

Desert Screams

by

Karl J. Niemiec

LapTopPublishing.com LLC
317-379-5716
KjN@LapTopPublishing.com

FADE IN:

EXT. US 93 - NEVADA - 69 FASTBACK SHELBY - MOVING - MORNING

MUSIC up, engine roaring, speeding in the sun-beat desert.

INT. MUSTANG - NEIL BARRETT

Fifties, with rugged good looks, in professional suit pants, dress shirt, and expensive tie.

He reaches up and pulls down his sunglasses as he slows, revealing his stern, calculating eyes. Turns down music.

NEIL'S POV

Rising out of the road vapors, a MIRAGE at first.

Two OFF-ROAD TRUCKS box in a broken down SEDAN facing the opposite direction.

STEAM billowing out from under the sedan's hood.

NEIL'S POV - CLOSER

The sedan is hastily packed with BELONGINGS, barely leaving room for the driver to see out the back window.

An attractive black woman, worldly forties, ANGELA COOK, isn't pleased with the three men surrounding her.

Her eyes catch Neil's, pleading for help as he slows down.

THEIR POV - NEIL'S MUSTANG - NEIL

He pulls over, backs up, and parks across from the off-road trucks.

Leaving his glasses behind, Neil gets out, keeping the Mustang running.

Neil loosens his tie as he makes his way across the road toward what appears to be just desert rats having fun.

BACK TO SCENE

CARLA BAAS, thirties, a crazy-good-looks white chick, watches Neil pass with a dead expression.

So does RITA ALVEREZ, twenties, butch to the bone.

Neil ignores their zombie-ness, walking with been-here-done-this bullshit determination toward Angela.

KUBA NOWAK, sixties, psychopath ...

and JUN MATSUO, twenties, an amoral douchebag ...

... watch Neil with evil amusement.

From their dirty CAMOUFLAGE FATIGUES, unkempt hairstyles, and trucks, they're not military and possibly living off the grid.

Under the hood, examining the steaming engine is the less threatening and cleaner, heavysset DARRYL KATZ, thirties.

NEIL
(to Angela)
Problem?

Darryl looks up from under the hood, smiling.

DARRYL
It's only the water

Darryl stops when he catches the hard look on Kuba's face.

NEIL
Got what you need?

ANGELA
Yes.

Kuba suddenly grabs Neil's tie as Neil starts to back away.

Neil grabs Kuba's hand.

They lock eye to eye.

Kuba smiles calmly, using his other hand to politely tighten the tie uncomfortably around Neil's neck.

KUBA
This your power tie?
(pulls Neil closer)
Be careful where you stick out your neck. Someone might break it.

Neil pulls Kuba's hand away by nearly crushing it.

Neil gives Kuba a hard 'don't fuck with me' glare ...

... before Neil walks to his car ...

NEIL'S POV

taking in the phone, purse, the slight limp in Angela's gait, and her firm shape.

BACK TO SCENE

Neil reaches his Mustang and gets in with Angela ...

HE puts the car in gear ...

... and does a noisy u-turn and drives off in the direction he came in.

ANGELA

looks at her world being left behind through the window.

ANGELA'S POV

locking eyes with Kuba. KUBA'S FOREBODING EYES change from amused evil to dangerous psychopath.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEIL'S CAR - MOVING

Neil is keeping an eye on the rearview mirror.

Angela sits back in her seat. Very worried.

NEIL

What was that?

ANGELA

Something about desert games and sharing water. Creeps.

Angela shivers at the thought.

NEIL

Neil.

ANGELA
 Angela Cook. Thanks. I'll kill them
 - they touch my shit.

NEIL
 I'd contact the local police.

ANGELA
 (thinks)
 Just find a tow truck. Smoke?

NEIL
 Open the window.

Neil relaxes his fingers on the steering wheel.

Angela offers her CIGARETTES.

NEIL (CONT'D)
 Quit. Expired plates. You know
 people out this way?

Angela lights up with a LIGHTER with an Army insignia.

ANGELA
 No. Lived in Barstow for a stint.
 From Encino, Cali. You?

NEIL
 South Chicago. First time this side
 of the Mississippi.

Neil cracks his window.

ANGELA
 Just in time. Sorry.

NEIL
 There's a station with grub and
 lodging up ahead.

ANGELA
 Works. What brings you out here?

NEIL
 Job interview. Claims adjuster. In
 need of life insurance?

Neil glances over with a smirk.

Angela reacts to the irony of the moment.

ANGELA
 Not funny, Neil.
 (pause)
 Got a card, just in case?

Neil hands her one.

She looks at it.

Her expression changes.

She looks closely at Neil.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
 That Captain Neil Barrett?

NEIL
 (puts sunglasses on)
 Was. Long boring story.

ANGELA
 Aren't they all.

CUT TO:

EXT. BD'S GAS STATION/CABINS - BD, NEIL, AND ANGELA

Neil's Mustang pulls in.

The place is old and dusty with a Greyhound Bus sign and working 1930's Marathon gas pump out front.

A vintage camper is parked under a dying Mesquite tree.

A faded sign reads three-hundred miles of desert ahead.

Two small CABINS are in the back, one larger.

In the single station bay, BASTLAN DANTE RODRIGUEZ, (BD) robust Mexican, sixties, has his tow truck up on a jack with the front WHEEL off.

BD lumbers up, with a lot of effort ...

as Neil and Angela get out of the Mustang.

BD
 Buenos días, gasolina?

NEIL

Si. Por favor. English?

BD

Yep.

BD moves over to the single pump, wiping his hands.

NEIL

My Spanish sucks.

BD

So does mine. But helps sell tacos to tourist dumb enough to drive out here.

NEIL

This lady's car broke down.

BD hooks up the pump to Neil's car.

Studies Neil's face.

BD

(to Angela)

I'll finish up and tow it in. Baño out back is unlocked.

Angela heads outback.

ANGELA

Hopefully, they won't rip-off all my shit by then.

BD picks up a WINDOW SQUEEGEE and cleans bugs off Neil's windshield.

BD

(to Neil)

They?

NEIL

Two young males, one Asian, and an older Caucasian, a five-inch scar on his left temple. In two off-road vehicles. One red, the other multi-parted. Mostly yellow and blue. Dressed in military fatigues. Two women. One white, wild looking, one Spanish, dead looking. Know them?

BD

Kuba Nowak and his band of misfits.
Had the displeasure of growing up
with him. Put that scar on his face,
too. Raises hell out in the desert.

The Pump SHUTS off.

BD (CONT'D)

There you go. Check under the hood?

NEIL

It's good.

Neil hands BD a twenty while BD removes the pump nozzle.

BD.

Got sodas, coffee inside. Fixin's
for do-it-yourself-Mexican.

BD pulls a small WAD of cash out of his pocket and gives
Neil change.

Looking at Neil even closer.

NEIL

Have all the gas I need.

BD

Hear ya. You ever pass this way?

NEIL

Nope. Cutting down to Flagstaff.
Thought I'd stop by the Alien
Research Museum.

BD

Aliens, huh. Sucker born every
minute. You don't look like a nut
jar. And you're awful observant.
You military?

NEIL

Reserves years back. Law enforcement
for twenty-two years. See you got
tats?

BD

Coast Guard, once upon a wild hair.

NEIL
Long way from waves.

BD
Exactly.

Angela comes back drying her hands on a paper towel.

NEIL
You're in good hands, Angela. Thanks
for the help

BD
BD. We'll get her going.

ANGELA
Maybe I'll get to return the favor.

Neil opens his car door.

NEIL
I hope not. Good luck.

ANGELA
Thanks.

BD
Enjoy them aliens.

ANGELA
Aliens?

NEIL
There's a... never mind.

Neil and Angela exchange a parting look.

There's something there between them.

ANGELA
Nother time, nother dimension, then.

NEIL
(smiles)
Yeah, maybe.

Neil gets into his car, starts it, nods to BD, smiles at Angela again, revs the powerful engine, and drives away.

BD goes back to his truck as Angela watching Neil leave, turns towards him.

BD

You can sit in the office there.

As Angela makes her way to the office, she stops at the door, looking in. She reacts to all the dust.

INT. GAS STATION OFFICE - ANGELA

She goes in and puts change in the COKE MACHINE.

A TRUCK ENGINE roars into the filling station from the desert, not using the road.

She moves to the window and looks out as the dust in the wind floats in the door to cover the place.

ANGELA'S POV - INT/EXT. GAS STATION - THROUGH WINDOW

The red and blue truck, driven by Kuba with Carla riding shotgun, and Darryl in back, skids to a stop at the pump.

REVERSE ANGLE - THROUGH WINDOW - ANGELA

She takes a step back.

EXT. GAS STATION - KUBA AND BD

Kuba jumps out of his vehicle, in a rush, approaching BD while he puts the tire back on his truck.

BD

(holds a rag to his face)

Goddamnit, Kuba. I told you to stop racing off the sands like that.

Kuba laughs and moves over to pick on the LUG WRENCH that BD is reaching for.

BD stands up, wiping his hands.

Obviously, a dark past and no love lost between them.

KUBA

Did a blue Mustang stop here?

BD

Not in the mood for bullshit.

KUBA
She still here?

BD
Sent them up the road. What do you
want with them?

KUBA
Nothing. She left her car back
there.

BD
Just leave it be.

KUBA
Sure-sure.

Kuba tosses BD the lug wrench.

BD, surprisingly quick, grabs it before it hits him in
the face.

BD
Your misfits plan to pay for gas
this time?

KUBA
We'll be back.
(turns to leave and stops)
Your girl back home yet?

BD just looks at him.

CARLA
Come on, Kuba.

Kuba runs back to his truck and gets in, revs the engine,
and speeds away.

Spewing gravel and dust at the station.

CARLA

eyes BD with her dead stare as they go.

BD

has no love for Carla either.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba takes the road, heading in the direction Neil went.

ANGELA'S POV - BD

as he watches them go, his expression saying it all.

He glances toward Angela.

BD'S POV - ANGELA - THROUGH WINDOW

Her face changes from concern to a relieved smile. Mouths the words "Thank you".

INT. GAS STATION'S OFFICE - ANGELA

The place is not only extremely DIRTY, it's CLUTTERED.

A clean FRAMED PICTURE of a TEEN GIRL is on the desk.

Angela picks up the picture.

ANGELA'S POV

Teen girl's (TERRI - BD's daughter) smiling school picture.

BACK TO SCENE

Angela pulls out her cigarettes, pats herself for the Zippo.

ANGELA

Shit, where's my Zippo, Captain
Barrett?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEIL'S 69 SHELBY MUSTANG - MOMENTS LATER

as it moves down the open road.

NEIL'S POV

Angela's car ...

BACK TO SCENE

... and pulls over to have a look.

He gets out.

ANGELA'S CAR

has four flats and it's empty.

Even the trunk is popped open.

BACK TO SCENE

Neil takes out his phone and starts taking pictures.

Then looks out to the desert, seeing no one.

INT. NEIL'S MUSTANG - NEIL

He gets back in.

NEIL'S POV - ANGELA'S LIGHTER

on the passenger's seat.

