

BAGGAGE

by

Catherine E. Rubey

820 Chicago Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-302-5206
Cathy@InGe-Inc.com

Rachel Paul
CEO Entertainment
1718 7th. Street
San Fernando, CA 91340
503-810-9354
Rachel@CEO-Entertainment.com

FADE IN:

EXT. AMBULANCE - DAY

An ambulance careens through a residential neighborhood, lights flashing.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

A hysterical blood-covered young woman, LISA GREGG, struggles against the gurney straps. She screams into a cell phone while a PARAMEDIC attempts to insert an IV tube into her free arm.

LISA

I don't know Mom! I woke up covered in blood!

(pause)

Where are you? Are the girls okay?

(pause)

No, he's following us.

She strains to sit-up, winces in pain and looks out the back windows. Her eyes bulge and she drops the phone. She grabs the paramedic's arm and screeches.

LISA

I don't see him. He's not going to be able to keep up. Slow down so he can catch up!

PARAMEDIC

Calm down. I need you to be still. We'll make sure your husband can find you.

(TO THE DRIVER)

Go hot!

The ambulance takes a corner too fast. The paramedic's thrown off-balance.

SIRENS wail and all the LIGHTS flash.

She SCREAMS, then collapses into the gurney.

The paramedic inserts the IV. She grits her teeth.

LISA

Our Father, who art in Heaven, please protect me and my babies in our time of

(screams in agony)

nnnnnnneeed!

INT. FAIRMONT SUITE, FAIRMONT HOTEL SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

A champagne gift basket and a card which reads HAPPY RETIREMENT PETE feature prominently on an elegant dining table.

An empty Tiffany's style ring gift box waits next to a cell phone. The cell phone RINGS playing Rhapsody in Blue.

INT. FAIRMONT SUITE BATHROOM - DAY

Steam fills the room.

PETE MURPHY, mid-fifties, naked, tanned and fit leads KELLY VICTOR, an auburn-haired beauty of thirty-five, toward the shower.

She laughs and resists. He twirls her into his arms and they kiss passionately.

KELLY

You don't have time.

His red-rimmed eyes twinkle. He tugs her into the shower with him. She laughs. The shower door locks into place.

INT. FAIRMONT SUITE, FAIRMONT HOTEL SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Pete hurries into a dark airline pilot's uniform.

Kelly outstretches her hand and admires a large ruby ring.

Pete packs his toiletries into his travel bag. An older looking razor shows through the visible clear pocket. The razor drops to the floor. He picks it up, blows the dust off.

PETE

One of these days.

He ZIPS his bag and throws it over his shoulder.

KELLY

It's too big for a promise ring sweetie. You must want something?

PETE

Absolutely.

Pete pauses before taking a step toward Kelly. He cocks his head and smiles.

PETE

I want you to be with me.

Pete grabs Kelly around the waist and pulls her to him. She slides her hand into his jacket.

The cell phone in his jacket pocket RINGS.

KELLY

You'd better get that.

Pete DROPS his bag.

He puts his other arm around Kelly underneath the bathrobe.

PETE

Later.

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - NIGHT

Pete pilots the plane to cruising altitude. He turns toward the much younger COPILOT.

PETE

The diving at the Cook Islands is amazing. You just walk out your door, swim into the water, put your fins on and go.

COPILOT

Did you buy the place from your trip last...

PETE

Month? No, but I'm looking near there. Wanna get all my ducks in a row. Then we'll head out as soon as possible.

COPILOT

Mind if I drop in on ya?

PETE

Absolutely not..There's really no place better.

Pete stretches his arms over his head.

COPILOT

How long will you stay?

Pete gazes out the window on his left side.

A KNOCK at the cockpit door snaps Pete out of his momentary mental vacation and reveals Kelly. She hands Pete a cup of coffee and they smile.

PETE

Forever.

TURBULENCE ROCKS THE AIRPLANE. Kelly grips the cockpit doorway. Pete doesn't avert his gaze from Kelly.

The copilot examines the clipboard in his lap. He FLIPS two switches to his right.

PETE

Do you have any sugar?

The airplane stabilizes. She SNAPS and shakes her ring finger.

KELLY

No, but I can bring you some later? On a beach perhaps, near a straw hut...

PETE

You bet.

Million dollar smile. Kelly exits the cockpit. The copilot's eyes follow her until the door shuts.

COPILOT

She's nice, huh?

PETE

One of the better ones.

The copilot smiles and returns to the clipboard.

EXT. O'HARE AIRPORT RUNWAY - NIGHT

The airplane Pete pilots turns toward the gate area of the airport. There are several fire department vehicles and airport personnel assembled along the route to the gate.

Several SIRENS blow and LIGHTS flash.

The assembled airport workers wave and cheer. Pete's airplane slowly rolls under the water archway salute.

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT - NIGHT

The copilot reaches out and shakes Pete's hand.

COPILOT

Can't believe you're doin' it.
God knows you deserve it, but
it's gotta be hard to give it up.

Pete smiles and watches the water splash against the cockpit window.

PETE

It's time.

EXT. PETE'S CAR - DAY

Pete exhales as he pulls the car door shut. He looks in the rear-view mirror. He wipes lipstick from his cheek then checks his pants zipper.

PETE

Not again.

He ZIPS his zipper. The cell phone in his jacket pocket BEEPS a voice mail alert.

PETE

All right, all right.

Pete pats around his coat for his reading glasses, then places them on his nose.

Pete OPENS the cell phone and calls to retrieve his messages. The southern drawl focuses his attention.

VOICE MAIL (V.O.)

It's Jack. Lisa's gone into labor early. One of the baby's heart rates has dropped and they're moving Lisa to the hospital.

He looks at the cell phone, confused.

