

THE ANOMALY

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The Anomaly  
"Pilot"

TEASER

**EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT - 1958**

A BRILLIANT AURORA BOREALIS fills the sky. However...

Down below, a farm house is ablaze.

**TEXT: February, 1958**

We stay on the house for a beat, watching it burn --

The front door BURSTS open and TWO YOUNG MEN stumble out, coughing and wheezing. One of them has a military TATTOO on his forearm depicting a skull wearing a helmet. The other wears horn-rimmed GLASSES.

They get a safe distance away, then fall to the ground and catch their breath. They watch the house burn.

GLASSES

Thanks for-

TATTOO

You're welcome.

GLASSES

Do you think they'll--

TATTOO

No.

GLASSES

We should--

TATTOO

I know.

**EXT. FIELD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER**

The aurora continues to cast its glow across the frost. The boys make their way from the burning house, which is now in the distance. Tattoo glances up.

TATTOO

It's--

GLASSES

--getting stronger.

TATTOO  
It's pretty.

GLASSES  
Mmhmm.

They've reached a hole in the ground next to a twisted, nightmarish tree. They pick up shovels.

REVEAL: There are three BODIES in this hole.

They fill the hole in grim silence. Then:

GLASSES (CONT'D)  
You do realize we just saved everyone, right?

TATTOO  
Kinda feels like we just saved ourselves, don't ya think?

GLASSES  
Just keep shoveling.

They do so.

GLASSES (CONT'D)  
So was that the last one?

TATTOO  
Almost.

GLASSES  
What do you mean almost?

TATTOO  
You know I can read you, right? So why would you even THINK about leaving?

GLASSES  
What? No, you read me wrong. I'm not going--

Tattoo swings the shovel at Glasses' head. He falls into the hole, dead.

TATTOO  
--Anywhere.

END TEASER

ACT ONE**EXT. NEBRASKA SAND HILLS - DAY**

A green reflective sign reads **Dalene - 5 miles**. Next to the sign is a two-lane road that snakes through Nebraska's lonely, desolate Sand Hills. There are no trees... save for one warped dead tree. An ocean of grass and farms stretches forever in all directions.

A pick-up truck loaded to capacity zips past.

**TEXT: 2013**

**I/E TRUCK - DAY**

ANDREW HUBBARD (30), handsome but world-weary, drives. His leather jacket and haircut make him look out of place here.

He passes the burnt shell of a farmhouse.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

--We got giveaways all weekend long, all you gotta do is stop by our booth tonight as we kick off our 55th annual Fall Festival. Diane and I will be holding our Trivia Smackdown, and if we're lucky, Diane won't give away all the answers like she did last year.

DIANE (O.S.)

Now, hold it, right there, Rick, I didn't give em *all* away!

As they dive into mock-angry banter, Andrew tops a hill, and there it is in the valley before him: Dalene, Nebraska.

He pulls over to a scenic overlook (Porter Point) and kills the engine.

Dalene looks like an island in a green ocean. The highest building is a church steeple. The center of town is a perfectly-arranged grid, surrounded by a tangle of subdivisions.

Only two other roads lead out of Dalene on the other side, as well as a pair of railroad tracks. Beyond that, not the slightest hint of civilization as far as the eye can see.

Andrew gets out his cell phone and hits a number on speed dial. He waits for it to ring. Then:

ANDREW

Hey. It's Andrew. I'm sorry I haven't called you back. I'm not in New York anymore; I can't tell you where I am, so please don't ask. I'll explain if and when I can. Listen: If anyone knocks on the door who you don't know, don't answer. If anyone asks about me, tell them you haven't seen me in a while. I don't know when I'll be back. I understand if you're mad. Just know that I'm somewhere safe and I... miss you.

Andrew hangs up.

**I/E TRUCK - DAY**

Andrew rolls through Dalene Springs, a park at the edge of town with a baseball field. It bustles with activity. A Ferris Wheel is being constructed, a main stage is being set up, booths are being decorated, etc.

RICK (O.S.)

... And for those of you who want to eat healthy this weekend, God knows why, be sure to stop by Arlie Cobb's produce stand.

DIANE (O.S.)

Rick, you read my mind! I was just thinking about the meal I got there last year.

A banner is being hung over the main stage: **WELCOME! 55th Annual Fall Festival**. It's clear that the "5" in "55th" is painted over the "4" that had been there the year before. Andrew chuckles at this, then looks back to the road--

An unkempt, 60-something year-old WOMAN has wandered into the street right in front of Andrew. She wears a robe and mutters to herself -- oblivious to the truck that bears down on her.

Andrew HITS THE BRAKES -- and though they SCREEEEECH, he's not going to stop in time. He JERKS the wheel to the right and misses her by a foot.

The woman doesn't so much as flinch. She continues to cross the road as if nothing happened.

Andrew, however, has now left the road. He SLAMS into a concrete bench (which advertises **LANDHUCK'S BAR & GRILL**). Air bags EXPLODE into his face.

For a moment, all is silent. Andrew sits motionless with his face buried in the deflating air bag.

With a grunt, he sits up. His nose is bleeding. He touches it and winces.

He looks for the strange woman, but she's GONE. People have noticed and are running over. Andrew tries to start the truck, but it just groans.

ANDREW  
(sighs)  
Welcome home.

**EXT. DALENE SPRINGS - DAY**

Andrew paces, watching a tow-truck pull his vehicle off of the bench's remains. More rubberneckers have gathered.

ANDREW  
(under his breath)  
So much for being inconspicuous...

DR. HUDSON  
Moving into town, huh?

DR. JOSEPH HUDSON (50s, killer mustache, well-rehearsed smile), has joined Andrew.

ANDREW  
Trying to.

Dr. Hudson laughs a hearty fake laugh.

DR. HUDSON  
You're not hurt are you?

ANDREW  
Nah. Just my pride.

Another hearty fake laugh from Dr. Hudson.

DR. HUDSON  
Well let me take a look.

ANDREW  
I'm fine--

Dr. Hudson has already produced a penlight, which he shines into Andrew's eye. He moves it back and forth between eyes.

DR. HUDSON

Hmm. No dilation in either eye. You feel dizzy?

ANDREW

A little, but it's just from--

RUBBERNECKER

Could be a concussion.

DR. HUDSON

Thanks, Darcy. See you at church.

Dr. Hudson makes a business card appear out of thin air. Andrew reluctantly takes it. It reads:

-----  
**JOSEPH HUDSON, M.D.**  
**St. Catherine's Hospital**  
 -----

DR. HUDSON (CONT'D)

You should come by and we'll check it out. Free of charge.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

(from the tow truck)

Yo! We're ready to go!

ANDREW

(relieved)

Well, I gotta go.

Andrew hurries toward the tow truck. Dr. Hudson smiles a little too widely...

DR. HUDSON

I'll be seeing you real soon...?

ANDREW

Andrew.

DR. HUDSON

Andrew. Andrew what?

ANDREW

(as he climbs into the truck)

Hubbard. Nice meeting you.

The truck drives away, leaving Dr. Hudson, who pulls out a notepad and pen. He licks the pen and jots the name down.

DR. HUDSON  
Andrew... Hubbard...

We move away from him toward...

**EXT. DALENE SPRINGS - CONTINUOUS**

JESSE RHODES (11, small) sits at a home-made stand, wearing a top hat and an ill-fitting tux. He holds half a deck of cards fanned out to NESTOR DAVENPORT (11, large).

NESTOR  
How come you're already in your  
stupid costume?

JESSE  
It's not a stupid costume!

NESTOR  
It's pretty stupid...

JESSE  
Would you just pick a card already?

Nestor pulls a card out. It's a Four of Hearts.

NESTOR  
Want me to show it to you?

JESSE  
What do you think?

Jesse grabs the other half of the deck, now holding half in one hand and half in the other.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
Okay. Now put it in between these  
two halves.

Nestor does so. Jesse claps the other half on, shuffles the deck, then spreads them across the booth. He moves his hands over the cards and bores his eyes into Nestor theatrically.

Some mean-looking OLDER KIDS gather round.

OLDER KID  
What are you losers doing?

