAGE

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #11 - EVENING

Shelton sits by a small fire with his salmon on the end of a stick. He holds the fish over the flames when a soft howl cuts through the air.

Shelton glances toward the woods and spots the male wolf as it softly howls once more. He eyes the animal and bites into his cooked salmon.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #11 - EVENING (LATER)

Shelton tosses the last of many large tree branches onto a pile in the middle of the clearing. He takes a long stick from the pile and thrusts one end into his small fire.

Shelton holds his makeshift torch high in the air and howls into the night. He howls once more as he tosses the torch onto the tree branches and creates a massive bonfire.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #11 - NIGHT

Shelton sits in front of the bonfire with his spear, bow, and arrows nearby. He snaps to attention when a loud splash echoes through the night.

Shelton stands up, removes a long stick from the bonfire, and wields it like a torch. He approaches the river until the lynx leaps into view ten yards ahead of him.

The lynx growls and steps forward only to stop, recoil in fear, and scamper into the night. Shelton rubs his head in confusion until a stunned look washes over his face.

Shelton quickly spins around as the grizzly steps into view next to the bonfire. The beast stares down its prey and unleashes a mighty roar.

Shelton eyes the grizzly with terror and shifts his gaze to the weaponry next to the fire. Shelton steps forward only for the beast to respond in kind.

Shelton looks about in search of a plan as the grizzly slowly advances. Shelton eyes the torch in his hand, waves it about, and beckons the beast forward.

Shelton walks backward and gradually encircles the bonfire. The grizzly snarls as it keeps pace. Shelton glances over his shoulder and spots his weaponry.

The grizzly roars and charges forward. Shelton throws his torch at the beast and strikes it in the face. The grizzly moans as it rears back and turns away.

Shelton scurries next to the fire and retrieves his spear. The grizzly charges forward, rears up on its hind legs, and bears its claws.

Shelton screams as he surges forward and slashes the grizzly's chest with his spear. The beast roars in pain and swats at Shelton with its paws.

Shelton ducks the attacks and hacks away at the grizzly's chest. The beast gets back down on all fours, lowers its head, and charges forward.

Shelton repeatedly thrusts his spear into the grizzly's shoulders. The beast rears up once more and swats the spear away with the back of its paw.

The spear's hunting knife blade lands in the bonfire. The grizzly swats at Shelton with the back of its other paw and sends him to the ground.

The grizzly stands over Shelton and raises its front paws. Shelton grabs a large rock from the ground, hurls it at the beast's face, and strikes it in the muzzle.

The grizzly moans as it rears back and falls to the ground. Shelton grabs the nearby bow and three arrows, scurries to his feet, and heads for the fallen logs.

Shelton scales the fallen logs while the grizzly scrambles to its feet and gives chase. Shelton stands atop the logs, readies an arrow, and takes aim at the beast.

The grizzly roars at Shelton as it reaches the base of the fallen logs. Shelton fires an arrow and strikes the beast in the shoulder.

The grizzly snarls as it shakes the arrow loose and makes its way up the logs. Shelton readies a second arrow and takes aim at the beast.

The grizzly glares at Shelton as it opens its mouth and roars once more. Shelton fires the second arrow and strikes the beast in the neck.

The grizzly growls yet again as it shakes the arrow free and advances toward its prey. Shelton readies his last arrow and stares the beast down.

The grizzly reaches the top of the fallen logs and unleashes a mighty roar. Shelton narrows his eyes, fires the arrow, and sends it through the beast's mouth and out its cheek.

The grizzly shrieks as it rears back, loses its footing, and tumbles down the logs. Shelton tosses the bow away and scrambles down his perch.

Shelton leaps onto the rocky terrain only to twist his right ankle and crumple to the ground in pain. The grizzly bites the arrow in its mouth, snaps it in two, and spits it loose.

Shelton hobbles toward the bonfire, grabs his spear, and finds the blade glows red hot. The grizzly gallops into view and rears up on its hind legs.

The blade on the end of the spear sizzles as Shelton thrusts it into the grizzly's chest. The beast wails as Shelton plunges the blade into its torso again and again.

The grizzly swats the spear away with the back of its paw and sends the blade into the fire once more. The beast roars as it swipes its other paw across Shelton's chest.

Shelton shrieks as the grizzly's claws rip through his shirt and open four massive slashes across his chest. Shelton collapses to the ground next to his spear.