BACK TO SCENE

Neil picks it up and puts it in his shirt pocket.

The SOUND of a fast approaching vehicle.

He looks into his rear view mirror.

NEIL'S POV - THROUGH REAR VIEW MIRROR

as Kuba's off-road vehicle quickly moves up from behind.

BACK TO SCENE - NEIL

... reacts, slamming his Mustang into gear and peels out of there. He glancing back at the mirror again.

NEIL'S POV - THROUGH REAR VIEW MIRROR

Kuba's vehicle pulls right up to Neil's bumper, flashing its lights, honking the horn.

BACK TO SCENE - NEIL

Neil accelerates. His car much faster. Pulls away.

INSERT - NEIL'S DASHBOARD

His speed reaches eighty MPH and rising.

BACK TO SCENE

Neil's grip tightens on the steering wheel.

EXT. OPEN ROAD

Kuba's truck gaining on the Mustang.

INT. NEIL'S CAR

He glances down at the speedometer as he floors it.

INSERT - DASH

The speedometer reaches top end.

BACK TO SCENE - NEIL

... his eyes dart back to the side mirror.

NEIL'S POV - SIDE MIRROR

Kuba's vehicle is left behind, this time.

INT. KUBA'S TRUCK - KUBA, CARLA, AND DARYL

An evil smile crosses Kuba's face.

Carla is white knuckled with anticipation.

Daryl didn't expect this.

INT. SHELBY MUSTANG - NEIL

He smiles to himself. Thinking he got away. Puts his sunglasses back on. He's cool.

EXT. DESERT - SHELBY MUSTANG

Racing away.

EXT. DARRYL'S TRUCK

Suddenly pulls onto the road in front of the Mustang.

EXT. NEIL'S POV - DARRYL'S TRUCK

As it blocks the whole road, driven by Jun.

INT. MUSTANG - NEIL

Neil slams on the breaks ...

... and swerves off the highway.

EXT. SHELBY MUSTANG - NEIL

The Mustang bounces dramatically onto the rutted dirt road, with a cloud of DUST.

Neil is doing his best to avoid a gully between the two roads.

INSERT - MUSTANG'S TIRES

Barely staying on the dirt road.

EXT. KUBA'S TRUCK

Kuba slams on his brakes.

INT. DARRYL'S TRUCK

as Jun and Rita react, slamming on the brakes.

RITA

loving the excitement

JUN

freaks.

JUN

Not again!

EXT. OPEN ROAD/DIRT ROAD

Jun skids to a stop in time narrowly missing Kuba's truck.

KUBA'S TRUCK

... heads after Neil, cutting across open ground, right through the gully and up onto the dirt road behind Neil.

JUN

... recovers while Rita screams of pleasure and follows after Kuba.

INT. NEIL'S MUSTANG - NEIL

He bounces down the dirt road, looking for a way to get back on the paved road,

NEIL'S POV

but the gully is in the way.

BACK TO SCENE

Neil glances up at his rear view mirror.

NEIL'S POV - THROUGH REAR VIEW MIRROR

as Kuba's vehicle pulls up behind him and then swings out to overtake him.

EXT. DIRT ROAD

Kuba pulls his off-road vehicle up alongside Neil's car.

INSERT - KUBA'S TRUCK AND NEIL'S MUSTANG

as Kuba's truck gives the Mustang a nudge.

BACK TO SCENE

Making Neil understeer a slight turn.

And his Mustang bounces up and rockets out into the desert.

Coming to an abrupt halt on ROCKS. HORN blares!

EXT. DIRT ROAD - OFF-ROAD TRUCKS

Kuba and Jun pull their trucks to a stop, getting out.

DARRYL

You said

KUBA

Get them out.

Darryl holds back as Jun runs to Neil's car.

Kuba gives Darryl a look.

KUBA(CONT'D)

Carla, give Jun a hand.

Carla runs past Darryl and Kuba as Jun reaches the car.

JUN

He's alone.

Kuba reacts to this news by putting his arm around Darryl's shoulders.

KUBA

There are rules in this game.

Off Darryl's reaction, we

INT/EXT. NEIL'S CAR

as the horn still blares, Neil, groggy, rolls his head back against the seat, and the horn stops. Glasses smashed.

BLOOD rolls down his face.

INSERT: Neil slides his phone into the front of his pants.

BACK TO SCENE

Jun is trying to get the door open. But can't.

JUN
Door's locked.

KUBA
Break it.

Jun kicks the door GLASS in.

He reaches and unlocks the door, unhooks the SEAT BELT.

And pulls Neil out with the help of Carla.

Neil, still dazed, struggles to gain his footing as he's dragged from the car.

His broken glasses fall off.

He fights back, pushing Carla off ...

... but Jun kicks the back of Neil's knee and Neil goes down to his knees at Kuba's feet.

KUBA (CONT'D)
Where's the girl?

NEIL
Bus picked her up.

Jun kicks Neil in the back.

NEIL'S BLEEDING FACE

as it hits the hot sand.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba takes Neil's wallet.

Jun goes through Neil's other pockets, and pant legs, making sure he's not armed in any way.

KUBA
Darryl, help put our lying contestant
in the back of my truck.

Darryl reluctantly moves over and helps Jun drag Neil to Kuba's vehicle.

KUBA(CONT'D)

Carla, drive Darryl's truck.

(to Darryl)

Get in back. Keep him down.

Kuba reaches into Neil's car's glove box pulling out papers.

Goes through the briefcase.

Finds the cards.

Keeps the wallet, putting it into his back pocket.

He opens the trunk.

Finds a hunting rifle in a case. And a box of shells.

Pulls out a suitcase.

Throws it toward his truck where Rita picks it up.

He looks out over the desert, thinking.

Behind them, Darryl and Jun push Neil into Kuba's vehicle where Jun and Rita tie his hands with a long rope.

Darryl shoots Rita a worried look.

RITA

Let the games begin.

KUBA AND CARLA,

as she moves to him.

CARLA

What?

KUBA

This one is a Chicago cop. But only has this. No handgun, no badge.

CARLA

And a long way from home.

Kuba continues looking out at the desert.

KUBA

Be careful of what you say.

CARLA
 Won't we kill him?

KUBA
 When we have access to his accounts
 and get the girl back.

Kuba looks at Neil.

Neil is looking back at him.

The open desert stretching out before them with a single
 ROCK OUTCROPPING not far away, we

CUT TO:

EXT. SERIES OF SHOTS - OPEN DESERT - TWO TRUCKS

- A) It's just a trail of dust.
- B) Closer, it's a blur on the horizon.
- C) Up close - Neil being pulled, stumbling, falling
 behind Kuba's vehicle, then dragged.
- D) Jun and Rita drink BEER in the back of Kuba's truck,
 laughing, occasionally throwing ROCKS back at Neil.

Note: Dead tree limbs are stacked in the back. Darryl
 sits with his feet on them, trying not to watch.

- E) CARLA drives Darryl's truck, staying behind Neil.

She reacts to each shot.

- F) Rita turns to Darryl, seeing ...
- G) ... Darryl has a faraway look on his face.
- H) Jun takes notice of Darryl.
- I) Jun hands Rita a rock.
- J) Rita holds out the rock to Darryl.

RITA
 Darryl.

Darryl snaps out of it.

RITA (CONT'D)

It's your shot.

Darryl looks at the extended rock.

JUN

It's your shot. Take the rock.

Darryl looks back at Neil.

K) DARRYL'S POV - NEIL, as he picks himself out of the sand, plodding along.

L) BACK TO SCENE - Truck bed.

RITA

Game's started. First to make the cop bleed scores a point.

DARRYL

No, that's

RITA

That's the rules.

Jun picks up another ROPE.

JUN

No spectators.

Darryl looks at the others and at the rope.

Rita offers him the rock again.

Darryl takes it, looks at Neil, then heaves the rock.

M) CLOSE ON NEIL - as the rock thuds on his head.

Neil goes down to his knees and drags.

N) BACK TO SCENE - as the others cheer!

Darryl didn't enjoy it. Shocked that he hit Neil.

JUN (CONT'D)

Shit, there's blood.

RITA

Darryl leads! See? It's fun.

The trucks stop.

Kuba gets out and moves to the back of the truck. He looks over at Darryl.

Gives him a smile.

Darryl reacts.

KUBA
Put him back in the truck.

As Jun and Darryl jump out to get Neil, Neil's phone starts to RING in his pants.

Jun and Darryl look quickly to Kuba.

KUBA (CONT'D)
You fools, get it. And crush it.

Jun pulls out Neil's phone. It STOPS ringing.

He crushes it.

KUBA (CONT'D)
Ready to tell me your cards' pin codes, cop?

NEIL
Yeah, one-eight-hundred-fuck-you.

Kuba laughs because it's funny but suddenly kicks Neil in the face.

Neil rolls over on his back.

NEIL

Sun in his eyes.

Kuba steps into the sunlight, giving Neil shade.

NEIL'S POV

Kuba as he bends down to Neil. He's not kidding.

KUBA
Pins to your cards.

KUBA'S POV

Neil looking back at him.

NEIL
My mistake. One-eight-hundred-fuck-
all-of-you.

BACK TO SCENE

As Kuba stands back up. He goes to kick Neil again ...
... Neil braces for the kick, but it never comes ...
... Kuba stops just short. Instead looks at the others.

KUBA
Get him ready to play.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN ROAD - BD AND ANGELA - LATER

BD finishes putting Angela's car up on the tow truck.
There are two sets of TIRE MARKS on the road.
BD examines them.
Then looks out into the desert as he gets in his truck.

BD POV - DESERT

Nothing to be seen.

BACK TO SCENE

BD opens the truck door and gets in.
Angela smokes in the passenger seat.
BD gives her a look ... so she stubs the cigarette out.

ANGELA
He didn't pick up.

BD drives off.

INT. TOW TRUCK - DESERT HIGHWAY

Angela is not a happy traveler.

BD
It ain't as bad as it seems.

ANGELA
Still, pisses me off.

BD
We'll call the Sheriff.

ANGELA
Maybe.

BD lets it drop.

BD
Where were ya' headed?

ANGELA
Thinking sister's. For the holidays.
I don't know. Hadn't really made up
my mind.

BD
Movin'?

ANGELA
Hiding.

They drive for a bit.

ANGELA

All kinds of bad shit going through her head as she
watches out the window.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
What will this cost?

BD
Hard to say.

ANGELA
More than one-fifty... I'll take the
bus.

BD
I can drain the tank. But those --

ANGELA
-- tires were nearly brand new.

BD

I've got four with life. But I'll need a used water pump. Visa, Mastercard?

ANGELA

My credit sucks.

BD

Perhaps we can work something --

ANGELA

-- You can let me off right here.

BD

Woo, now. Flattered by the insult. But I had something cleaner in mind.

ANGELA

Me? That Grapes of Wrath place?

BD

Yep. Could use a woman's touch.

ANGELA

Could use my Zippo.

Off BD's laughter, we

CUT TO:

EXT. BD'S GAS STATION - LATER

BD pulls the tow truck into the station and parks.