JESSE

I'm extracting the card he picked  
from his primitive mind...

Snickers from the kids. Jesse looks nervous - he's not ready  
for an audience. A look of genuine shock comes over his face.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Oh my God!

NESTOR

What?

JESSE

You totally picked THIS ONE.

Jesse yanks a cloth from an easel next to him, revealing a  
picture of the Six of Diamonds. The kids burst out laughing.

NESTOR

Nope! You still suck!

JESSE

What?

OTHER KID

Glad I didn't pay for this crap!

They walk off laughing. Ashamed, Jesse gathers up his cards.

NESTOR

Jesse, to be fair... that was  
pretty bad.

JESSE

Shut up, Nestor.

**INT. DALENE AUTO - DAY**

Andrew stands at the counter, filling out paperwork. Across  
the counter from him is the tow-truck driver, LUTHER EDWARDS  
(mid-30s, African-American). Though Luther smiles, it looks  
like he hasn't slept in days.

A window behind Luther allows us to see into the auto shop,  
where a couple of mechanics circle the damaged truck.

While Luther checks off things on a clipboard, Andrew's phone  
buzzes. He pulls it out. It reads: **INCOMING CALL - MACEY**. He  
silences it and puts it back in his pocket.

LUTHER

So we're gonna have to order a few parts. They'll get in sometime next week.

ANDREW

Next week?!

(Beat)

You know, that's fine. How much?

LUTHER

We'll wait until the parts get in; I'll make sure Hector cuts you a deal. 'Til then, consider it a Welcome Back.

ANDREW

You remember me?

LUTHER

Hell yeah, man. Actually, you remember Mr. Al? He and I were just talking about you the other day. You know what?-

Luther reaches for the phone.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Let me give him a call--

Andrew GRABS the phone.

ANDREW

No!

(relaxes)

Uh, I'll call him myself... once I get settled.

LUTHER

...Alright, cool.

ANDREW

Well, I'm gonna grab some stuff from the truck and head on home.

LUTHER

How you planning on getting there?

ANDREW

...

LUTHER

I got you. Where we going?

ANDREW  
Thanks. 4546 Morningside Drive.

LUTHER  
Get out! We're neighbors, dude. I live next door to you!

ANDREW  
Wow. Small world.

LUTHER  
Small town. What brings you back?

Andrew chooses his words carefully.

ANDREW  
I just... had to get out of New York. I need to regroup. Get some peace and quiet.

LUTHER  
So you ran out of money. Got it.

ANDREW  
HA. Yes. That's, umm... yeah.

LUTHER  
Alright, let's go.

**EXT. MORTON K-12 - DAY**

TYLER KALLI (late 20s, devilishly charming, any woman would say "yes" to him before he asked them anything) is being dropped off at work by the radiant, blonde AUDRA MORRISSEY (20s). The way she looks at him tells us he's her everything.

AUDRA  
Bye.

TYLER  
Bye.

AUDRA  
Get out.

TYLER  
Okay. I'm getting out.

AUDRA  
Your seat belt's still on.

TYLER  
How about you take it off?

AUDRA

Okay.

She unbuckles his seat belt but doesn't let go of it - she reaches across him as it retracts, pressing herself against him. Once she's in his face, she gives him a goodbye kiss.

TYLER

Bye.

He starts to get out - she grabs him by the tie and pulls him in for a highly NSFW kiss.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Umm-- there's kids--

AUDRA

Mm-hmm.

The kiss continues, but Tyler reluctantly disentangles himself from her. He gets out of the car.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL

Good morning, Mr. Kalli!

AUDRA

Don't forget that lunch I made for you, Mr. Kalli. Nurse's orders.

TYLER

I promise.

AUDRA

Go change some lives!

He gives a thumbs up and heads off, holding his lunch bag.

**INT. MORTON K-12 - DAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Tyler strolls through Morton K-12's halls, his sleeves rolled up, briefcase in hand, looking like a Gap model.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL #2

Good morning, Mr. Kalli!

TYLER

Morning, Suzy!

NERDY KID

Morning, Mr. Kalli.

TYLER

Hey hey, Chris.

KIM  
Good Morning, Mr. Kalli.

KIM WINTERS (40s, divorced, and for lack of a better word, a cougar) grabs Tyler's hand and yanks him into an empty classroom. She kicks the door shut behind them.

KIM (CONT'D)  
I freaking knew it!!

TYLER  
Knew what?

KIM  
That you'd be nominated for Teacher of the Year.

TYLER  
Not official, I haven't won or anything--

KIM  
Are you kidding me? You're gonna win - the kids love you, and it's gonna be great for our department.

TYLER  
Uh, I think they kinda have to give it to Mrs. Edwards, since she's--

KIM  
Oh, hush. Let's celebrate. I'll cook you dinner tonight. Okay?

TYLER  
Ah, I can't.

KIM  
Fine, tomorrow, then?

Beat. Tyler makes a choice.

TYLER  
Okay. Sounds great.

She looks like she could burst with joy.

KIM  
It will be!

She kisses his cheek.

KIM (CONT'D)  
Proud of you!

She scampers off. Tyler, a conflicted man, watches her go.

**I/E. LUTHER'S TRUCK - DAY**

Luther drives Andrew home.

ANDREW  
Wait, she got *married*?

LUTHER  
Yeah man. Not too long after you  
blew town.

ANDREW  
Wow. Who's the guy?

LUTHER  
Travis Rhodes. You remember him?

ANDREW  
Not really.

LUTHER  
Well they got a good kid. Jesse. My  
wife had him in her class. Anyway,  
here we are: Morningside Drive.

Up ahead, three police cruisers and three officers are in  
front of one of the houses.

ANDREW  
Shit.

He immediately slips down below the dashboard, out of sight.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
Just drive casually.

LUTHER  
They're blocking the road, man.

ANDREW  
Just be cool and pull into my  
driveway.

Luther does so.

LUTHER  
They're coming over...

SHERIFF THOMPSON (O.S.)  
Luther, can you step out of the  
truck for me, please?

ANDREW  
(under his breath)  
What do they want with you?

LUTHER  
They must've found her.

ANDREW  
Found who?

Luther gets out of the truck and walks across the front of it toward the officers:

SHERIFF BEAU THOMPSON (50s, 6'5", absurdly fit), SERGEANT RAY PEARSON (40s, black, the opposite of fit), and DEPUTY SHERIFF VIC DAVENPORT (30s, honest face).

LUTHER  
Where is she?

SHERIFF THOMPSON  
We were just about to ask you the same thing.

Luther pauses in front of the truck.

LUTHER  
What are you talking about?

VIC  
We found something in your house--

SHERIFF THOMPSON  
Vic, I got this.

LUTHER  
What do you mean you found something?

SHERIFF THOMPSON  
Ray?

Ray comes forward holding a large clear bag containing a bloody sheet.

LUTHER  
What the hell is that?

VIC  
We're going to need you to come with us til we figure it out.

The three officers move toward Luther. Their hands are on their sidearms. Andrew sits up in his seat.

ANDREW

Excuse me!

Everyone turns to him. The sheriff DRAWS HIS WEAPON on him.

SHERIFF THOMPSON

Out of the vehicle!

Andrew complies with his hands raised.

ANDREW

My name's Andrew. I used to live here. I wrecked my truck. Luther was giving me a ride.

Thompson lowers his weapon.

SHERIFF THOMPSON

Oh, Hubbard.

(mocking)

You told me you were never coming back to this - what was it you said? - "lame-ass town" again.

ANDREW

Well here I am.

Behind them, Luther SQUEALS OUT of the driveway and takes off down the street.

SHERIFF THOMPSON

Son of a BITCH!

The three officers jump into their vehicles and pursue. As Andrew watches everyone speed away:

ANDREW

Well, he hasn't changed...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

Andrew watches the police cruiser round the corner.

EVELYN

What was all that commotion?

Andrew turns around and meets his other next-door neighbor: EVELYN JANES (late 20s), who looks like a pretty housewife straight out of the fifties.

ANDREW

You know Luther next door over here? He gave me a ride home from the garage and they just tried to arrest him...

EVELYN

And he took off?