The grizzly stands over its prey, rises up on its hind legs, and prepares to deliver a fatal blow. Shelton spots his spear and seizes the weapon.

The grizzly roars as it bears down upon its prey. Shelton thrusts the spear upward and plunges the red-hot blade through the beast's throat.

The grizzly shrieks in anguish as it rears back with the blade still in its neck. Blood gushes from the beast's throat and flows down the spear.

The grizzly wails as it tries to shake the spear loose to no avail. Shelton retrieves the Swiss Army knife from his belt and unveils the largest blade.

Shelton leaps onto the grizzly's back, unleashes a primal scream, and plunges the Swiss Army knife's blade into the beast's neck over and over again.

The grizzly wails as blood spurts from the wounds in its neck. The beast frantically spins around and eventually throws Shelton off its back.

Shelton lands on his left shoulder as he crashes to the rocky ground. He drops his Swiss Army knife and grabs his injured arm in anguish.

Shelton regains his bearings and spots a very large rock nearby. He scrambles to his feet and uses all his strength to lift the stone from the ground.

Shelton hoists the massive rock over his head and spins around only to stop in his tracks. The grizzly breathes laboriously as it lies by the fire.

The rocks underneath the grizzly are drenched with blood. The beast raises its head and locks eyes with Shelton. The grizzly falls limp and the life leaves its eyes.

Shelton drops the very large rock on the ground, collapses to his knees, places his head in his hands, and sobs with relief and exhaustion.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - MORNING

The sun peeks over the mountains and shines in the sky.

EXT. WILDERNESS - RIVER SECTION #12 - MORNING

Shelton leans on his blood-stained spear and slowly walks beside the river. He stops as the sound of a distant spinning rotor cuts through the air.

Shelton eyes the horizon and spots a rescue helicopter in the distance. He looks on as the craft follows the river and approaches his position.

The helicopter kicks up wind and sprays water about as it hovers overhead. Shelton leans on his spear, eyes the craft above, and smiles in relief.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALASKAN RESCUE CENTER - DAY

The rescue helicopter swoops down and approaches a landing pad next to a small building. The facility stands amidst a heavily wooded area surrounded by mountains.

Parker, Regan, and Lillian exit the building and eye the helicopter in anticipation. Six COUNTY DEPUTIES outside the building stop the women in their tracks.

An ambulance approaches the landing pad as the helicopter touches down. A staid and unsmiling female DOCTOR (40) steps out of the back of the vehicle.

DOCTOR

Move! I want him in the OR ASAP!

Two MALE PARAMEDICS unload a gurney from the back of the vehicle. The doctor and paramedics reach the helicopter as the side door slides open.

A sturdy and mustachioed COUNTY SHERIFF (52) sits in the helicopter. Shelton lies on the floor of the craft as two FEMALE PARAMEDICS watch over him.

DOCTOR

Mr. Alexander, just stay calm and --

Shelton sits up and reveals his injuries are untreated. The doctor glares at the sheriff and female paramedics.

DOCTOR
Why isn't he immobilized?

COUNTY SHERIFF
They tried, Doctor. Believe me.

Jocelyn exits the building with Kylie and Trina in tow. They join Parker, Regan, and Lillian while the deputies keep the entire group back.

Shelton, pine cone in hand, brushes the sheriff and female paramedics aside. He painfully exits the helicopter only for the doctor to block his path.

SHELTON
Where's my family?

DOCTOR
Sir, you have serious injuries --

SHELTON
Where are they?!

DOCTOR
You can see them later, I promise,
but we have to get you to a --

Shelton ignores the doctor as he bellows through the air.

SHELTON
Jocelyn?! Jocelyn?!

Jocelyn, Kylie, and Trina perk up their ears and step in front of Parker, Regan, and Lillian.

JOCELYN
Shelton!

Jocelyn tries to shove her way past the deputies while the sheriff scurries toward the building and waves them back.

COUNTY SHERIFF
Not here! You can see him at the --

JOCELYN
Why won't you get out of the way?!

COUNTY SHERIFF
The medical staff needs to get him --

The sheriff watches helplessly as Trina slips between two deputies, darts past him, and sprints toward the helicopter.

COUNTY SHERIFF

Hey! Get back here!

Trina cries as she rushes to her father.

TRINA

Daddy!

Shelton kneels down and embraces his daughter. He places the pine cone in Trina's hand and strokes her head.