THEIR POV

TWO SHOSHONE INDIAN BIKERS - PIKEE QEENAH (Swooping Eagle) and WIRASUAP (Bear Spirit), sixties, sitting in the shade on their HARLEYS.

Who knows from their blank expressions?

INT. TOW TRUCK - BD AND ANGELA

As they get out.

ANGELA

Hope they're friendly.

BD

Relax, they stay out back in the big
cabin.

EXT. GAS STATION

Pikee and Wirasuap still don't budge as BD and Angela
exit.

BD

Hola, amigos.

BD moves to the office door and unlocks it and goes in.

Angela hangs by the truck watching the two Indians.

BD comes back out and hands Pikee a set of keys.

WIRASUAP

Mention to the lady we come in peace.

ANGELA

Funny, too.

BD

Angela, this is Pikee and Wirasuap.
You get my message?

PIKEE

Got it. Car troubles.

BD

Yep, need a used water pump.

PIKEE

What year?

ANGELA

Ninety-nine.

BD

Get as close as you can.

WIRASUAP

(indicates Angela's car)
Our paleface friend?

BD

Most likely.

WIRASUAP
Should make a move.

Wirasuap and Pikee start their Harley's.

There's a troubled past there between the three old friends.

BD
Let's get her up and running.

They take off in a roar and a flood of dust.

BD turns to see the look on Angela's face.

BD (CONT'D)
Everything you'll need is in the back closet.

As Angela looks the building over.

ANGELA
You sure you don't want to fool around?

Off BD's reactions, we

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS - OPEN HOT DESERT - LATER

A) CLOSE ON Kuba as he sits behind the wheel revving the engine.

B) Darryl holds a canteen up to Neil's lips.

Neil has his hands tied with his necktie.

Neil drinks and quickly spits it out.

The others burst into laughter o.s.

NEIL
You bastards.

Darryl smells the canteen as Neil continues to spit.

DARRYL
Jesus, mister ... I --

NEIL
 -- They're animals.

DARRYL
 I can't help ... dive under ... end
 it quick ... please.

NEIL
 Untie me. Give me a fighting chance.

DARRYL
 You won't get ten steps.

NEIL
 Then our blood is on your hands.

DARRYL
 Shit

c) CLOSE ON Jun as he leans his head out Darryl's truck.

JUN
 You're holdin' up the game.

D) Rita's in the back of Darryl's vehicle with a shovel.

RITA
 Come on, get over here.

E) Carla is in the back of Kuba's vehicle with another
 shovel.

F) Neil and Darryl, as Darryl backs away, unsure of what
 to do, leaving Neil to fend for himself.

NEIL
 They'll come for you next.

DARRYL
 Shut up, man, just shut up.

Darryl runs away from the trucks ...

G) Neil turns to face his tormentors.

H) The trucks face each other with Neil in the middle.

I) Kuba truck takes off towards Neil.

J) Darryl's truck does likewise.

- K) Rita braces herself for the attack.
- L) Carla does the same.
- M) Neil decides on a course of action and takes off.
- N) The two trucks adjust to Neil and go after him.
- O) As the trucks converge on Neil.

Rita swings her shovel ...

... but Neil is able to duck under it.

Only to get Carla's shovel square on the shoulder.

CARLA

Point!

Neil tumbles to the ground as the trucks speed off.

- P) Neil as he picks himself up.
- Q) Kuba swings his vehicle back around and stops.
- u) Jun swings around the other way.
- R) Darryl reacts to the brutality.
- S) Kuba, his eyes are wide with excitement.
- T) Carla pounds on the top of the cab.
- U) Rita ...

RITA

Pass him on the right, pass him on
the right.

- v) Neil takes off again towards Darryl.
- x) Darryl backs away as
- Y) The trucks charge for a second run.

Neil tries to dodge his attackers.

This time, Rita delivers a blow to Neil's head.

RITA (CONT'D)

Head shot. Two points!

Neil goes down again as Carla's shovel swings over his head.

CARLA (O.S.)

Shit! I missed. Hurry up, Kuba.
You drive like my old lady!

Darryl watches in amazement.

The trucks skid around and come back facing Neil as

AA) Darryl runs back to Neil and helps him up.

NEIL

What's the matter? Can't take it?

DARRYL

I've never done anything like this.
I ... this is sick!

NEIL

Untie me, goddamnit. Help me or
they'll kill us both!

We HEAR the trucks racing towards them as Darryl gives in and tries to untie Neil.

Neil and Darryl keep an eye on the onrush trucks.

DARRYL

I can't ... get

BB) As the trucks converge on them, closer and closer.

The girls raise their shovels to strike.

Darryl gives up on the knot and suddenly pushes Neil in front of Kuba's truck.

CC) NEIL'S POV onrushing vehicle as he rolls over and the truck roars right over the top of him.

The SOUND of Darryl being cracked with a shovel fills the moment.

DD) BACK TO SCENE as the trucks skid into a turn.

And Neil gets back on his knees.

NEIL'S POV - Darryl is face down in the sand.

FF) Jun's truck as Rita raises her shovel in triumph.

RITA

How many points for fat-boy?

HH) Kuba's truck.

CARLA

He's not in the goddamn game! Kuba,
is Darryl playing?

II) Kuba's pissed because Darryl has turned against him.

KUBA

Game over.

JJ) Kuba gets out of his vehicle and moves over to
Darryl.

Carla jumps out and joins him as Rita and Jun run up
excited to be winning.

JUN

You aren't quitting, are ya?

RITA

We won, we won, we won --

KUBA

-- Shut your mouths!

KK) Behind them, Neil gets back on his feet. He runs.

KUBA (CONT'D)

Put them both in the truck. Now.

Jun tries to pick Darryl up.

JUN

Man, Rita, you got him good.

CARLA

Serves him right for ruining the
game.

The others turn to see Neil run.

RITA
Where does he think he's goin'?

KUBA
To the trucks.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BD STATION - NEAR SUNSET

as BD drives Angela's car into the station.

There's a NOISE under the hood.

He gets out slowly and opens the hood ... he stops, to hold himself up by resting on the car.

EXT/INT. ANGELA

watches. She sits down on a bench. Exhausted.

ANGELA
Had to steal a piece of shit.

EXT. GAS STATION - BD AND ANGELA - LATER

BD puts down Angela's car hood and wipes his hands.

He looks over at the station window.

BD'S POV - STATION OFFICE WINDOW - ANGELA

she still sits on a bench leaning against the wall.

BACK TO SCENE

as BD makes his way over to the station's office.

BD
She's good to go ...

BD stops in front of the office. He looks in.

BD'S POV - ANGELA

she sits on a bench, asleep, a rag still in her hand.

BACK TO SCENE - BD AND ANGELA

as BD takes the rag.

BD (CONT'D)
... first thing in the mornin'.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - NEIL - SUNSET - CLOSE UP

as he lies STAKED to the ground with his hands tied to it above his head by his own TIE and his feet to another stake with his own BELT.

Parked beside Neil is DARRYL'S VEHICLE.

CAMPSITE

CAMOUFLAGED LEAN-TOS are around a large FIRE PIT.

WIND SCREEN walls are made of camouflaged canvas attached to long deadwood stakes forming a circle barrier around the campsite.

A WATER WELL, with a bucket on a rope, is in the center.

Next to it is a LARGE ROARING FIRE PIT

Carla, Kuba, and Jun are at the fire, EATING, and DRINKING.

From the semi-permanent look of things, SMASHED OFF-ROAD VEHICLE, this is where Kuba and his people live.

EXT/INT. LEAN-TO - RITA AND DARRYL

as Rita tends to the CUT on Darryl's head.

DARRYL
Ah, Jesus!

RITA
Shut up.

KUBA

walks over to stand outside the lean-to. He's got Neil's RIFLE with a SCOPE.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba bends down to look inside.

KUBA

How ya feelin'?

DARRYL

I was hit in the head with a shovel.

RITA

Can't stop the bleeding.

KUBA

Too bad.

DARRYL

They'll come looking for me.

KUBA

We know.

DARRYL

My father helped you. He's your friend. Wants to make you rich.

KUBA

You don't let someone like me loose again ... unless you're corrupt, greedy, and think I'm a fool.

DARRYL

I've got money, then. Get me to an ATM.

Kuba stands up and looks out over the desert.

KUBA

See the desert around us? This desert is my kingdom. I own it. In this desert, I am king. In this desert, I have complete power over what lives and what dies. If you drink from my well, you live as one of us. Your money, your truck, everything is already mine. If you die, we bury you out there with the others or incinerate you. See, Darryl, you can't give me your money once you're in the game. It's already mine. It's the rules.

Kuba walks off.

RITA
See, told you he was cool.

DARRYL
He's insane.

Rita picks up a rag ...

DARRYL (CONT'D)
I
... and suddenly puts it over Darryl's face ...
... and holds it there until he stops struggling.
She then brings him to by slapping him good.

RITA
He'll cut your head off and hang it
on a stick if you don't show him
respect.

EXT/INT. ANOTHER LEAN-TO - NEIL

as Neil's eyes open to find Kuba standing over him.

KUBA
Are you hungry?

Neil doesn't answer.

KUBA (CONT'D)
You played very well today. Sucking
one of my people into helping you.
Very clever for a cop.

NEIL
They'll find my car and come looking.

KUBA
Let them. They won't find you. They
never do. The drifting sand makes
sure of that. This is a nice rifle.

Kuba puts the gun to Neil's head.

KUBA
You ready to give me those numbers?

NEIL

A prison number, yes.

KUBA

Carla. Get our contestant something
to eat.

Kuba butts Neil in the head with the rifle and walks away.

Carla passes Kuba with a TIN of food.

She squats down beside Neil.

Carla takes a SPOON of STEW and holds it to Neil's mouth.

Neil doesn't open so Carla holds his nose closed until he
opens his mouth.

Carla looks down at Neil's body while he chews.

She reaches out and runs her hand down along his chest.

CARLA

Prickly pear and rattlesnake stew.

Neil reacts by trying to spit it out.

Carla holds her hand over Neil's mouth to stop him.

CARLA (CONT'D)

What you don't eat now you'll eat in
the morning. We waste nothing.

Neil has no choice but to continues to chew.

Laughter from the fire pit fills the air.

On Niel, we

CUT TO:

EXT. BD'S STATION - CABINS - FIRE PIT - NIGHT

as laughter fills the air, Angela, BD, Pikee and Wirasuap
sitting around the fire eating.

BD is telling the end of a story.

BD

Got off the ocean as soon as I could.
When I showed up with a pregnant
wife, Gramps put the property in my
name.

Wirasuap leans over and picks up a short pipe with
feathers attached.

He hands it to and lights it for Pikee.

WIRASUAP

That was a long time ago.

Pikee offers the pipe to Angela.

ANGELA

I'm good.

Pikee hands the pipe to BD.

Angela sees that they are looking down at her left leg.

Angela pulls down her pant leg to cover a PROSTHETIC foot
from the knee down.

BD

(hitting the pipe)

So, Angela, this boyfriend of yours ...
he dangerous?

Bd hands the pipe back to Pikee who puts it down.

ANGELA

Only to himself.

Angela lights up a CIG off a stick from the fire.