ANDREW

Yeah. What the heck do they want with him?

EVELYN

Oh no. Kela.

ANDREW

Who?

EVELYN

Luther's wife. She went missing three weeks ago. They must've found something.

ANDREW

They did, the deputy had a bloody sheet in his hand.

EVELYN

Oh my God, that can't be right. I mean, of course he's a suspect, but nobody actually *thought* that...

ANDREW

Do you think...?

EVELYN

No! No, he couldn't - no, was crazy about her - that can't be - he's been a wreck ever since --

She composes herself.

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. Hello. We haven't met yet. I'm Evelyn.

She extends a hand, which Andrew shakes.

ANDREW  
Andrew.

EVELYN  
You moving in here?

ANDREW  
Grew up in this house, actually.

EVELYN  
Wait. You're Ms. Hubbard's son! My husband LOVED your mom. I mean, when he moved me here, he went on and on about her. He always says he misses her a lot.

ANDREW  
Me too. Well. It was nice to meet you. I'm going to head on inside and settle in. And, umm, let me know if you hear anything else about Luther.

EVELYN  
Will do. You know, between you and me, the Sheriff can be a real ass.

ANDREW  
Let me tell you, that's nothing new. When I was in high school, he'd haul my friends and me into jail for a few hours just to scare the crap out of us. Probably still does it.

EVELYN  
Oh, no, I doubt it. We've got good kids here.

**INT. MORTON K-12 - DAY**

DOROTHY HUDSON (16), a girl with Down Syndrome, stands at her locker, getting books. It is SLAMMED SHUT by RUSS THOMPSON (18, a Letterman with youthful good looks). He is flanked by three fellow meatheads.

RUSS

Hi Dorothy! You know, the guys and I were talking, and we realized, sometimes we can't understand what you're saying! So could you help us? Like say a few words for us?

Snickers from his posse.

DOROTHY

Yeahokay.

RUSS

Great! Could you say... kitty?

DOROTHY

Kitty!

RUSS

Come on, guys, wasn't that good?

A round of applause from the crew.

RUSS (CONT'D)

Okay, now say... anonymity.

She tries her best:

DOROTHY

Anna-- Anna nym--

RUSS

Anna? Anna Nym? Who's that?

DOROTHY

Ananymo-

BEN

Okay, guys, that was good, Dorothy, let's get to class.

They have been joined by Russ' younger, less-confident brother, BEN THOMPSON (17), who is definitely not okay with what's going on.

DOROTHY

No I can, annanymo, anna--

RUSS

Come on, Dorothy!

She squeezes her eyes shut:

DOROTHY

Anonymity!

Cheers from the crew (except for Ben). Dorothy beams, happy to make them happy.

BEN

All right, guys, we're good.

RUSS

No, no, one more and we're done.  
Say... I ride the short bus!

She smiles, eager to please.

DOROTHY

That's EASY! I ride, umm, I ride...

RUSS

Come on, Dorothy! You can do it!

One of them records with his smartphone.

BEN

Russ-

RUSS

Shut up.

Russ is SLAMMED against the lockers by Dorothy's very angry brother: JOSEPH "FRITZ" HUDSON, JR. (17). He's a wiry, long-haired kid wearing a shirt that says **Like a Pterodactyl Backing Out of Trouble**.

FRITZ

*Get away from my sister.*

He SLUGS Russ right in the face.

The meatheads pull Fritz off of Russ, who buckles over in shock and pain.

RUSS

Jesus, man, we were just playing!

Fritz responds with a two-finger jab into Russ' crotch, which sends him to the floor.

A WHISTLE pierces the hallway. The students part, revealing COACH FRANK THOMPSON (40s, similar look to his brother, the Sheriff).

COACH THOMPSON

Principal's office. NOW.

FRITZ  
They were harassing my sister!

COACH THOMPSON  
I don't care.

FRITZ  
No shit you don't. God forbid your  
quarterback gets suspended!

Coach Thompson GRABS him by the shoulders and SHOVES him  
against the locker. Veins bulge from his face.

COACH THOMPSON  
I said office NOW.

He SHOVES Fritz in front of him, almost knocking him over.

FRITZ  
Get off me, man!

MEANWHILE: The scene starts to break up. People are moving  
on. Ben goes to Dorothy.

BEN  
You okay?

DOROTHY  
Bubby's in big trouble.

BEN  
Fritz will be fine.

DOROTHY  
No he won't.

BEN  
Yes, he will.

DOROTHY  
YeahIknow.

BEN  
Okay. Have a good day, Dorothy.

DOROTHY  
Good bye five!

Ben holds out his hands, palms up. She SLAPS both of them  
hard and leaves smiling.

RUSS  
Hey, gimme a hand!

Russ is still on the floor. He raises a hand to his brother.

BEN

No.

**INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE PRINCIPAL GOLDMAN'S OFFICE - DAY**

Coach Thompson marches Fritz up the hall. They pass a bulletin board. Strewn among the posts for homecoming and other events are a few MISSING PERSON posters showing a smiling, beautiful young black woman - KELA (Luther's wife).

FRITZ

Look, I'm sorry.

COACH THOMPSON

Not as sorry as you're going to be.

FRITZ

Coach, please. My dad will kill me if I get suspended again.

COACH THOMPSON

Then you should've thought of that earlier.

Ahead, Tyler approaches, holding his lunch bag.

TYLER

If you're looking for Principal Goldman, she's in a meeting now.

Coach Thompson looks at Tyler like he's a senile relative who won't die.

COACH THOMPSON

We'll wait.

TYLER

Don't bother. She's busy for another hour. You can make your complaint to me. I'll make sure she gets it.

COACH THOMPSON

Fritz here was fighting in the hall. Again.

TYLER

(to Fritz)

Unacceptable. We'll have a talk with Principal Goldman. Won't we?

Fritz only nods.

COACH THOMPSON  
 (low, to Fritz)  
 I better not catch you doing that  
 crap again.

Coach Thompson leaves. As soon as he's gone:

TYLER  
 Were they after Dorothy again?

Fritz nods.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
 You have got to keep your cool,  
 Fritz. I can't always get you out  
 of trouble. Okay?

FRITZ  
 Thanks.

TYLER  
 You can thank me by passing your  
 mid-terms. Now get out of here.

Fritz shuffles off, but glances over his shoulder, grateful.  
 Bullet dodged.

Tyler smiles to himself. He reaches into his lunch bag for  
 his sandwich... but pulls out a note instead. It reads:

**Lunch is at my place. ;-)**

His eyes widen and he hurries out of frame.

**INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY**

Andrew goes through his nearly-empty house, pulling sheets  
 off of old furniture. The whole place is covered in dust. He  
 holds his cell phone. It's on speaker. He hits a button.

VOICEMAIL  
 YOU HAVE ONE UNHEARD MESSAGE. FIRST  
 MESSAGE SENT. TODAY. AT. 12:42 PM.  
 MOUNTAIN TIME.

MACEY (O.S.)  
 Andrew, what's going on? You're  
 scaring me. Somebody's been at the  
 door twice today. I haven't seen or  
 heard from you in three days, and  
 I'm not supposed to be worried?  
 (MORE)

MACEY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Whatever it is, I can help. Please  
 call me back.

VOICEMAIL  
 END MESSAGE. TO DELETE THIS--

Andrew ends the call. He's reached a bedroom. He sighs and sits on an old bed. He broods for a second, then looks over to a photo next to the bed, showing a woman (ANDREW'S MOTHER) and a little boy... Andrew. Little Andrew smiles without a care in the world.

**EXT. AUDRA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Tyler knocks on the door. He holds a small box.

Then the door opens and there stands Audra. Her hair looks damp, like she just got out of the shower.

TYLER  
 I got something for you.

AUDRA  
 And I got something for- wait what?

Tyler hands her the box. She opens it. Inside is a necklace with a metal heart... but not a heart-shape. The organ.

AUDRA (CONT'D)  
 What's this for?

TYLER  
 It's for you.

She blushes... then YANKS him inside.