SHELTON

See? I remembered.

The sheriff eyes the scene from across the facility, turns to Jocelyn and Kylie, and waves them on in resignation.

COUNTY SHERIFF

Go on ahead. Go on, now.

Kylie sprints toward the helicopter only to stop when she eyes her bruised and battered father. Shelton rises to his feet and smiles through his pain.

KYLIE

Dad?

Kylie bursts into tears as she rushes forward and tightly wraps her arms around her father. Shelton kisses her forehead and strokes her back.

Shelton holds Kylie and Trina close as his wife steps forward. Jocelyn covers her mouth in shock as she eyes her husband's injuries through watery eyes.

JOCELYN

Oh, Shelton. Are you all right?

Shelton looks at the two girls in his arms and smiles.

SHELTON

I'll be okay.

Parker, Regan, and Lillian remain in front of the building as they confront the sheriff.

PARKER

Have you found Charles?!

REGAN

Warren?! Where's Warren?!

LILLIAN
Is Miguel still safe?!

The sheriff removes his hat and rubs his forehead.

COUNTY SHERIFF
We ... We should talk inside.

REGAN
Why?! What's going on?!

PARKER
Where are they?!

LILLIAN
Talk to us, please!

Shelton stands by the helicopter as he embraces Jocelyn, Kylie, and Trina. He looks to the building as the sheriff speaks with Parker, Regan, and Lillian.

The sheriff looks at the ground and tightly grips his hat as he speaks. Parker, Regan, and Lillian are overcome with shock and burst into tears.

Shelton morosely eyes the scene by the building until a luxury car screeches to a stop by the landing pad. Nora exits the vehicle and scans the area.

NORA
Bear? Where's Bear?

Nora marches onto the landing pad as everyone in the area assembles by the helicopter.

NORA
Well, where is he? Tell me where he is, and I'll have a private search team pick him up within the hour.

Shelton approaches Nora with sorrow on his face.

SHELTON
I'm sorry, I ... I don't know how to tell you this, but our ... Our campsite was attacked by a grizzly. Bear tried to fight it off, but he ... He didn't make it.

Nora tries to fight back tears as she stiffens with shock.

NORA
What?

SHELTON

I ... I don't know what I can say --

Nora clenches her teeth as she rears back and strikes him across the face with her open hand. Shelton staggers back and turns away from the others.

Nora lunges after Shelton only to be held back by the sheriff and his deputies. The others on hand step in front of Nora and shield Shelton from view.

NORA

You let him die, didn't you?! You let him die out there, didn't you, you coward?! Where are the others?! Did you let them die, too?!

Shelton faces away from the others and uses his good arm to raise his tattered shirt. Nora points in his direction as the sheriff and his deputies work to restrain her.

NORA

You took my Bear from me?! Well, I'm going to take everything from you! I'll take your job, your home, your savings ... Everything!

JOCELYN

Please, this isn't the way --

NORA

You shut your mouth!

Nora turns her ire back in Shelton's direction.

NORA

I'm going to make you suffer, you hear me?! I'm going to make you suffer like nobody else ...

Nora trails off as horror washes over her face. The sheriff and his deputies look over their shoulders in alarm. The doctor and her paramedics watch with wide eyes.

Parker, Regan, and Lillian recoil in shock. Jocelyn holds her daughters close and shields their eyes. Shelton, bare-chested, steps into view and locks eyes with Nora.

Shelton's left shoulder and ribcage are covered with massive bruises while four thick and scabbed-over scars span the entire width of his chest.

SHELTON

Haven't I suffered enough?

Shelton stands in the middle of the assembled crowd as silence envelops the area.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALEXANDER HOME - NIGHT

The moon hangs over the picturesque suburban house.

INT. ALEXANDER HOME - TRINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shelton tucks Trina into bed, takes the pine cone from her hand, and places it on the nearby nightstand.

Shelton sports a new pair of glasses and has a walking cane in hand while his left arm rests in a sling.

SHELTON

Aren't you tired of carrying this around all over the place?

Trina sits up and frowns.

TRINA

Daddy, why don't we have a tree yet?

SHELTON

Patience, Trina. We only planted the seeds a week ago.

TRINA

But I want a tree for my tree house.

Shelton places a hand on her shoulder.

SHELTON

Trees take a long time to grow but, if you give it some time and give it some love, it will grow up to be big and strong.