BD

Mentioned earlier you were hidin'.

PIKEE

Ain't we all.

ANGELA

I didn't exactly tell him I was
leaving with his car that he bought
himself on my credit.

(drags on cig, thinking)

Pretty girl in the office photo your
daughter?

The smiles stop. Pikee's and Wirasuap's eyes shift to BD.

BD's happy expression turns to sadness.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

My bad.

BD

No, no, it's You know how teenagers are ... I'll be back.

BD gets up and walks off.

WIRASUAP

She snuck out with her backpack and guitar, probably thumbed out of here.

PIKEE

Someone must've picked her up quick. Who knows which direction.

WIRASUAP

Been three months now. No luck tracking her.

ANGELA

What about that Kuba character?

WIRASUAP

We had a look. No sign. Sheriff says his hands are legally tied.

PIKEE

Every time a vehicle pulls in, BD looks to see if it's her.

ANGELA

I saw him stumble today.

WIRASUAP

No secret. Lymphoma.

PIKEE

He's doing a lot better.

WIRASUAP

They tested the A-bomb. Out where we grew up exploring as kids. Government won't help none of us.

PIKEE

Dame white man. Playing with nature.

ANGELA

So, now you bring him medical marijuana?

PIKEE

We tried to get him to stay at the hotel with us in Laughlin.

(indicates his jewelry)

We have a jewelry booth.

WIRASUAP

Wouldn't take the natural treatments Terri found him. So she refused to stick around to watch him die like we did her mother.

PIKEE

But he's starting the third month on it since she left. We help.

WIRASUAP

You saw, he's back to work for a couple of weeks now.

ANGELA

Good. Chemo's a rough road.

Pikee and Wirasuap just nod knowingly.

Angela thinks for a moment.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Your jewelry is beautiful. You two, full-blooded Indians?

WIRASUAP

You full-blooded African?

ANGELA

Pinch of white man on my father's side.

PIKEE

Same here.

WIRASUAP

Yep. BD, too. His gramps was from Ireland. Came to mine silver. View of Mount Irish is why he stayed.

PIKEE

Which only proves our point.

ANGELA

What point would that be?

PIKEE

White people fucked everybody.

Angela grabs up the pipe and a pack of matches. She gets up as they all get a good laugh.

ANGELA

Excuse me.

Follows after BD.

EXT. BEHIND CABINS - BD AND ANGELA

BD kneels before four headstones.

Angela walks up behind him as he stands up.

BD wipes a tear from his face.

BD

Sorry.

ANGELA

So, this is why you stay.

BD

Family.

ANGELA

Heading to bed. Thanks for letting me borrow some things.

Angela hugs him. She hands the pipe to BD and lights it. BD takes a toke.

BD

This Neil, did you recognize him?

ANGELA

On TV. Captain Neil Barrett.

BD

Thought so. Still, may have saved your life.

ANGELA

Yeah. Maybe. Why hasn't something been done about this guy?

BD

Someone did. Let Kuba out. Didn't go over well with the locals.

ANGELA

Why?

BD

There's water out there.

ANGELA

And he can't sign papers if he's crazy.

BD

Now he won't. And if they put him, back, ownership could go to an unfriendly relative in Poland.

ANGELA

Did they take your daughter?

BD

All I got is faith that my little girl isn't buried out there.

BD offers her back the pipe.

ANGELA

I'm good. Sleep well.

Angela walks off toward the cabins as ...

BD

Hey, why didn't you say you were crippled? I wouldn't've worked you so hard.

ANGELA

(without turning)

Because I'm not.

BD smiles to himself and remains watching the desert.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT CAMPSITE

As Rita moves away from Darryl over to the fire where Jun sits drinking another beer.

She throws wood on the fire. Embers rise up.

Kuba SHOOTs at the desert nightlife with Neil's rifle. His hand still hurts from Neil squeezing it.

Rita plops down on Jun making him fall over backward as they sprawl out on top of each other.

JUN

How is your new boyfriend?

RITA

Scared shitless. You like his truck, though, don't ya.

JUN

You did good, girl.

RITA

Don't wreck it this time.

JUN

Shit happens. Man, you whacked him.

RITA

Finally got the bleeding stopped.

JUN

Too bad.

EXT/INT. LEAN-TO - DARRYL

as he watches Rita and Jun. Fear in his eyes.

DARRYL'S POV - RITA AND JUN

as they smooch and laugh.

BACK TO SCENE - DARRYL

He rolls over and sits up. He looks over at

CARLA AND KUBA

They stand outside the firelight.

Carla turns toward the fire to see Darryl.

CARLA

Darryl's ready to go home.

Kuba emerges from the dark into the firelight.

NEIL

as he watches. Darryl's truck is still beside him.

INTERCUT NEIL'S POV CAMPSITE/NEIL

KUBA

Get him on his feet.

Carla moves over to Darryl and squats down beside him.

CARLA

Feel like a walk?

DARRYL

Hell no. It's cold.

KUBA

Jun.

JUN

Shit.

Jun pushes Rita off him and moves over and helps Carla stand Darryl up.

KUBA

Bring him over here.

Carla and Jun walk Darryl over to Kuba.

Rita watches with a gleam in her eyes.

KUBA(CONT'D)

Do you want to go home?

DARRYL

May I ... please?

KUBA

Yes, of course.

DARRYL

I need my keys.

KUBA

And we need two trucks to play our games, Darryl. You don't want to play so go home. That way.

DARRYL

I'll die out there.

KUBA

Take some water.

Darryl looks around, then starts backing away.

DARRYL

I won't tell anyone.

KUBA

We know.

Once out of the light, Darryl, weak from his head injury, turns and takes off running.

Kuba waits. The other's wait anticipating.

NEIL

as he watches in horror, lifting his head up to see as

NEIL'S POV

Kuba raises Neil's rifle and looks through the scope, tracking Darryl.

KUBA'S POV - DARRYL THROUGH SCOPE'S CROSSHAIRS

He stumbles through the night, running for his life until a BULLET hits him in the shoulder.

He goes down, getting back up, taking three more steps.

Until another BULLET strikes him in the leg.

Darryl goes down again.

DARRYL'S

adrenalin picks him up, and he half crawls, half stumbles until the SOUND the rifle again.

This time hitting him in the back.

His arms reach toward the skies, and he plops down.

DARRYL'S FACE

He's still alive. His eyes are open, tears mixed with blood flowing down his face.

EXT. CAMPSITE - INTERCUT - NEIL/AND OTHERS

as Neil drops his head back in the sand.

Kuba lowers the rifle. The others applaud.

KUBA

His eyes are cold, expressionless as he thinks, then a slight smile grows on his face.

BACK TO SCENE

Rita hands Jun a shovel.

KUBA

Dig it deep.

Kuba glances down, finding Neil watching him flex his sore hand.

KUBA (CONT'D)

See what you made me do, cop?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BD'S CABIN - ANGELA - LATER

This is where BD lived with his daughter Terri.

Angela, unable to sleep, watches a video of Terri singing and playing country music on a guitar in front of the fire pit.

Angela has a LEATHER JACKET on and is fully dressed in BD's wife's clothing.

She lights a cig with matches. She has Neil's CARD.

Angela placing her phone on the nightstand beside her purse.

ANGELA
Hey, hero, call me back.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT CAMPSITE - KUBA, CARLA, JUN, RITA, AND NEIL

Kuba stands again at the edge of the firelight as Carla moves over with Darryl's wallet and gives it to Kuba.

Jun can be HEARD o.s., using the shovel to bury Daryl in the dark.

Kuba opens it and goes through the contents. He takes out all the cards and ID. Hands the wallet back to Carla.

KUBA
Assuming you got pins.

CARLA
Don't I always?

KUBA
Ask for double on rich boy's set.

Daryl starts SCREAMING o.s.

As Jun continues to throw dirt on him.

It becomes muffled.

Then silent.

Kuba looks out into the desert, listening to the screams.

He doesn't move until they're completely gone.

Kuba looks over at Neil.

KUBA'S POV

Neil watches Kuba.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba turns away.

Jun walks by the fire and sticks the shovel in the sand.

He's tired and drunk. He continues to his lean-to and plops down.

KUBA (CONT'D)
(to Carla)
Keep an eye on things.

CARLA
Fine. Hope she's there.

Kuba turns back to the fire and stops by a lean-to where Rita and Jun are together.

KUBA
Keep Jun awake until I get back.

Kuba walks over to Darryl's truck to take the SPARE GAS CANISTER. One is still full.

He looks down at Carla who has brought another blanket over to join Neil.

Carla looks back at Kuba.

CARLA
It's cold.

Kuba removes the empty canister and walks back to his truck and gets in, starts it, and drives off.

As Carla, pissed, snuggles in close to Neil, we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BD'S STATION

Kuba's truck rolls to a silent stop out in the road.

Kuba gets out and takes the gas canisters over to the pumps, putting them down when he sees ...

KUBA'S POV - ANGELA'S CAR

is parked off to the side under a car cover.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba moves over to Angela's car and lifts the cover to see inside.

He looks toward the cabins and heads for them.

EXT. BD'S CABINS

Kuba stops outside BD's cabin because a light is still on.

Wirasuap suddenly comes out of their Cabin, dressed in his nightclothes, and moves over to make sure the fire pit is out.

He sets down a bucket of water. The wind is picking up, so he uses a stick to stir the ashes.

Kuba has a LOG and moves up behind Wirasuap.

As he brings the log up, we

INT. ANGELA'S CABIN

She sits in bed reading. Music playing softly.

Angela reacts to FOOTSTEPS approaching her cabin door.

She gets up and opens the door to find Kuba.

She starts to scream but ...

... Kuba coldcocks her. This hurts his hand even more.

EXT. BD'S GAS STATION

Kuba pushes his truck down the road with his good hand, jumps in, starts it, and drives off.

Leaving the two canisters behind at the pump.

EXT. BD'S FIRE PIT AREA - WIRASUAP

He lies on the ground, BLOOD coming from his head.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPSITE - NEIL AND CARLA

She still lies next to Neil under the army blanket.

Carla is fumbling with Neil's pants as he opens his eyes and takes in his new predicament.

NEIL

Sorry, still got a headache.

CARLA

I don't care. I want dick.

Carla squeezes Neil's balls under the blanket.

Neil reacts in pain.

Carla straddles Neil, ripping open his shirt, and pulls it over his head, pushing it onto his tied hands.

Neil has an A-SHIRT underneath.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Oh look, scars. I raped Kuba like this in the nut house when I gave him sponge baths.

She starts to bite his neck, then plants one on his lips.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Respond to me, damn it, or I'll bite your lip off.

NEIL

Gave up crazy broads after I got rimmed by my wife's divorce lawyer.

Carla slaps Neil's face.

Neil reacts.

Something catches Neil's attention up by his hands.

Carla returns to kissing his neck, closing her eyes as she dry humps him.

INSERT: Neil's hands as they come across Angela's ZIPPO in his SHIRT POCKET. He slips it out and hides it as ...

CARLA (O.S.)

What do I have to do? Tell me what you want.

BACK TO SCENE

Carla trying to get off under the blanket.