**INT. AUDRA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Audra and Tyler make out on her couch while something meaningless plays on the TV. His shirt is unbuttoned; his tie is loose. Things are getting hot - Audra pulls her shirt up to take it off --

There is the sound of tires SQUEALING into the garage.

Tyler and Audra freeze.

SFX: A car door opening and closing. The garage door being manually pulled shut. Then silence.

Tyler and Audra look to each other, then make their way down the hall toward the garage. Audra steps out of frame for a moment, then returns with a baseball bat.

There's someone moving around in the garage.

Tyler gestures for her to hand him the bat; she doesn't. He shrugs, then goes to the door to the garage. He puts his finger to his lips. Audra draws close to him, bat ready-

Tyler throws the door open -

Luther, who was peeking out the window, JUMPS and screams in surprise, as does Audra.

AUDRA

*Luther?*

LUTHER

Audra? Tyler?

TYLER

Luther?

AUDRA

*What are you doing here??*

LUTHER

What are YOU doing here?

AUDRA

I live here!

LUTHER

Right.

From outside, the sound of sirens grows. Luther dips below the window and crosses to them.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

I need to hide.

Luther passes them and enters the house. They follow.

AUDRA

What the hell's going on?

Luther goes to each window, closing the blinds. Outside, the police cruisers scream past and fade down the street.

LUTHER

It's Kela. They think I killed her.

AUDRA

What? Why?

LUTHER

They found a bloody sheet in my house. I don't know how it got there. Somebody must've put it there, but I don't know how they--

TYLER

Okay, everyone calm down. Luther, you don't know that; just call Sheriff Thompson and tell him the truth. Hiding here just makes you look more guilty.

LUTHER

You think he's actually gonna listen to me?

TYLER

It's worth a shot; I'll go with you--

AUDRA

He can stay.

Beat.

LUTHER

For real?

AUDRA

Just for the night.

TYLER

Are you serious?

AUDRA

You don't actually think he killed his wife, do you?

TYLER

No. Which is why Luther should

(to Luther)

TURN HIMSELF IN.

LUTHER

I can't do that. Thompson made up his mind about me years ago.

AUDRA

(To Tyler)

He just needs a little time.

(MORE)

AUDRA (CONT'D)  
(to Luther)  
We're gonna figure this out.

TYLER  
Unbelievable. I can't be a part of  
this.

He buttons his shirt up.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
I gotta get back to work.

AUDRA  
Tyler, wait -

TYLER  
Nope. This is what you want to do?  
Fine. I'll call you tomorrow.

He leaves.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - EVENING**

Andrew unloads cardboard boxes. He pulls out a stack of books, revealing what's at the bottom: A pair of .44 pistols.

The doorbell rings.

Andrew drops the books back into the box, covering them up. He answers the door.

It's Evelyn and her husband TOM JANES (31). Bespectacled and clean-shaven, he looks like the president of Nice Guys United.

TOM JANES

Andrew Hubbard! Tom Janes. My lovely wife Evelyn tells me you met earlier? You may not remember, but we went to Morton together! I was a year ahead of you.

ANDREW

Yeah, I remember you. You were kind of a jerk.

Beat.

TOM JANES

(recovering)

Okay, maybe I wasn't the nicest kid in high school--

ANDREW

Nah.

TOM JANES

But look, that's in the past, and we're in the present, looking to the future, which happens to include the Fall Festival! Tonight in Dalene Springs. And we're taking you with us.

ANDREW

Thanks, but I'm really not interested--

EVELYN

Oh, come on, you'll probably see some old friends.

ANDREW

That's *exactly* why I'm not interested. And I remember it being really cheesy.

TOM JANES

What? It's not cheesy!

**EXT. DALENE SPRINGS - NIGHT**

MAYOR JONATHAN DUFFY (50s, portly) steps onto the main stage. He wears a comically large top-hat and carries a three-foot pair of scissors to cut the orange ribbon that's draped across the stage.

His plump but pretty wife JUNE (50s) is at his side, smiling contentedly, as well as a small envoy of other town officials.

To the side, RICK (30s, goatee) and DIANE (also 30s) (from the radio) stand at a podium.

RICK

Ladies, gentlemen, and everyone else, let's welcome Mayor Duffy.

DIANE

Now put 'em together, kids, 'cause he's the only mayor we got!

The crowd claps politely as Mayor Duffy and June step forward. Behind them, what appears to be a band of aging veterans plays a wheezy fanfare.

A young AIDE gets on one knee and becomes a human mic-stand for him.

MAYOR DUFFY

Thank you, Steffany. Well, everybody, we've waited all year for it--

RUBBERNECKER

Your retirement?

The mayor joins everyone in laughing.

MAYOR DUFFY

No Darcy, something that's special to our fine city:

(gestures to the banner behind him)

The Annual Dalene Fall Festival.

(MORE)

MAYOR DUFFY (CONT'D)

So how about we all count down  
together and let the fun begin!

Behind him, one of the veterans begins a drumroll.

MAYOR & CROWD

10... 9... 8...

As they count down, we move away from them, through the crowd, until we come upon Jesse and Nestor, who stand in line for something. Jesse still wears his costume from earlier.

NESTOR

We have every single food in the world here for one week and you wanna come *here*.

JESSE

I told you: I'm trying to eat healthy now.

They are interrupted as, back at the bandstand, the mayor cuts the ribbon and everyone cheers.

NESTOR

This is one of your phases, isn't it?

JESSE

NO...

NESTOR

Last year it was sharks, now you're on your stupid magic kick, and you're already moving on to this vegan thing.

JESSE

I'm not a vegan. And my magic is not stupid!

NESTOR

Well it's not magic. And why aren't you at your booth now, anyway?

JESSE

Just give me a second.

They've reached the front of the line at Cobb's Produce Stand. The man at the counter, ARLIE COBB (80), turns around, revealing a wrinkled face featuring multiple warts, pockmarks, and liver spots. He glares down at the boys without a greeting.

Nestor and Jesse do a bad job of hiding their staring. Nestor nudges Jesse.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Uhh... I was gonna try the salad on a stick.

Arlie turns to Nestor.

JESSE (CONT'D)

And he is, too.

Arlie only grunts and turns away from them. Once his back is to him, Nestor and Jesse turn to each other with wide eyes. He turns back around toward them, holding their salad on a stick. Jesse and Nestor compose themselves.

Jesse slides his money across the table. Arlie takes it without offering any change.

**BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM**

Everyone jumps as a series of explosions go off behind them--

It's some idiot in a wife-beater holding two roman candles, one in each hand. He spins around as they go off. A few people laugh, but most people shrink away from him-- he's pretty tanked.

Jesse and Nestor turn back to Arlie.

ARLIE COBB

Idiot.

He hands them their salad on a stick.

JESSE

Thanks.

He only grunts and turns to the next customer. As Jesse and Nestor walk off:

NESTOR

Okay, Tonto, this better be good.

JESSE

It is. I promise.

They both take a bite. Chew. BEAT. They both SPIT OUT their food simultaneously.

NESTOR

Yeck!

JESSE

Yeah let's go get a corn dog, I gotta be at my stand in 10 minutes.

They toss their sticks into a trash bin and leave.

**ON DOROTHY - CONTINUOUS:**

Dorothy runs past the trash can and to a group of grungy-looking high schoolers.

DOROTHY

Tilt-a-whirl! I wanna go tilt-a-whirl! With my brother!

The group parts, revealing Fritz, who hands a joint to one of his friends. His eyes are bloodshot. He coughs.

FRITZ

Thanks, guys. Finish her for me.

He changes his demeanor to wild enthusiasm.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

All right, tilt-a-whirl! Whoo!!

She lights up, picking up on his energy. They run past--

**ON BEN AND RUSS - CONTINUOUS:**

Ben and Russ, who walk among the Zipper, the Scrambler, and every other carnival ride. Correction: Ben walks; Russ struts. Russ makes no attempt to hide the shiner on his eye. They are mid-convo:

RUSS

Wait, you like *Michelle*? Dude. You don't want her. A few of the guys on the team have gone out with her and she doesn't do squat. Nothin.

BEN

So?

RUSS

Ohh, I see. So you're the one who's gonna crack her. Let me know how that goes.