TRINA

Just like me?

He smiles and strokes her head.

SHELTON

Just like you. Ready for bed?

TRINA

Can you read me a story first?

SHELTON

Of course. Now, what should we read?
How about ...

Shelton grabs a story book from a nearby shelf and glances at the front cover. The tome, a Berenstain Bears adventure, prominently features images of the titular beasts.

Shelton narrows his eyes and stares intently at the image on the cover for a lengthy moment. Trina takes notice and tugs on his arm with increasing urgency.

TRINA

Daddy? Daddy? Daddy?!

Shelton snaps out of his stupor, returns the book to the shelf, and grabs a different tome instead.

SHELTON

How about Clifford the Big Red Dog?

INT. ALEXANDER HOME - KYLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kylie sits under the covers of her bed while Jocelyn gathers clothes off the floor and puts them away.

JOCELYN

I shouldn't have to put your things away, Kylie. I swear, you'd leave your head behind if it wasn't glued to your shoulders.

Kylie speaks with a morose look on her face.

KYLIE

Mom, what's wrong with Dad?

Jocelyn takes a seat on the edge of the bed.

JOCELYN

You know what's wrong.

KYLIE

No, I mean ... He'll be fine for a while and then he'll just ... He'll just stop and stare at nothing.

Jocelyn looks down and searches for a response.

JOCELYN

Your father ... Your father has some issues he still needs to deal with.

KYLIE

It's been three weeks, Mom.

JOCELYN

Well, it's not that simple --

Kylie fights back tears as she speaks.

KYLIE

Why won't he just talk to us?

JOCELYN

Oh, you know how your father can be.
He tends to keep his feelings all
bottled up inside --

KYLIE

You always tell Trina and me we
should talk to you when something's
wrong. Can't Dad do the same?

Jocelyn holds Kylie close and strokes her hair.

JOCELYN

When he's ready.

INT. ALEXANDER HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

A clock on the nightstand reads twenty minutes to three.
Jocelyn rolls over in her slumber and rests her head on
Shelton's shirt-covered chest.

Shelton lies wide awake in bed and stares at the ceiling.
He glances at the clock, gently pushes Jocelyn away, and
discretely slips out of bed.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET #2 - NIGHT

Shelton leans on his cane as he strolls along the sidewalk.
The road is quiet and abandoned while porch lights and
street lamps provide the only illumination.

Shelton stops as a series of yelps echo through the night.
He turns around as a RED FOX darts out from behind a series
of hedges and races down the street.

A DOBERMAN PINSCHER, a broken length of chain attached to
its collar, emerges from behind the hedges. The fox yelps
in terror as the Doberman gives chase.

The fox darts past Shelton, scurries across the nearby lawn,
and cuts through a flower garden. The fox shrieks when its
foot catches the wire fence which encircles the garden.

Shelton looks up the street as the Doberman rushes into view. The Doberman growls and bears its teeth. Shelton narrows his eyes, raises his cane, and threatens to strike.

The Doberman barks ferociously and surges forward. Shelton smacks the end of his cane on the pavement, steps forward, and raises the cane once more.

The Doberman stops and looks at Shelton uneasily. Shelton snarls as he moves forward and strikes the cane on the pavement just in front of the Doberman.

The Doberman yelps, jumps back in fright, turns tail, and scurries back up the street. Shelton leans on his cane and breathes deeply when the fox's whimpers gain his attention.

Shelton approaches the flower garden and kneels beside the fox. Shelton reaches down only for the fox to whimper in fear and try to nip his right hand.

Shelton backs off and raises his good hand defensively. The fox looks on with wide eyes as Shelton returns its gaze and slowly moves forward.

The fox remains docile as Shelton gingerly frees its leg from the wire fence. The fox immediately scurries away from Shelton and darts onto the road.

Shelton leans on his cane, rises back to his feet, and returns to the sidewalk. The fox sits down in the middle of the pavement and licks the small cut on its leg.

The fox stops and looks up at Shelton. Shelton stops and looks down at the fox. The pair remains transfixed on one another for a lengthy moment.

The fox turns tail and scampers off into the darkness. Shelton thinks to himself for a moment until a warm smile washes over his face.

Shelton strolls away from the scene and makes his way down the sidewalk. He passes under a series of street lamps and eventually disappears into the night.

FADE OUT.

THE END