NEIL
You know what turns me on?

CARLA
What? Tell me....

NEIL
You being clubbed to death by three
PMSing prison guards.

NEIL'S POV - CARLA

opens her eyes looking into Neil's.

CARLA'S POV - NEIL

Neil means it.

NEIL'S POV - CARLA

reacts with rage!

BACK TO SCENE

Carla reaches to choke Neil to death.

Just before Neil blacks out, Rita rushes over and tries
to pull Carla off Neil.

CARLA
Stop.

RITA
Carla. Shit, you're killin' him.

CARLA
Yes! Die, you fucker!

Kuba's headlights approach in the distance.

Rita turns to look. Letting Carla go.

RITA
Kuba's back.

Carla stops suddenly, jumping off Neil, attempting to
conceal what she was doing.

NEIL

as he starts breathing again. Laughing at Carla.

Carla kicks Neil in the ribs.

CARLA

Prick!

Neil's in pain but he laughs at her again. So she kicks him again.

This time, he shuts up.

EXT. CAMPSITE

Kuba's vehicle pulls into the firelight and skids to a stop.

Kuba jumps out, moving to the other side of the truck.

KUBA

Help me, I brought us a present.

Carla and Rita run over to Kuba.

THEIR POV - ANGELA

Tied by her hands and feet, slumped over in the seat.

BACK TO SCENE

as Kuba starts to drag her out.

CARLA

Where'd you find her?

KUBA

She was in BD's cabin. Help me.
Jun! Get your ass up.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NEIL

as he tries to light the Zippo. It LIGHTS.

INSERT - BURNING LIGHTER - NEIL'S HAND

He holds the flame to his tie around his wrists.

NEIL'S FACE

Burning himself in the process.

NEIL'S POV - CAMPSITE

as they carry Angela to another lean-to.

KUBA(CONT'D)

Jun, get up.

RITA

The shit's passed out.

INSERT - NEIL'S HANDS

The tie BURNS THROUGH, freeing his hands from the STAKE.

BACK TO SCENE - NEIL

He sits up, freeing his feet from the other STAKE, grabs the blanket, and rolls under Darryl's vehicle.

FROM UNDER THE TRUCK

Neil quickly unbuckles his BELT, freeing his feet.

CAMPSITE

Kuba goes over to Jun's lean-to and kicks him over and over until Jun awakens with a grunt.

NEIL BEHIND DARYL'S VEHICLE

glances into the window, looking for keys.

NEIL'S POV - INT. VEHICLE

No keys.

BACK TO SCENE

Neil reacts and glances down at the full GAS CANISTER in back.

As he reaches for it ...

NEIL'S POV - CAMPSITE - OVER TRUCK BED

Jun rolls out of his sleeping bag.

JUN

What the hell!

KUBA

Get up, the wind's coming. Carla,
tie shit down. Make sure that fire
doesn't go out.

BACK TO SCENE - NEIL

He opens the canister and lowers his tie in, pulls it
back out.

He sticks the dry end in and lights the gas soaked part
on FIRE.

He covers the flame with a TARP.

EXT. CAMPSITE

Kuba turns to find Neil isn't there.

KUBA

Goddammit! Where is he?

Kuba smacks Carla in the face with his good hand.

KUBA (CONT'D)

What'd you do!?

CARLA

I ... I ... I

Kuba turns on Jun.

JUN

Hey, I was

Kuba punches Jun in the face. Hurting his hand again. Jun
goes down to his knees, his nose bleeding.

KUBA

Son-of-a.... Find him!

JUN AND RITA

Move over to Darryl's vehicle.

Rita opens the passenger's door, looking back at Jun.
Jun holds his face, dripping BLOOD through his fingers.

JUN
Shit, you better drive.

Rita jumps in, sliding over behind the wheel.
Jun slides in beside her, giving her the KEYS.
Rita starts the truck and speeds away.

EXT. CAMPSITE - KUBA AND CARLA

Kuba struggles to LOAD the rifle with his bad hand.

KUBA
I'll kill you, Carla.

Off Carla's reaction, we

EXT. DESERT - DARRYL'S TRUCK - MOVING

Moving through the sand.

RITA (O.S.)
Do you smell something burning?

JUN (O.S.)
Smell? I can't even breath.

INT. DARRYL'S TRUCK - RITA AND JUN

Rita turns to look out the back window.

RITA'S POV

Truck bed and burning tarp.

RITA (O.S.)
We're on fire!

RITA AND JUN

as they react!

EXT. DESERT - NEIL

Waiting. Hoping it works.

NEIL'S POV

Darryl's truck EXPLODES.

NEIL

as the explosion reflects on his face.

EXT. CAMPSITE - FIRE PIT

Kuba and Carla as they look up to see ...

KUBA'S AND CARLA'S POV

Darryl's truck as it comes back to earth in FLAMES.

EXT. DESERT - NEIL

Vengeful smile.

NEIL

Now, that's a power tie.

As Neil basks in the GLOW of burning vehicle.

The wind continues picking up around him, and we

EXT. CAMPSITE - KUBA AND CARLA

Kuba gets into his truck.

KUBA

Stay here in case he doubles back for
her.

KUBA

As he sits in his truck.

KUBA

(to himself)

Alright, cop, it's just you and me.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba drives off leaving Carla alone with Angela.

Carla turns back toward Angela. Pissed.

ANGELA'S POV - CARLA

Carla throws logs on the fire then moves toward Angela.

The fire picking up behind her, being whipped by the wind blowing Carla's hair wildly. A true picture of insanity.

BACK TO SCENE

as Carla squats down into the lean-to with Angela.

Angela is tied to a stake with her hands behind her back.

CARLA

We'll bury your boyfriend alive ...
just like that chick from the gas
station.

ANGELA

So, you did kill Terri.

CARLA

Whatever. Getting cold tonight.
(fingers Angela's jacket)

Angela looks around and sees all her shit piled nearby.

This draws Carla's attention away from Angela for a moment.

So Angela kicks Carla with her left foot and catches her in the crotch.

Carla goes down onto her knees in a whole lot of female pain.

Carla reaches down to her boot and pulls out a long
SLIDING SWITCHBLADE.

Carla pulls back Angela's left pant leg to reveal the
PROSTHETIC leg and foot.

With one quick move, Carla is on top, blocking clear view
of Angela, and stabs the switchblade down.

Carla starts to laugh, flames glowing on her face, wind blowing her crazy hair, a sadistic nutcase.

CARLA (CONT'D)

You ain't even a whole woman, bitch.

ANGELA AND CARLA

The switchblade is right next to Angela's face, drawing blood.

Carla pulls the blade out of the sand, rolls Angela over and... pulling on Angela's hair ... bringing Angela's head back, the switchblade now to her throat.

Carla leans down in Angela's face.

CARLA (CONT'D)

Everything you have in life, past, present, and future, is now mine. That's the rules. Now give me the pins to your cards or I cut you so deep the sand owns your blood.

Carla lops off a chunk of Angela's hair.

Angela just laughs.

Carla cuts her hands loose pulls Angela's coat off then yanks on Angela's hands, retying them behind her back,

CARLA (CONT'D)

You think that's funny?

ANGELA

Yeah, my ex beat you to them.

EXT. DESERT - NEIL

He squats down, peeking out from under the blanket.

He's shivering, leaning against a LARGE ROCK.

The wind is still blowing the sand around.

EXT. DESERT - KUBA'S TRUCK

as the HEADLIGHTS move closer and closer until it reaches the SWIRLING-BURNING embers of Darryl's truck.

Kuba gets out, with his RIFLE and walks to the fire and stands BEHIND it.

KUBA - THROUGH FIRE

as he stands there watching the fire.

NEIL (O.S.)

Hey, Kuba, see what you made me do?

Kuba shoots two quick shots at Neil.

EXT. DESERT - NEIL

He stumbles to a stop and lies down under the blanket.

He takes off again as another SHOT rings out.

EXT. DESERT - KUBA

He gets in his truck and heads slowly toward Neil.

EXT. DESERT - NEIL'S POV - THE MOVING VEHICLE

as it creeps toward him.

EXT. DESERT - NEIL

He thinks a moment, then takes off toward a human size ROCK.

INT. KUBA'S TRUCK - KUBA - CLOSE ON EYES

as he searches the desert for Neil.

KUBA

I'll do to you and the girl like I
did to all the others. You hear me?

KUBA'S POV - BLANKET

Neil throws it up over the rock, disappearing behind it.

It appears to be Neil squatting down under the blanket,
as Kuba's head lights flash on it.

NEIL
Doesn't matter. They'll come for
you.

KUBA
Shut up.

NEIL
Them in the white suits. Always
watching. Always listening. Always
talking about you. Forever this
time.

INT. KUBA'S TRUCK - KUBA

as he reacts by flooring the truck.

EXT. KUBA'S TRUCK

as it speeds through the desert.

EXT. DESERT - BLANKET

as the vehicle bears down on it until....

EXT/INT. KUBA'S TRUCK - KUBA

he realizes but reacts too late, SLAMMING to a sudden STOP.

KUBA - CLOSE

as he bounces off the steering wheel and windshield.

His face breaks open and blood comes from his forehead.

BLOOD SPLATTERING over the windshield.

EXT. DESERT - NEIL

running towards the campsite as fast as he can.

EXT. DESERT - FRONT OF KUBA'S TRUCK - KUBA

as the truck's front end rest on top of the rock, LIFTING
the wheels off the ground.

The driver's side door opens and KUBA rolls out.

KUBA

as he rolls over onto his back, his face all BLOODY.

He gets up on his knees to find...

KUBA'S POV

his truck on top of the rock.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba rubs the blood from his face, looking down at his now bloody hands.

He gives into a fit of crazed laughter.

SMASH CUT:

EXT. DESERT - NEIL

He runs. Nearing the campsite.

Off in the distance, Kuba's laughter is filling the night air with insanity.

SMASH CUT:

EXT. CAMPSITE - CARLA - CLOSE UP

Putting on Angela's jacket ... as she turns to see ...

CARLA'S POV - NEIL

... suddenly emerges out of the darkness.

ANGELA'S POV

Carla flips open the switchblade ...

... as Neil tackles her, landing on top of her.

Carla tries to stab him, but Neil grabs that wrist.

They struggle, Neil having trouble with his left arm.

ANGELA

strains to see but can't fully.

ANGELA'S POV - CARLA AND NEIL ROLL INTO VIEW

Neil squeezes and shakes the switchblade out of Carla's hand.

Carla screams in pain.

ANGELA

as the switchblade lands just out of Angela's reach.

She strains with all her might.

INSERT: Digging her prosthetic foot in the sand to push her toward it.

CARLA AND NEIL

Carla pushes Neil off her and straddles his chest.

She grabs Neil as he kicks the switchblade away and closer to Angela.

CARLA

I got him, Kuba. I got him.

Carla reaches for the switchblade but is started ...

CARLA'S POV

... to find Angela standing there with the switchblade.

ANGELA

You ain't got jack, bitch.

BACK TO SCENE - ANGELA, CARLA, AND NEIL

Angela punches Carla with an uppercut to the jaw.