BEN

I don't care what she does or doesn't do. I like her. The end.

RUSS  
Whatever. You gotta get a girl like  
Britney. She puts out whenever I  
want her to.

Ben stops, watching Dorothy and Fritz ahead in line for the  
tilt-a-whirl.

RUSS (CONT'D)  
What?

BEN  
That crap in the hallway with  
Dorothy today. The hell was that  
all about?

RUSS  
What? It's not like she knows.  
Nobody cares.

BEN  
I care. Fritz cared.

RUSS  
Who the hell's Fritz?

BEN  
The kid who gave you *that*  
(FLICKS Russ' swollen eye)  
,ya moron.

RUSS  
Ahh! Dammit Ben!

BEN  
And you need to apologize to her.  
Even if you don't care, it'll look  
good.

RUSS  
Okay! Fine! Jesus!

BEN  
You mean that?

RUSS  
Not really!

GIRL  
Hey, Russ!

Two high school girls pass by. Russ snaps into "cool" mode.

RUSS

Hey! See you at Landhuck's tonight?

They giggle and scurry off, blushing.

BEN

How many times do I have to remind you? You're not 21; you don't even have a fake ID. They can't let you drink there.

RUSS

And yet they do. Those two girls that went by? Guarantee you they'll be there. I could ask the damn mayor and he'd show up. Why? Because WE won State last year. We can do whatever we want. You should try it sometime.

TOM

Hell of a shiner there, Russ!

Tom, Evelyn, and Andrew are walking past. Andrew looks like he very much doesn't want to be here.

RUSS

Oh, yeah, some nut was wailing on a Freshman and I had to break it up. He got one good shot in...

Tom, Evelyn, and Andrew continue walking, not interested. We stay with them.

TOM

(to Andrew)

You know, they won state last November. That's a first for us.

ANDREW

(couldn't care less)

Good for them.

There is a long, awkward pause.

EVELYN

So... Tom tells me you were a musician? In New York, right? How'd that go?

ANDREW

Oh, I did so well I had to move back here.

TOM

Well I remember you being pretty good! This is just a detour on your road to fame!

ANDREW

(smiles sadly)  
Yeah.

JESSE

Magic! Five dollars! See real magic before your eyes!

They pass Jesse's booth. We leave them and stay on Jesse. He stands in his costume, gesturing to his sign, which Nestor holds: **SEE MAGIC BEFORE YOUR EYES! \$5**

No one comes to him. He looks to his left, where every stand has a line of people. To his right, the same.

NESTOR

Maybe we should lower the price.

JESSE

Shut up, Nestor.

Beat. He goes to the sign and changes the \$5 to a \$1.

NESTOR

A dollar? No one's gonna take you seriously for a dollar!

KATY

Oh my God, are you open?

They turn, and there stands KATY, a 23-year-old REDHEAD who looks like she may have emerged from their dreams.

JESSE

Uhh... yes I am.

KATY

(gasps)  
I have to get my date. I'll be right back.

She darts into the crowd. Jesse and Nestor look at each other, panicked and confused... then leap into action getting into place. She returns... holding hands with TYLER.

KATY (CONT'D)

Tyler. Give him some money.

Tyler glances at the crossed-out sign.

TYLER  
So how much is it.

JESSE  
Five bucks, Mr. Kalli.

TYLER  
But the sign says a dollar.

JESSE  
Uhh, that was Nestor's mistake. But  
if I don't guess your card, then  
you get it back. And a PRIZE!

Tyler leans over to Katy conspiratorially.

TYLER  
Okay, so just say it was the wrong  
card no matter what he picks...

She and Nestor laugh, but Jesse looks like maybe he hadn't  
thought of that.

TYLER (CONT'D)  
I'm kidding. Let's see what you've  
got, Jesse.

Jesse gulps. Showtime.

JESSE  
Alright. Take this.

He hands half of a deck to Tyler.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
And take this.

He hands the other half to Katy.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
Look at them, and pull one card  
out. Do NOT show the card to me or  
each other.

Tyler picks a King of Hearts. Katy picks a Two of Spades.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
Okay. Now put it back anywhere in  
your deck--  
(they do so)  
-- And swap decks.

As they swap, Katy leans over and steals a kiss from Tyler,  
which throws Jesse off.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
 O-okay, now hand me the decks.  
 (they do so)  
 I will shuffle them and extract  
 your two cards. Using magic.

Katy giggles, really enjoying this. The mean older kids from earlier have arrived. They watch behind Tyler and Katy.

Jesse shuffles the two decks together, trying to be subtle about glancing under the deck at the cards he's shuffling.

He continues to shuffle and check for their cards. They're not popping up. He keeps shuffling.

OLDER KID  
 He's totally gonna blow it like  
 last time.

Jesse starts to panic...

Then, imperceptible at first, a high-pitched whine begins to grow. Jesse winces and rubs his ears, but no one else seems to hear it.

Jesse starts to sweat...

KATY  
 Oh my God look!

She points up to the sky. They all look... and gasp.

The sky is glowing with an Aurora Borealis, which is getting brighter by the second. It's just one ribbon of light at first, snaking from one horizon to the other, but then others begin to form.

All around, people begin to notice.

The high-pitched whine continues to grow. No one but Jesse seems to notice, though.

He covers his ears in pain as the noise TRIPLES--

**PSYCHIC FLASH - KATY'S MIND**

A Two of Spades

**END PSYCHIC FLASH**

The high-pitched whine POPS to a lower, more manageable sound. Jesse sits, stunned. He flips through the cards til he finds the Two of Spades.

JESSE  
Hey. Was this yours?

He holds up the Two of Spades. Katy takes her eyes off the sky for two seconds, then returns skyward.

KATY  
Yeah. Cool.

TYLER  
(absent-mindedly)  
Good job, Jesse...

He and Katy wander off, enthralled with the sky. As everyone shuffles around Jesse, trying to get the best view of the aurora, Jesse goes into shock.

He looks at the Two of Spades, then back at Katy and Tyler just as they are lost in the crowd. Jesse looks into the sky at the ever-growing Aurora Borealis... and then collapses to the ground, unconscious.

NESTOR  
Oh man, his dad's gonna kill me.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. DALENE SPRINGS - NIGHT**

The festival has come to a standstill as the skies light up, casting an aqua glow over everything.

--- On the Bandstand, the Mayor stares at the Borealis. He instinctively puts his arm around his wife, who pulls close to him, content.

--- We move past the bandstand, to a group of tables set up next to it. Sheriff Thompson and Ray sit across from each other. Ray absent-mindedly munches on an elephant ear while watching the light-show.

RAY

You seeing this, boss?

Boss is not seeing this - boss is scanning the crowd while sipping on a coffee.

SHERIFF THOMPSON

Mmhmm.

--- We move past them, to Dorothy, who looks upward with child-like wonder.

DOROTHY

MMmm!! Fritz! Look! Look at it!

REVEAL: Fritz is hunched over a trash can, vomiting.

FRITZ

Yeah, just a sec.

He regains composure and stands up.

FRITZ (CONT'D)

Okay, Dorothy. What's so exciting that I-- ohh.

He stares up with glazed eyes.

--- Evelyn, Tom, and Andrew are a few feet from them:

TOM

You know the last time there was a Borealis here, there was a--

Evelyn leans in and kisses him.

EVELYN

Honey, just enjoy it.

Andrew watches them, smiles sadly, then gets out his phone and looks at a picture of him and Macey - it's a selfie taken at Coney Island. They look like they're completely in love.

-- We move past them to Tyler and Katy, who stand side-by-side, watching the Aurora with everyone. Katy looks like she wants him to put his arm around her. He takes the hint and does so. She nuzzles into his shoulder. She's happy.

-- Ben and Russ pass them, heading toward the edge of the fairgrounds. Ben can't stop looking skyward; Russ can't stop looking at his phone.

BEN

Dude. You seeing this?

RUSS

Uh-huh.

Ben looks to his brother, aggravated -- then sees something past him, in the empty field behind them:

It's the woman who ran Andrew off the road. She still wears her robe. She wanders aimlessly through the field, her eyes to the sky, making strange gestures.

BEN

(under his breath)

Russ.

Ben nudges him and points.

They watch as she collapses to her knees with tears running down her face. She throws herself completely to the ground, prostrate, clutching her unkempt hair.

RUSS

What a freak. As if tonight couldn't get weirder.

NESTOR

Help!! Somebody!! Doctor! Nurse?

They are behind Jesse's booth, where Nestor stands over Jesse's unconscious body.

Ben runs toward them without hesitation.

RUSS

Wait! We gotta get to Landhuck's!

Ben ignores him. He reaches Jesse and lifts him up onto the table where he'd been doing his card tricks.

BEN  
What happened?

NESTOR  
Well he was doing this trick for a really cute redhead and he was totally bombing which I knew was gonna happen and he'd dropped the price to a dollar which was stupid--

BEN  
Come on! How'd he get like this?

NESTOR  
Oh. The Aurora Borealis hit and he looked up at it and he passed out.

Beat.

BEN  
That's it?

NESTOR  
Yeah, that's it.

TOM  
What's going on here? He all right?

Andrew, Tom, and Evelyn have arrived, looking concerned. Andrew takes charge. He puts his head to Jesse's nose.

NESTOR  
Is he dead?

ANDREW  
No, he's not *dead*. He's breathing.

He puts a hand on his wrist.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
And his pulse seems okay.

NESTOR  
Should we call 911?

ANDREW  
Hold on. A doctor actually gave me his card this morning...

As he fishes around for Dr. Hudson's card, Jesse's eyes OPEN.

POV: Andrew, Ben, and Evelyn stand over him. He looks at Ben.

**PSYCHIC FLASH - BEN'S MIND**

A cute Latina cheerleader's face FLASHES before us and is gone in an instant - MICHELLE (18) - the girl Ben was talking about earlier.

**RETURN TO PRESENT**

Jesse looks at Evelyn--

**PSYCHIC FLASH - EVELYN'S MIND**

Tom holds our hand as we lie in bed. Dr. Hudson hovers over us with a syringe.

TOM

You just gotta have faith, baby.  
We're gonna have a baby. I just  
know it.

**RETURN TO PRESENT**

Jesse looks at Andrew.

**PSYCHIC FLASH - ANDREW'S MIND**

A flash of BLINDING WHITE LIGHT. Nothing can be seen.

**RETURN TO PRESENT**

Jesse winces, confused.

ANDREW

Hey, kid. You okay?

Jesse nods. He looks like he's waking from a long, deep sleep. He looks at the aurora-filled sky.

JESSE

So that's still happening.

ANDREW

You scared us.

NESTOR

No you didn't, that was AWESOME.

TRAVIS

The hell's going on?

Behind them stands TRAVIS RHODES (late 30s, a tall man with oily hair). He is visibly drunk. Jesse sees him and immediately looks terrified.

NESTOR

Hi, Mr. Rhodes. Jesse passed out  
and we thought he was dead but he's  
okay so--

TRAVIS

I know he's okay. I mean what the  
hell is all this?

He gestures to the stand and locks his eyes onto Jesse, who  
shrinks before him.

JESSE

Just something I put together...

TRAVIS

And how much did this cost?

Jesse is silent.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

*How much?*

JESSE

Seventy-five dollars. But I can  
make it back--

TRAVIS

The hell you can. I told you to cut  
this crap out.

JESSE

But--

TRAVIS

We're going home.

He grabs Jesse by the arm and pulls him down from the table.

JESSE

*Oww...*

Andrew steps in.

ANDREW

Excuse me, is this your son?

TRAVIS

Yeah. Who the hell are you?

ANDREW

Look, he was unconscious not two  
minutes ago and we're not sure why.  
I think he needs to sit down--

Travis GRABS Andrew by the collar.

TRAVIS  
*Don't tell me what to do with my  
 son.*

ANDREW  
 Get your hands off me.

Andrew tries to break away from Travis, but Travis DECKS Andrew square in the face. It's a solid, good hit. Andrew HITS THE GROUND, out cold. The crowd around them screams out.

Travis looks at everyone staring at him, unsure of how things escalated that quickly.

TRAVIS  
 (to Jesse)  
 Come on.

He grabs Jesse by the arm and pulls him away, leaving everyone stunned.

NESTOR  
 (re: Andrew)  
 Is he dead?

**INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

Andrew is rolled into the hospital on a stretcher while a few nurses flock around him. Audra is one of them.

AUDRA  
 Vitals?

MALE NURSE  
 Stable, sustained possible subdural  
 hematoma from a blow to the head.

AUDRA  
 The lady said he'd been in a car  
 accident this morning, which could  
 complicate things-

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER**

Audra and the male nurse prep Andrew's room. Audra hooks up an IV to his arm while the male nurse puts a heart monitor on Andrew's index finger. They put a blanket over him.

DR. HUDSON (O.S.)  
 Audra? Bob?

Dr. Hudson strides in, grinning from ear to ear.

DR. HUDSON (CONT'D)  
How's my patient doing?

**INT. DAVENPORT HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT**

Vic Davenport (one of the officers who pursued Luther) and his wife SUE clean up the dinner table. An old German Shepherd lies with his head in his paws, bored.

There is a sudden and frantic KNOCKING at the front door. Vic and Sue look at each other, then Vic goes to the door and opens it--

It's JESSE. He looks like hell. He has a few bruises on his arm, and a BIG one on the side of his head.

JESSE  
Hi Mr. Davenport.

VIC  
What happened to you?

JESSE  
I... passed out at the fair.  
Everybody saw it. Is Nestor home?

Vic doesn't immediately answer. He eyeballs Jesse, not buying his story. Finally, he turns and shouts into the house:

VIC  
NesTOR?

NESTOR (O.S.)  
Yeah?

VIC  
(back to Jesse)  
Yeah, he's home.

Vic steps aside, Jesse comes in.

JESSE  
Thanks.

Jesse runs upstairs. Vic watches him go, concerned.

**INT. NESTOR'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Nestor and Jesse sit across from each other, cross-legged.

NESTOR  
That's a load of bull.

JESSE  
I'm serious, Nestor! I actually saw  
it in my head. Her card.

NESTOR  
And then you passed out.

JESSE  
And when I woke up I saw a few  
other things!

NESTOR  
Okay, then do it again. Right now.  
Let's go.

JESSE  
That's what I came here to do.

Jesse pulls out his cards and hands the whole deck to Nestor.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
Just pick one.

NESTOR  
That's it?

JESSE  
I don't have to do all that fancy  
stuff if I can just read your mind.

NESTOR  
You mean, like, have skill?

JESSE  
THIS is a skill!

NESTOR  
Mm-hmm.

Nestor selects a Nine of Clubs. He pulls it up from the other  
cards a bit, making a tab.

JESSE  
Okay, did you pick it?

NESTOR  
Yes. You know I'm just doing this  
cause I'm bored.

JESSE  
Whatever.

Jesse focuses on Nestor, who makes faces at first, but then sees that Jesse isn't messing around. Jesse squints his eyes. Then that high-pitched whine begins to grow...

Jesse hears it and begins to sweat -- It's happening again.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
You hear that?

NESTOR  
Hear what? You're freaking me out.

The sound grows and grows. Jesse begins to sweat--

And with a PING -- it stops. Jesse flinches, then looks around, confused.

NESTOR (CONT'D)  
So? What'd I pick?

JESSE  
I... I don't know.

**EXT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS**

Vic stands in the hall, listening in on their strange conversation.

NESTOR (O.S.)  
Your old man might've hitcha a  
little too hard this time, Skippy.

JESSE (O.S.)  
Shut up, Nestor. Let's just play  
Speed or something.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**DALENE, NEBRASKA - DAWN - MONTAGE**

--- The sun rises over a still and silent Dalene. The mysterious robed lady crosses the street, unseen.

--- At the radio station (KWRD 103 "The Word"), Rick and Diane sit behind their mics. Their conversation is played over the montage below.

DIANE (V.O.)

I think it's safe to say the fireworks show they got planned for Sunday won't come close to the show we got last night...

RICK (V.O.)