Carla flips off Neil.

But she hits the ground running.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CARLA

... flies out of the lean-to, unsteady from the blow in the chops, and belly flops right into the fire pit.

She suddenly bounds back up.

She's on fire.

Embers fill the air around her.

She leaps out, clothing and hair on fire.

And rolls in the sand to put herself out.

Bouncing back up to keep running away ... overcome by
horrifically painful screaming.

EXT. KUBA AND HIS TRUCK

Carla's SCREAMS push Kuba to his feet.

He listens as the screaming moves away from him.

He fights to keep under control.

His manic anger grows, trying to decide which way to go.

Does he go after Carla or Neil?

He jumps back into his truck.

INT. LEAN-TO - NEIL AND ANGELA

Neil rolls over in pain!

BLOOD flows from his shoulder.

ANGELA

Let me look.

NEIL

Not now.

Angela helps him up and throws her arms around him.

ANGELA

I'm sorry.

NEIL

(pulling her away)

Forget it, come on, come on, come on.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LEAN-TO

Neil pulls her out in the direction of the road.

ANGELA

Wait!

Angela reaches back into the lean-to.

She pulls out a SLEEPING BAG and her ARMY BAG from her belongings.

Neil scoops up a CANTEEN as he goes by the fire.

As they run off into the night, we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT/INT. KUBA'S TRUCK - KUBA

as he revs it up, rocking it back and forth until he gets it off the rock.

INSERT - UNDER FRONT OF KUBA'S TRUCK

as OIL DRIPS into the sand.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba backs the truck up and spins it in the sand, heading toward the campsite.

EXT. CAMPSITE - KUBA

He skids his vehicle to a stop and jumps out.

KUBA'S POV - CAMPSITE

No one's there.

He picks up a LARGE FLASHLIGHT and takes it around looking for tracks.

He sees where Carla and Neil fought.

And where Carla ran off.

Then he looks over and follows Angela and Neil's tracks off in the other direction.

He sees heavy blood.

He stops there, looking out into the desert.

Smiles to himself.

KUBA

How'd that feel, cop?

He turns and goes into a lean-to and takes out Neil's box of shells.

He gets back into his truck, driving off after Neil and Angela.

Carla's yelling comes from out in the dark as she approaches.

CARLA (O.S.)

Kuba! Kuba, wait! Kuba!

INSERT - OIL SPOT in the sand where the truck stood, as the sound of the truck fades into the night.

BACK TO SCENE

as Carla runs out of the darkness and drops to her knees at the oil spot.

Her face and hands are scorched, peeling, and a crispy, ugly reddish mess.

Her wild hair half singed off.

Eyes crazy with fear and anger, delirious from the pain and shock of it all.

CARLA

(futile)

Kuba ... take me

(breaking down)

I need to be with you ... Kuba ...

(tears streaming down)

... you asshole!

She gets up and goes after Kuba's vehicle. Disappearing into the night.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT OUTCROPPING - NEIL AND ANGELA

They hurry along carrying the sleeping and Army bags.

NEIL

I've got to

Neil drops down to his knee beside a rock outcropping, out of the wind and blowing sand.

Angela plops down with him.

ANGELA

Let me see that shoulder.

Neil pulls out Angela's Zippo.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

You found it.

NEIL

It saved our lives.

ANGELA

Shit.

NEIL

What?

ANGELA

My cigs were in that jacket.

Neil reacts as Angela lights the Zippo to get a look at his WOUND.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Clear through.

(feels his pulse)

Can you move your hand?

NEIL

Some. He's probably tracking us, we better keep moving.

ANGELA

Not until I slow this bleeding.

Neil opens the canteen and sniffs it. It smells okay, so he drinks.

Angela opens her Army bag. Takes out a FLASHLIGHT.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Here, hold this.

She takes out gauze pads, folds them up, takes out a bottle of Betadine, puts some on the gauze pads, then puts the gauze on the exit wound of Neil's shoulder.

Tapes them on with gaffer's tape.

NEIL

Yoowwowow ... go easy. You're a doctor?

ANGELA

Surgical nurse. Jesus, you've got nasty cuts on your head, too.

Angela does the same for the entry of the shoulder wound.

NEIL

That woman in the lean-to whacked me with a shovel. They shot and buried alive the kid who looked at your car.

Angela dabs his head with gauze and peroxide.

ANGELA

I bet you're glad you stopped to help me, now.

NEIL

Not as glad as the two I blew up in that dead kid's truck.

Angela stands up.

ANGELA

What?

NEIL

Another long dull story. Help me up. Kuba, the older guy, has my rifle. And can take us out four-five hundred yards away with the night scope. So turn off that light.

ANGELA

They did the same to BD's daughter.

NEIL

Alive?

(off Angela's reaction)

Damn.

Angela helps Neil stand, then kisses him on the cheek.
Neil is surprised.

ANGELA

For saving my life, twice. That's
not stopping the bleeding. We have
to get to a secure place before you
bleed out.

NEIL

That bad?

ANGELA

Don't panic. Ten - fifteen minutes,
maybe less.

They hurry off and fade into the night.

A RUMBLE from Kuba's vehicle begins to fill the air.

NEIL (O.S.)

Run!

EXT. OPEN DESERT - KUBA

Kuba's truck comes out of the night and skids to a stop.

Kuba gets out and comes to the front of his vehicle,
looking to see where the footprints head with the
flashlight.

He flashes the light off in the direction of Neil and
Angela.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN DESERT - CARLA

as she plods along following the vehicle tracks.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT RAVINE - NEIL AND ANGELA

Neil is not doing well. Suddenly they DROP out of sight.

All we HEAR is the sound of them TUMBLING down a RAVINE,
with grunts and groans.

EXT. EDGE OF RAVINE - KUBA

Kuba's truck comes to a stop, its lights showing the
ravine.

Sand blowing about, making it hard to see clearly.

He gets out again with his rifle and flashlight and moves
to the edge of the ravine.

Kuba flashes the light down in it, searching.

EXT. RAVINE

as Kuba's light flashes slowly over the terrain.

NEIL AND ANGELA

The lights moving overhead.

ANGELA

Now what?

The light shuts off.

NEIL

That way.....

KUBA

He stands listening.

His face still bleeding bad.

He wipes the blood from his eyes.

KUBA

I liked the blanket over the rock.
That was real good, real smart. I'll
use it as your tombstone, cop.

Kuba lifts up the rifle, randomly shooting into the ravine.

NEIL AND ANGELA

They duck down. Then continue on.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - CARLA

She stops when she HEARS the shooting.

Relieved to have found Kuba again.

CARLA'S POV - KUBA'S TRUCK

as Kuba walks past the headlights and gets in.

She's about one hundred yards away.

BACK TO SCENE

Carla takes off running, fighting the wind and sand, too tired to yell or scream anymore.

EXT. TOP OF RAVINE - KUBA'S TRUCK

Kuba, frustrated, moves along the ravine with his flashlight SHINING out the window into the ravine.

CARLA

reaches the edge of the ravine only to have Kuba moving away from her again.

She's really getting pissed.

She runs/stumbling now toward Kuba's truck, coming up from behind it.

Spent, barely able to move beyond plodding.

CARLA

Kuba ... wait ... wait for me.

KUBA

as he stops, thinking he sees something.

He flashes the light.

Then puts his truck in reverse, looking into the rearview MIRROR.

He sees something again.

He turns around to look out the back window, still driving backward.

The backup lights aren't much help.

Blood still flowing down his forehead. Messing with his vision.

The wind blowing the sand around is making things worse.

KUBA'S POV - BACK WINDOW - IN BACKUP LIGHTS - CARLA

But Kuba can only make out Angela's JACKET, her face, distorted from the burn, is barely visible in the light.

KUBA

Gotcha

He guns the truck suddenly in an attempt to run down what he thinks to be Angela.

CARLA

as her face lights up with fear.

CARLA'S POV - KUBA'S TRUCK

Charging at her.

BACK TO SCENE

Carla turns to run but is stopped by the ravine.

She tries to run the other way.

But it's too late ... she's a dead deer as she lets out one last feeble scream.

KUBA'S POV - CARLA

vehicle SLAMS into and right over Carla.

KUBA

as he thinks he's run over Angela.

He gets out of his truck triumphantly.

He moves over and ...

KUBA'S POV

... sees Carla's burnt hair from under the truck.

BACK TO SCENE

as Kuba reacts, then goes down to his knees to find Carla's scarred face in the sand.

The truck's tire sitting on her.

Kuba pushes the truck off with his good hand.

He then pulls her out from under his truck and holds her in his lap.

BLOOD seeps from Carla's mouth and nose. She's a mess.

Kuba cradles Carla in his arms, rocking back and forth, feeling a great loss.

Carla eyes still on Kuba. If she is alive, she's doomed.

Kuba's hard exterior breaks away as he weeps over the loss of his queen.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RAVINE - NEIL AND ANGELA

They continue into the night.

The wind is whipping around the sand, holding them back.

NEIL

Oh, oh ... I've lost the feeling in my toes.

ANGELA

Okay, this will have to do. Over here. I can dig into this ridge a bit for shelter.

They move into the shelter of a ridge.

Angela plops the Army bag down and Neil sets down the sleeping bag.

Angela takes out a MILITARY FOLDING SHOVEL and unfolds it to quickly dig into the ridge. She's done this before.

NEIL

Wait, I'm okay, we should keep moving, get closer to the road.

ANGELA

We've waited too long already. BD will know I'm gone by morning, he'll send help.

Angela gets on her hands and knees. And starts digging harder. She's a strong woman.

NEIL

They teach you this in nursing school?

ANGELA

No, Army.

NEIL

Oh yeah, Army insignia on the lighter.

ANGELA

Sergeant first class.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOP OF RAVINE - KUBA

He stands before a slightly RAISED PLATFORM with Carla's BODY on top.

He holds a LIT TORCH in his good hand.

NOTE: The WOOD is the wood we saw in the back of Kuba's truck earlier.

Kuba throws the torch - the platform BURST into FLAMES.

Kuba does a silent ceremony as BURNING EMBERS lift into the sky until we become aware of the sky full of STARS.

CARLA

Suddenly, her eyes jet open. She's on fire... again!

Carla starts SCREAMING as she burns to death.

BACK TO SCENE

The look on Kuba's face is fascinated yet saddened by the burning flesh of his queen.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RAVINE - NEIL AND ANGELA

CARLA'S DESERT SCREAMS fill the night, then fade.

The wind is blocked by the hole Angela dug into the ridge. Neil lies in it on the sleeping bag.

NEIL

(reacting to the screams)

Wait. Jesus.

ANGELA

That sick fucker. Lay back.

NEIL

Are you sure?

ANGELA

Yes. Hold the light. I have to coteries that hole on the inside with this.

(indicates switchblade)

While we do, you can tell me your long boring story.

Angela cuts open Neil's shirt. And pulls out a blanket from the Army bag and hands it to him.

NEIL

You've heard of me.

ANGELA

Yes. I'm giving you a couple shots. Keep on talking. We've got just a couple of minutes.

Angela takes out her medical kit and opens it.