That's right, and it sounds like we had the best view of it right here in Dalene.

DIANE (V.O.)

And our weatherman Phil says we haven't had a borealis since 1958.

--- Ben jogs through his neighborhood before school.

--- Jesse sits on his bed, spinning the Two of Spades between his fingers.

--- Katy puts on her shirt and slips out of bed without waking up Tyler at her side.

--- Fritz, Dorothy, their father Dr. Hudson, and his wife SHARON eat breakfast together.

--- Evelyn comes into Andrew's room and sits by his side.

RICK (V.O.)

On a more serious note, local mechanic Luther Edwards has gone missing after being implicated in the disappearance of his wife, who may be linked to the four missing women in Sheridan County...

**INT. AUDRA'S HOUSE - DAY - END MONTAGE**

Luther pulls open the garage door and turns to his truck-

AUDRA

Hey.

Luther JUMPS, caught.

LUTHER

Hey. Thanks for letting me crash on the couch, but I gotta get out of town.

AUDRA

And go where?

LUTHER

Anywhere.

AUDRA

It's bad enough you ran away. Do you really want to add to that?

LUTHER

Do I have a choice?

AUDRA

Yes. You can stay here.

LUTHER

No, I can't get you involved--

AUDRA

Luther. When you took me to prom all you did was talk about Kela. I know you wouldn't hurt her. Stay with me until they find her. I'm sure she's okay.

LUTHER

Like the other four are?

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, ST. CATHERINE'S - DAY**

Eyes SNAP open.

Andrew sits STRAIGHT UP in bed and GASPS, like waking from a bad dream. A bandage covers his nose

EVELYN

Andrew!! Hey!

Andrew whips around to Evelyn, confused and out of breath.

ANDREW

Where am I?

He winces and gingerly touches his bandaged nose.

EVELYN  
St. Catherine's. Your nose is  
broken but you're okay.

Andrew SNAPS to the left, POPPING his spine deliciously from top to bottom. He goes the other way, popping it even deeper.

ANDREW  
Now I'm okay.

He grits his teeth and pulls the IV out of his arm.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
Let's get out of here.

DR. HUDSON  
Not so fast there, sport. Let's  
make sure you're all up to code,  
shall we?

Dr. Hudson has entered.

ANDREW  
Thanks, but I'm fine.

He starts to get up. Dr. Hudson places a gentle but firm hand on his shoulder.

DOCTOR HUDSON  
Just give me five minutes and I'll  
get you out of here.

Andrew relents. Dr. Hudson begins his checkup with a stethoscope on Andrew's chest.

DOCTOR HUDSON (CONT'D)  
All right. Now breathe deeply for  
me...

As Dr. Hudson goes about his checkup (filler Doctor-dialogue to be written / ad-libbed later), we focus on Evelyn who stares intently at Doctor Hudson. That same high-pitched whine steadily grows and grows until--

EVELYN  
You son of a *bitch*.

Dr. Hudson and Andrew turn to her.

DR. HUDSON  
I beg your pardon?

Tears form in Evelyn's eyes like thunderclouds.

EVELYN

*You've been stringing me along this whole time.*

DR. HUDSON

What are we talking about?

Evelyn leaps to her feet, fully enraged.

EVELYN

*YOU SAID I COULD GET PREGNANT IF I GOT YOUR STUPID INJECTIONS!!*

DR. HUDSON

Mrs. Janes, it takes time--

EVELYN

*SHUT UP!!*

ANDREW

Evelyn, what's going on?

Evelyn paces in circles.

EVELYN

*Oh my God... I can see it...*

ANDREW

See what?

**PSYCHIC FLASH - DR. HUDSON'S MIND**

A flash of a medical chart, test results.

**END PSYCHIC FLASH - RETURN TO PRESENT**

EVELYN

(to Dr. Hudson)

You were *lying*. You *knew* when you looked at the tests I can't have children. *AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME???*

DR. HUDSON

Now, Mrs. Janes, I was going to, I just thought we should try a few more treatments before we give up--

EVELYN

*YOU'RE STILL LYING. I can see it!!*  
You didn't tell me because-what-you wanted kickbacks from all the treatments I've tried?

(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)  
 (to Dr. Hudson)  
*AND YOU DO THIS ALL THE TIME.*

She launches herself at Dr. Hudson, completely mad in this instant. Andrew PULLS her off of him and drags her into the --

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

She collapses into his arms, sobbing her heart out. Andrew keeps them moving. Time to go.

ANDREW  
 What the hell was that all about?

EVELYN  
 (still crying)  
*I think I'm going crazy.*

ANDREW  
 That's what it looked like...

EVELYN  
*No, I mean I'm seeing things.*

Ahead of them, Andrew spots a security guard at his post.

ANDREW  
 Well let's see things later.

They pass the guard, trying to look casual. Andrew smiles sheepishly as they pass. The guard could not care less.

**INT. MORTON K-12 - DAY**

Ben walks down the crowded halls of Morton K-12. He stops, seeing something he doesn't like:

Dorothy's locker. It's covered in notes that say:

**YOU'RE A HOTTIE!  
 BE MY GIRLFRIEND??  
 DOROTHY IS SEXXXY!!**

And so on. Exasperated, Ben goes to the locker and begins to rip them down. Behind him, a gaggle of cheerleaders watches, giggling at him.

CHEERLEADER (V.O.)  
*What a loser. Russ was so right...*

Ben turns to them, pissed. He marches over to them.

BEN

What did you just say?

The cheerleaders look at each other, uncertain.

CHEERLEADER

No one said anything, Ben, take a  
chill pill.

BEN

No. I heard you. You're louder than  
you think, Britney.

GOTH CHICK (V.O.)

*I bet he's jealous of his brother.*

That came from behind him. Ben turns to her.

BEN

No, I'm not, actually.

The goth chick looks at him with wide eyes and backs away.  
Now Ben's a little spooked. He turns back to the  
cheerleaders, who look even more spooked.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hey. I'm sorry, I guess I'm--

CHEERLEADER #2 (V.O.)

*He's pretty cute when he's mad...*

BEN

--hearing things...

Ben saw the same thing we did: She didn't move her mouth.

He stumbles away from them, now actually frightened. He  
passes one of the guys in Russ' crew--

JOCK (V.O.)

*Holds the whole team back...*

He passes a Freshman girl who eyeballs him.

FRESHMAN GIRL (V.O.)

*I wish he weren't gay...*

BEN

What?

She shrinks away from him, startled. He passes an innocent-  
looking girl--

**PSYCHIC FLASH - INNOCENT GIRL'S MIND**

Russ is on top of her with his shirt off, covered in sweat--

**END PSYCHIC FLASH - RETURN TO PRESENT**

Now completely TRAUMATIZED, Ben RUNS down the hall, trying to get away from the voices that start to pile up onto each other, becoming indistinguishable, overwhelming him--

DOROTHY

Hi, Ben!

Ben BLOWS past her -- but the voices STOP when he does. He SKIDS to a stop on his heels.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Where you going?

BEN

Nowhere.

DOROTHY

You gotta go somewhere!

BEN

Yeah. Hey. Can I walk with you?

She LIGHTS UP.

DOROTHY

Yeah!

As he walks toward her--

SOMEONE IN THE HALL (V.O.)

*What the hell is up with him today--*

-- The whispers of people's half-formed thoughts FADE OUT. When he reaches her side, everything is back to normal.

DOROTHY

High five?

BEN

Yeah. High five.

He does so. The two of them walk off together.

**INT. HIGHER GROUNDS COFFEE SHOP - DAY**

Katy stands at a cash register, taking people's coffee orders. She doesn't look like the bubble of energy she was last night.

In fact, she looks outright spooked.

KATY

Hi, welcome to Higher Grounds, what can I get you?

OLDER WOMAN

I'd like a--

KATY

--Double shot of espresso.

Katy gets the order, in a daze.

OLDER WOMAN

That's... right. Is that what I ordered last time?

KATY

(sets the drink down)  
Uh-huh.

Vic Davenport walks up.

VIC

Just a black coffee for me. No sweetener, no cream--

**PSYCHIC FLASH - VIC'S MIND**

Sheriff Thompson SLAMS his cruiser door shut.

SHERIFF THOMPSON

*I WANT HIM FOUND BY SUNDAY.*

VIC

Now, Sheriff, we'll find him, but remember, we don't know that Luther did anything.

SHERIFF THOMPSON

Innocent people don't run away, Vic. You know that.

**END PSYCHIC FLASH - RETURN TO PRESENT**

VIC  
 -- And uhhh, I'll grab a bagel.

Katy only stares at him, looking like she's about to hyperventilate.

VIC (CONT'D)  
 Katy, you okay?

KATY  
 Yep...

She robotically pours his coffee, pulls out a bagel, and takes his money.

VIC  
 Take it easy, now, alright?

She nods; he goes his way. Audra is next in line. She's wearing the heart necklace Tyler gave her.

KATY  
 Hi, welcome to Higher Grounds, what can I get you?

Katy WINCES, expecting another flash--

AUDRA  
 Looks like you got about as much sleep as me.

KATY  
 I'm... having a really weird day.

AUDRA  
 Sames. Anyway, I'll take two french vanilla lattes-

**PSYCHIC FLASH - AUDRA'S MIND**

--- AUDRA'S POV: Tyler holds out the necklace box.

TYLER  
 I got you something.

He holds up the heart-organ necklace.

--- Audra makes out with Tyler on her couch--

**END PSYCHIC FLASH**

AUDRA  
 --and don't worry about the whipped  
 cream for me, save yourself ten  
 seconds. Okay?

KATY  
 Okay...

Audra hands over her money.

KATY (CONT'D)  
 That's a... cute necklace.

AUDRA  
 Oh, thanks. My boyfriend got me  
 this goofy thing yesterday. Can't  
 believe I'm wearing it.

Katy stares at Audra for a second, then turns around and  
 BARGES through the back door--

AUDRA (CONT'D)  
 Uhh... excuse me...?

Katy storms through the kitchen and out the back door. She  
 gets into her car and SQUEALS off.

**I/E. EVELYN'S CAR - DAY**

Andrew drives Evelyn home. They sit in silence at a red  
 light. It turns green. They start to go--

Katy's car squeals through the intersection.

EVELYN  
 The hell?

**INT. CAFETERIA - DAY**

Jesse and Nestor sit across from each other with their  
 lunches. No one else sits with them. Nestor has a bunch of  
 cards fanned out in front of him.

NESTOR  
 You swear this is the last time  
 you're gonna make me do this?

JESSE  
 Hands down, I swear. But I know I  
 did it.

NESTOR

Alright. And then we get to pretend that you're not crazy for a while.

JESSE

Would you just pick your damn card?

Nestor makes a face and selects a Jack of Diamonds, pulling it up to make a tab.

NESTOR

Alright, Houdini, let's go.

Jesse leans in and focuses, only this time there is no ringing, no high-pitched shriek--

**PSYCHIC FLASH - NESTOR'S MIND**

The Jack of Diamonds appears in DAZZLING LIGHT for a split second, followed by:

**INT. BACK OF BUS - DAY - PSYCHIC FLASH - NESTOR'S MIND**

A group of kids are around Nestor, sneering at him. One of the MEAN OLDER KIDS who taunted Jesse goads them on.

OLDER KID

Nestor's so fat, a car swerved to go around him and ran out of gas!

The kids ROAR in laughter.

OLDER KID (CONT'D)

He's so fat he stepped on a scale and it said "To Be Continued!"

PEALS of laughter from the kids--

**EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY - NESTOR'S MIND**

Nestor and a little girl LEAP off of the side of a pool together, laughing.

**INT. DAVENPORT HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT - NESTOR'S MIND**

Vic and Sue Davenport sit in front of Nestor. Nestor's mother has tears in her eyes.

VIC

Now, son, your sister's not going to be here any more.

NESTOR (O.S.)

Where'd she go?

His voice sounds like he's five. This is an old memory.

SUE DAVENPORT  
Somewhere very special where she's  
going to be happy.

NESTOR (O.S.)  
Can we go see her?

VIC  
No, we can't go see her.

NESTOR (O.S.)  
She's too far?

VIC  
(choking up)  
That's right. She's too far.

**END PSYCHIC FLASH - BACK TO PRESENT**

Nestor sits strumming his fingers. Jesse looks at him, seeing him in new eyes.

NESTOR  
So? What'd you see, O Great One?

JESSE  
You never told me you had a sister.

Nestor LURCHES, dropping the cards. His demeanor changes.

NESTOR  
Did you look that up? Because  
that's not funny.

JESSE  
No. You drew a Jack of Diamonds.

Nestor lurches again. He checks behind him, looking for how Jesse did it. He turns back to him with wide eyes.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry, Nestor.

NESTOR  
This is real, isn't it?

Jesse nods his head.

JESSE  
Hell yeah it is.

NESTOR

So what do we do with it?

There is a CRASH to their right. One of the MEAN OLDER KIDS who has been taunting them has flipped a girl's tray over, sending her lunch sprawling. He laughs at her and high-fives his friends.

JESSE

(with a smile)

Anything we want. Watch this.

Grinning, he gets up and walks over to the mean older kid, whose life is about to be ruined.

**I/E. EVELYN'S CAR - DAY**

Andrew pulls into Evelyn's driveway.

ANDREW

You give me a call if you need anything. I'm right next door.

EVELYN

Thanks.

(starts to get out)

And I'm sorry I freaked out back there. I don't know what that was.

ANDREW

Hey, you read his mind; I'm the one who should be freaked out.

EVELYN

Ha ha, thanks for the support.

ANDREW

No, maybe you did. Who knows.

EVELYN

Well I tried reading yours the whole ride home, and I got nothing.

ANDREW

There you go, you're not crazy.

EVELYN

Thanks. I'll see you around.

They exit the car and go to their respective houses.

**INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY**

Andrew sits on his bed, playing his guitar. He's actually quite good.

**INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY**

He's on the phone with Macey.

ANDREW  
I'm sorry, Macey. I can't come  
back. Not now...

**INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY**

Andrew drills a deadbolt lock into his door. It's the third one he's put in, along with a sliding lock...

When the screw is all the way in, he stops... and hears Evelyn screaming next door. There is the sound of dishes shattering. Then silence.

Andrew sighs and sets down the drill.

ANDREW  
Now what...

**EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

He steps outside, just in time to see Evelyn run out her front door and hop into her car. She's crying. He goes toward her.

ANDREW  
Everything alright?

She JUMPS in surprise, starts the car, and SQUEALS off, RUNNING A PICKUP TRUCK OFF THE ROAD in the process. The truck slams into some trash cans and comes to a stop.

Her front door stands ajar. Andrew knocks on the open door.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
Hello? Tom?

**I/E. EVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

No response. He pushes the door open, revealing several shattered plates on the floor. He steps inside. The kitchen is to his right. It's trashed--

There's a bloodstain on the counter. He moves further inside, revealing:

Tom Janes lies dead on his back with a knife protruding from his chest. Andrew stumbles back in shock. He steps outside and looks across Dalene, where the sound of sirens grows.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
What the hell is going on here?

ARLIE COBB  
Beats me.

REVEAL: The truck Evelyn ran off the road was driven by Arlie Cobb, the old man who sold Jesse and Nestor their salad on a stick. He crosses from his dented truck to Andrew.

ARLIE COBB (CONT'D)  
Everything okay in there?

ANDREW  
No.

Arlie stops, seeming to understand.

ARLIE COBB  
I think I best be leaving then.

He turns back toward his truck, then stops.

ARLIE COBB (CONT'D)  
You got in yesterday, right?  
(Andrew nods)  
Everything was fine before you got here. I think you best be leaving too. If your mom was around, she woulda told you the same thing.

ANDREW  
The hell is that supposed to mean?

An EMERGENCY VEHICLE screams past them, headed to some other casualty. Once it's past:

ARLIE COBB  
It means things are about to get real bad around here.

As Arlie gets into his car, we get a good look at his forearm... which has an old, faded tattoo of a skull wearing a helmet.

END OF PILOT