She puts on big thick nerdy glasses that have side protection for wind and sand. There's a light attached.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
(off Neil's look)
Relax. Magnifying. Talk.

She pulls out a SYRINGE and a small BOTTLE of liquid.
And moves quickly to give him three shots.

NEIL
Ah, you said two.

ANGELA
I lied. I see you've been shot before.

NEIL
Didn't fix me while I was awake. In a
coma for a week. Off duty liquor store
robbery. The night I stopped smoking.

ANGELA
Stay calm, you're doing okay. You
will start feeling numbness in the
shoulder and up into your neck.
Don't panic if you feel it in your
face. There are nerves we'll touch.
Focus on the story.

NEIL
I made a mistake. Took a teen's life
in South Chicago. A young black kid
I watched grow up.

Angela cleans with Betadine and heats the switchblade
with a little blow torch flame from her bag.

ANGELA
Yes, I followed the case. You're
infamous. Have a race riot named
after you. And got a lot of racist
people of all colors angry.

NEIL
Yeah, ouch. Thought this was my story.

ANGELA
Cutting to the chase.

NEIL
So you know about the eight million
dollar settlement.

ANGELA

Someone yelled gun in a dark
staircase.

NEIL

I shot before he got his hands above
his waist. Hand was empty. What I
saw was the darkness of his skin.

ANGELA

Close your eyes. Put this in your
mouth.

(hands him a leather glove)

Big bone frag. This will hurt a lot.
It's pressing a nerve.

Neil stiffens from the pain as Angela reaches in the
bullet hole with FORCEPS.

NEIL

(mumbles into glove)

Holy mother of God

(nearly blacking out)

ANGELA

Okay, got it.

(looks at his face)

Neil, don't leave me. Come on. That
was the hard part. Now I'm reaching
inside to coteries the torn blood
vessels to slow down the bleeding.

(sees the look on his face)

It won't hurt as much. If we get
lucky, I'll stop it all in one shot.

Neil does his best not to move.

Angela repeats heating the switchblade.

NEIL

(through clenched glove)

Go for it.

Angela goes back into the wound with the switchblade.

ANGELA

(moving fast)

So far so good.

EXT. KUBA'S TRUCK/FIRE - NIGHT

Kuba now sits in his truck watching the fire as the wind whips the flames.

ANGELA (O.S.)
Open your eyes, let me see?

NEIL (O.S.)
Feeling light headed.

ANGELA (O.S.)
Keep talking. Stick with me. Neil?

EXT. RAVINE - NEIL AND ANGELA

Angela continues to work on Neil's wound as they fight the wind and sand.

Neil is fading. She picks up the pace, knows what's coming.

ANGELA
You really messed up. Caused a lot of bad feelings in a community you worked and grew up in. Neil, come on. Continue, open your eyes ... Neil?

NEIL
(opens his eyes)
Wife left me. Friends dumped me. Do anything to go back ... in time. Having been shot ... three times ... and left for dead ... the public deemed me unfit to protect them. Best I could do ... pack up and leave ... it behind Oh, shit, that hurt!

Angela continues. She takes out the shot and gives him another one.

ANGELA
Okay, I think we did it. Got it pretty much stopped.
(looks closer)
Yes. But you've lost too much blood already. What blood type are you?

NEIL

B positive. Why? You've got some?

ANGELA

Yes. I'm O negative. I'm giving you some of mine.

NEIL

You serious?

ANGELA

Dead serious. Let me have your right arm. I'll tell you my long boring story while we do this.

Neil lays back and Angela preps his arm.

But Neil starts to fade further toward death.

NEIL

Oh, shit. Am I dying?

ANGELA

Not yet. Stay focused on me. Neil?
Neil Neil?!
(she slaps him)

NEIL

(eyes open, slight smile)
I'm still here. You're amazing.

ANGELA

No, no I'm not. I killed someone once. I've never told anyone this. So I may not finish.

While she talks she is setting up the blood transfusion between them.

NEIL

Keep talking, the suspense is killing me.

They look at each other and smile over the pun.

ANGELA

We are only human, and we all make human mistakes. Not just with guns. Sometimes it's just a choice.

NEIL

I hear yeah. I chose to come back after taking those three slugs. That kid would be alive if I had retired.

ANGELA

I chose to join the Army. As a black Muslim, I wanted to prove that we could be as American as everyone else. I was on my second tour. This time working on a FST, Forward Surgical Team, when an IED took out a Humvee again. Two fresh kids came in -- one black one white.

Angela has the blood transfusion up and running.

She pulls out a parka and covers herself and the tube running between them.

While Angela talks she pulls her Army boots out of the bag.

One has a PROSTHETIC leg in it.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Both eighteen. The white kid had a better chance of living and should've gone first.

She pulls up her pant leg, takes off her leg below the knee to put on the other one, tying the right boot the best she can with one hand.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

But I knew the black kid's brother from my first tour and promised to look after him. So I put him ahead of the other.

Neil reaches over and helps her. He doesn't say anything about it, only runs his hand over the leg.

Then reaches up to wipe away her tear.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

I chose the color of skin over what I knew was right and wrong. I betrayed my oath. I betrayed my faith.

(tears streaming now)

(MORE)

ANGELA (CONT'D)

The white kid died waiting for me to come back for him. The black kid died on the table. Both had been there three months. I killed that white kid, I'm sure of it. No one knows what I did

(feels the leg)

And this was my parting gift from my vacation in Afghanistan. Payment in this lifetime for getting away with what I did to that boy and his family.

NEIL

No. It had nothing to do with it. Because you don't get away with it.

ANGELA

No, you don't. Not really. Not in my head, not in my heart, not in my soul. I've been sinking so fast for a couple of years now. Picked up a few bad habits along the way and let a lousy man hurt me. Lost a good paying job. My home. Stole that car I'm driving from my ex to get away from him. My biggest fear is that I'll end up homeless and won't care. So many of us have killed ourselves. It's frightening to think as I search for my self-worth. Maybe waiting to hit my rock-bottom first.

NEIL

Wow.

ANGELA

(wipes her eyes)

Yeah, wow. A month before ending my second tour, a mortar shell took this foot off. So they sent me home. Returning home to America has been a long descent into nothing good.

As they look at each other studying each other's face, Angela slides the switchblade into her left boot.

NEIL

Congratulations. You finally made it. Welcome to Hell.

Angela smiles with Neil a little. Neil stops suddenly.

ANGELA
(alarmed)

What?

NEIL

I gotta pee.

As they laugh, we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KUBA'S TRUCK/FIRE - NIGHT

It's now empty.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT - CLOSE ON NEIL'S FACE - SUNRISE

Neil is having perhaps a wet dream, he's got a big grin on his damaged face like maybe he's getting some.

ANGELA (O.S.)
Wake up. Wake up, Neil. Neil, wake up.

Neil slowly wakes up, opening his sleep eyes... his expression suddenly changes to shock and fear.

NEIL'S POV - KUBA'S ANGRY FACE

Kuba is leaning right into Neil's face.

KUBA
Rise and shine, cop. Time to dig your own graves.

ANGELA, KUBA, AND NEIL

Angela has her hands tied again. Kuba has the rifle to her head.

CUT TO:

EXT. BD'S GAS STATION - BD - SUNRISE

BD exits his office to find ...

BD'S POV - GAS CANISTERS

... sitting by the gas pump.

BACK TO SCENE

BD is puzzled, then looks up the road thinking...
realizing ... then quickly, moves past Angela's car.

EXT. CABIN AREA - BD, WIRASUAP AND PIKEE

BD moves past the campfire and finds ...

BD'S POV - WIRASUAP

his face down in the dirt.

BACK TO SCENE

BD

Pikee, come give me a hand out here.
Quick!

Pikee comes out of his cabin, sleepy, as

BD bends down and rolls Wirasuap over.

Pikee sees what's going on.

PIKEE

I'll get the nurse.

Pikee pushes open the door, then goes in.

Comes right back out.

PIKEE (CONT'D)

She ain't here.

Pikee moves over to join BD and Wirasuap.

BD

Kuba's got her ... must've come back
for gas. Get a hold of him, let's
get him back in the cabin.

Pikee and BD try to pick up WIRASUAP.

They struggle for a minute.

But it's no use, he's too big.

Pikee stands up. Wiping his sweaty brow.

PIKEE
(sees the bucket of water)
Hold on a minute.

He reaches for the bucket of water and dumps it on Wirasuap's head.

Off Wirasuap's shocked reaction as he come to, we

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - ANGELA AND NEIL - MORNING

They are being pulled/dragged behind Kuba's truck.

But the truck isn't doing well, with all the dropped oil.

When the truck finally stops, Neil and Angela sit in the shade of it.

Neil and Angela look at each other.

Time to make a move.

Kuba gets out and slams his door.

KUBA
Don't move. Your little magic rock
trick screwed my truck good, cop.

Kuba gets under to take a look.

KUBA'S POV - NEIL AND ANGELA FROM UNDER TRUCK

As they make a run for it.

Angela has the switchblade in her hand.

Neil has her Army bag.

They are running toward a rock outcropping.

BACK TO SCENE.

Kuba jumps back into the truck and goes after them.

CUT TO:

EXT. BD'S STATION - PIKEE AND BD

They come out of the cabin. BD heads to his office.

PIKEE

Bastlan Dante Rodriguez, you can't go out there alone. If he's grabbing up people now, we need to call in the sheriff first. At least let me go.

BD exits with a HAT, carrying a CANTEEN and BINOCULARS.

BD

No, get Doc out here to look at Wirasuap. I'll leave Angela's car and hike in. Give me 'til noon.

PIKEE

They could be ten miles in. And there's four or five others. I heard rifle fire and an explosion.

BD

I've been watching the smoke. They ain't that far in.

PIKEE

No. You're not up for this. I'm calling in the Sheriff.

BD

Dammit, I hate it when you go grandmother on me, Pikee. If he's killed Angela, there's nothin' I can do about it. But if we bring in the Sheriff, Kuba will never tell us what he did with her.

PIKEE

Don't be killing anyone. I mean it, you old badger. You'll open a whole can of legal worms that will put you away like your father. You hear me?

BD

Only the desert will know the truth, Pikee. That's the rules.

BD unlocks Angela's car and gets in as we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT/INT. ANGELA'S CAR - BD - LATER - MOVING

He drives along watching for ...

... and then finding the same turn off that Neil was forced to take by seeing all the skid marks.

He turns down the dirt road along the gully. He stops.

BD'S POV - NEAL'S MUSTANG - GULLY

where it's been pushed and covered with desert brush and sand.

BACK TO SCENE - BD

He gets out and moves over and down to Neil's car with his canteen and binoculars.

He looks into the windows, looking for Neil.

BD POV - INT. NEIL'S CAR

No Neil.

BACK TO SCENE

He stands back up, stepping on Neil's broken sunglasses.

He picks them up, sees ...

BD'S POV

.... the blood on them. Drops them.

BACK TO SCENE

BD looking around, and finding ...

BD'S POV

Truck tracks leading out into the desert.

BACK TO SCENE

BD looks up at the sun, thinking.

Decides and heads into the desert, following the tracks.

DISSOLVE TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS - BD - IN DESERT - LATER

A) In the middle of nowhere looking through binoculars.

He moves them slowly from one horizon to the other.
He lowers them. He starts to follow the tire tracks
again.

B) BD stops to drink water and wipes sweat from his face.

C) BD stops and pulls out a COMPASS and checks the sun.
He uses his binoculars and scans the horizon until
he stops and comes back to a point.

D) BD'S POV THROUGH BINOCULARS - TRAIL OF DUST

Kuba's vehicle, moving slowly.

POV THROUGH BINOCULARS SHIFTS TO - NEIL AND ANGELA
running to save their lives toward the ...

... ROCK OUTCROPPING that is too far for them to make
it to before the vehicle overtakes them.

E) BACK TO SCENE - BD is much closer to the rock
outcropping than Neil and Angela, so he takes off
walking toward it as fast as his health will allow.

SMASH CUT:

SERIES OF SHOTS - NEIL, ANGELA, KUBA, AND TRUCK - MOVING

A) Neil and Angela run as fast as they can toward the
outcropping.

B) Kuba's vehicle stuttering through the desert going as
fast as it can.

C) Neil and Angela stumbling, picking themselves back up.

They no longer have the sleeping bag but they do have
the Army bag and canteen.

D) Kuba's vehicle starts throwing up BLACK SMOKE.

E) Kuba as he reacts to his vehicle dying.

F) KUBA'S POV - DASHBOARD - OIL LIGHT indicates that the
truck is out of oil.

- G) Neil and Angela as the truck is about fifty yards behind them. Neil turns when the vehicle's ENGINE SEIZES.
- H) Neil's POV VEHICLE as it dies.
- I) CLOSE ON STREAK OF OIL leading to the back of the truck which is now stopped.
- Kuba jumps out of the vehicle, responding to it and starts running after Neil and Angela with the rifle.
- J) Neil and Angela react to Kuba by running again.
- K) Kuba stops, struggling to aim with his bad hand, and FIRES the rifle. The recoil hurts.
- L) Neil and Angela duck down just making it to the rock outcropping.
- M) Kuba is right behind them now, moving fast.
- N) OUTCROPPING - Neil boosts Angela up and throws the Army bag, but unable to save himself.
- O) As Kuba stops behind of Neil. He's winded, too.

EXT. OUTCROPPING - NEIL, ANGELA, KUBA, AND BD

Angela reaches her hand down to Neil who is too tired to do anything as he turns to find Kuba with the rifle.

ANGELA

Neil.

NEIL

I can't.

KUBA

Tell her to get down.

NEIL

Shoot before my heart beats you.

Kuba raises the gun when a ROCK comes flying down from Angela, striking Kuba on the shoulder, knocking him down.

Kuba SHOOTS up at Angela, missing.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - BD

He's not far, but drops to his knees. He's not doing well. He looks through his binoculars and tries to get up... but can't. He drinks water. Looks up to the heavens for strength. His daughter's SINGING VOICE fills his head.

BD

Help me.

He tries again, humming his daughter's song, getting to his feet.

EXT. DESERT - OUTCROPPING

Kuba picks himself up, moving toward Neil.

KUBA

I've got five shells in this. I'll use them all before he bleeds out if you don't come down.

NEIL

Stay where you are ... he'll kill us both anyway. Isn't that the rules, Kuba ... everyone dies in your kingdom?

KUBA

No one gets out alive.

ANGELA

Not even BD's daughter?

KUBA

BD's kid? Carla showed up with a girl looking for adventure. Didn't say she was BD's kid. She was just running away ... so we offered her mine. Only she didn't want it ... and well ...

ANGELA

So you buried her alive?

KUBA

... you know the rules

The Army bag comes down and hits Kuba in the head.

Neil goes for the gun, but Kuba holds onto it as he drops to his knee.

So Neil kicks him in the face.

Angela sticks down the canteen and pulls Neil up now that he's rested.

Neil goes up over the edge as ...

... Kuba gets up on his feet, shaking off the blows and tries to shoot but ...

... Neil's out of sight.

In a fit of rage, Kuba puts the rifle strap over his shoulder, steps over the Army bag, and charges the rock ledge, leaping up, grabbing the top, but can't pull himself up with the bad hand.

So drops back down.

The Army bag is now gone.

KUBA

trying to see them doesn't notice the Arm bag is gone.

NEIL AND ANGELA

with nowhere to run. They're trapped.

BACK TO SCENE

Kuba gets a good angle on them. Just as he lifts the rifle to shoot Neil ...

... BD steps out from the rocks with the Army shovel and catches Kuba square in the face as hard as he can.

Sending Kuba backward.

He points the rifle at BD, getting a shot off...

... BD, miraculously quick for an old guy, uses the shovel to block the shot. Pure luck.

It pings off the shovel as it deflects into the rocks.

Kuba teeters, drops the rifle, and falls onto his back.

BD's stunned, as are Angela and Neil.

BD steps over to Kuba.

Kuba is out cold.

He tosses the shovel away and picks up the rifle.
Angela and Neil look over the ledge.

ANGELA

Did you really just do that?

BD

Sometimes you just get lucky.

THEIR POV - KUBA

He is motionless.

BACK TO SCENE

as BD helps Neil and Angela down, giving them some of his water.

BD picks the rifle back up.

NEIL

What now?

BD

Wouldn't be a good idea to show up
at a local hospital unless you feel
like answering a million questions.

NEIL

Yeah, a carnival will erupt.

ANGELA

Could hold up a few days at the cabin.
If you know a doc who does house calls.

BD

Pikee has a local coming to look at
Wirasuap. He's good and discreet enough.

Neil moves over to Kuba and grabs him by his shirt to
pull his wallet out of his back pocket.

NEIL

(leaning in close)

Be careful where you stick out your neck. Someone might break it.

Suddenly, Kuba comes to life and grabs Neil's wound.

He bounds up and turns to run for it.

But finds BD with the rifle pointed at his face.

Kuba turns to run the other way and gets Neil's punch right in the chops.

Kuba staggers back against the ledge, still on his feet.

Neil walks up to him, draws back his fist, but Kuba drops to his knees, then plops on his belly, face in the sand.

Angela steps over with the Army bag and pulls out the duct tape and tapes Kuba's hands behind him.

BD

You good?

NEIL

Think so.

BD

Thank you.

Angela gets up and gives BD a hug.

She hands him the shovel and tape.

BD (CONT'D)

Just follow my steps to the road.

Neil and Angela smile sadly at BD. Knowing that BD is about to go through trauma digging up his daughter.

BD (CONT'D)

It's okay. Thank you. We'll be able to put her with the family.

Angela and Neil turn and leave with the Army bag.

BD turns back to Kuba and pours water on him. Kuba rolls over and sits up.

BD (CONT'D)
Where's my daughter, Kuba?

KUBA
About a mile. Her and others. You
promise to finish me off, bury me
out here where I belong?

BD (O.S.)
The same way you did the others.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEIL'S CAR - NEIL AND ANGELA - LATER

They put things belonging to Neil into Angel's car parked
nearby.

When finished, Neil sticks out his hand.

NEIL
You're part of me now. Forever.

ANGELA
We're part of each other.

They get in and Angela starts her car, swings it around,
and heads back to the paved road.

The car stops at the paved road as the tow truck pulls to
a stop.

Pikee gets out and walks up to Angela's door.

They exchange words that we don't hear.

Pikee points down the road, then looks to the desert.

Angela and Neil shake their heads.

Angela pulls onto the paved road heading in the direction
of BD's Station.

Pikee stands there alone, no one is making sense to him.

CUT TO:

INT. ANGELA'S CAR - ANGELA AND NEIL

As she drives. She looks over at Neil.

ANGELA
So, what was that back there?

NEIL
What?

ANGELA
You had a wet dream about me.

NEIL
(surprised)
Did not.

ANGELA
Yes you were, you were doing me.

NEIL
No, I wasn't.

ANGELA
(disappointed)
Oh

NEIL
(pause, watching her)
You were doing me.

ANGELA
(big coy smile)
I knew it.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT - BD AND KUBA - LATER

He cries on his knees over a body of a girl he's dug up.

He pushes the dirt slowly back into the hole to cover her, allowing the sand to sift through his fingers.

He's shaking with sobs.

KUBA

sits with his hands behind his back, his ankles taped.

BACK TO SCENE

BD looks up to the heavens, speaking to the Gods.

BD

Thank you.

Then looks back to where he has to go to get home.

He places the rifle to Kuba's head.

KUBA

Kill me.

BD tries to pull the trigger, but can't.

KUBA (CONT'D)

Kill me!

BD lowers the rifle.

BD

I'm sick, Kuba, but not sick like
you.

BD starts back with the rifle, using the shovel to walk.

KUBA

Don't let them take me, BD! Not
again! I killed your daughter.
I killed your daughter!

BD

Kuba's desert screams slowly fade as BD walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BD'S CABINS - FIRE PIT - THAT NIGHT

BD, Pikee, Wirasuap, Angela, and Neil finish a meal.

Neil has a white gauze around his head and his arm is in
a sling, with a set of stitches on his face, almost like
an Indian headband and war paint.

Pikee pulls out a longer peace pipe with more feathers
attached, lights it, and takes a healthy drag from it.

He hands it to Wirasuap, who also takes a drag from it,
then hands it to BD.

BD takes from it and hands it to Angela.

Angela does the same and hands it to Neil.

Pikee pulls a large white feather from his vest and hands it to Angela and motions to put it in Neil's gauze.

Angela sticks it in the gauze behind Neil's head.

Neil holds the pipe. Probably been a while.

WIRASUAP

Peace Pipe. Help you with your pain.
Legal in Nevada since two-thousand.

Neil smiles at Angela, as he puts it to his mouth.

She uses her Army Zippo lighter to give it a boost.

Neil sits there, holding in the smoke, looking at the others who are smiling at him.

NEIL

(exhales)

So, this makes me honorary Indian?

PIKEE

No, White Eagle. Just makes you
soar higher like us.

Neil looks at them a moment.

They burst out laughing.

Just then, a STATE TROOPER'S CAR pulls off the road and into the station, stopping in the light behind BD.

BD

What the hell do they want this time
of night?

A moment as they wait.

Neil puts the pipe down.

The door opens finally, and TERRI, BD's teen daughter, steps out, standing there with her guitar and backpack.

She is indeed, a beautiful young woman.

And alive!

Everyone but Neil is stunned.

BD gets up, walking faster and faster as ...

... Terri runs to him.

They meet in front of the station hugging each other with all their might.

The others at the campfire turn back to Neil smiling.

Pikee reaches out and takes Wirasuap's hand.

Smiling at each other lovingly. Relieved.

They see the surprised look on Neil's and Angela's faces.

PIKEE/WIRASUAP
(pointing at each other)
He's the Godmother.

Neil takes Angela's hand.

She smiles at him. He kisses here gently.

PIKEE
You tracked her?

NEIL
Just a few calls.

Angela gives him a deep kiss and a hug.

WIRASUAP
Now you are honorary Indian.

On all their smiling faces, we end Desert Screams.

FADE OUT.

THE END