PETE

One of the babies?

Pete throws the phone into the empty passenger seat.

EXT. PETE'S CAR - DAY

He burns rubber out of the airport parking lot.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY - DAY

JACK GREGG, sixty years old, dressed in jeans, cowboy boots and a plain button down shirt, closes his cell phone. He looks and sounds like the typical southern gentleman, with an easy tone and a relaxed pace.

Jack sits next to ANDREW GREGG, tall, dark-haired and equally content who wears scrubs. Jack throws his arm around him and gives him a quick squeeze.

JACK

Lisa and the babies are gonna be fine. I'm proud of you, Son.

EXT. PETE'S CAR - DAY

Signs for Chicago with decreasing mileage fly by.

The speedometer needle points to 90 MPH.

The radar detector FLASHES red lights and BEEPS loudly. He slows down, passes the radar trap then speeds up.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY - DAY

SARAH MURPHY, her short and sassy hair on fire, runs through the waiting room doors. She looks considerably younger than her 55 years, thanks to her weekly tennis games.

She sports hospital scrubs and her badge which reads SARAH MURPHY M.D. Jack jumps up to meet her and he catches her before she reaches the surgical doors.

Sarah's eyes dart about the room and she spins around.

SARAH

I can't believe it! This is crazy!
Is she okay? Where's her midwife,
isn't she supposed to be here?
Aren't you supposed to be with her?

Andrew holds Sarah's shoulders. She focuses on his face and catches her breath.

ANDREW

They threw me out. We can't do anything. Lisa's going to be okay but they don't know --

A WOMAN DOCTOR wearing scrubs appears and nods hello to Sarah.

WOMAN DOCTOR

They're all stabilized, for the moment. I'm very concerned about respiration in Baby A. Baby B is having difficulty swallowing. We've put her on a feeding tube. So, we'll take it a day at a time, okay? This is all pretty normal for twins at this birth weight.

Jack puts his arm around Sarah. She leans her head against his shoulder.

They study Andrew and the Doctor.

ANDREW

Where are they?

WOMAN DOCTOR

They're being transferred to the NICU. You'll need to help feed and change them while they're in there. But no other visitors are permitted. Sarah, you can get back there if you insist but it's really better if you let them work. Andrew, you can go on back and see Lisa.

Andrew walks toward the exit.

EXT. SECLUDED GAS STATION - DAY

POV: SECURITY CAMERA INSIDE A GAS STATION - DAY

Pete's car SKIDS to a stop.

He jumps out and SWIPES his credit card.

He swipes several times before being approved.

He fights with the hose and must reposition the nozzle into his tank several times.

The nozzle CLICKS off.

Pete BANGS the nozzle into the pump.

He SLAMS his door, and SPEEDS away.

His receipt slides from the pump and FLAPS in the breeze.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY - DAY

Pete steps inside the doorway and stops. He reaches inside his pants pocket and retrieves a bottle of Visine eye drops.

He squeezes a drop into each eye. He peers through the window toward the family.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY - DAY

Sarah's head rests on Jack's shoulder. Jack works a crossword puzzle and chews on a toothpick.

Jack notices Pete approaching out of the corner of his eye. He puts his arm around Sarah and pulls her close.

He kisses her forehead. Sarah opens her eyes and follows Jack's gaze.

She sits up straight and separates herself from Jack.

JACK (TO HIMSELF)

Show time.

Andrew returns from visiting his wife, Lisa. He intercepts Pete and brings him up to speed.

Sarah reviews the condition of her hair and make-up in a mirror from her purse.

Pete glances at Sarah.

She stuffs the mirror into her pocketbook.

Jack rolls his eyes.

Pete walks toward Jack and Sarah. They both stand and greet him.

PETE

I don't understand? How could she have twins?

Pete gives Sarah an awkward and unexpected kiss on the cheek. He reaches out and shakes Jack's hand.

Sarah's eyes look everywhere but into Pete's.

SARAH

I helped her with all the prenatal monitoring. We always had a good heart beat and normal levels, until today. She did get big but was still within the normal weight range.

PETE

Didn't you hear two heart beats?

JACK

Well, three. But since they were on top of each other, there was Lisa's heart beat and only one of the baby's.

PETE

How's is Lisa?

Andrew steps over.

ANDREW

Once we transferred her from the birthing center, she got in the zone. Contractions were coming, down to every two minutes, she was amazing. The monitors, around her belly, but their rates kept dropping. We knew by then there were two. They had to do the emergency C, and well, here we are.

Everyone sits.

SARAH

Where'd we catch you this week?
London, Paris, Sydney?

PETE

Nope.

SARAH

I'm sure you were somewhere exotic.

PETE

Today was my last day. Turned in my wings

JACK

(shocked)
What's this? Slowing down? Glad to hear it.

PETE

Thanks.

JACK

What's next? Any of the little guys try to tempt you?

PETE

Nah. Not interested.

Sarah's sarcastic tone has a hint of playfulness.

SARAH

You're sure full of surprises.

PETE

Why? Aren't I supposed to be here?

SARAH

Of course it's nice you ARE here.
We just didn't exactly expect you
to make it. Past experience...well.

Ouch, that hurt. He resists taking the bait.

PETE

Come on, I'm here now.

SARAH

Rather than laying on a beach
next to a twenty-five year old.

Pete smiles and looks away from her.

PETE

She's thirty-five.

SARAH

That's a step in the right direction.

JACK

Can we focus, please.

Sarah bites her lip, but she can't quite contain herself.

SARAH

No, you're right. It's good that
you're here. When are you leaving?

PETE

I just got here!

Two nurses burst through the surgical doors each pushing a
clear NICU bassinet with a tiny, naked, newborn baby inside.
There are many wires sticking out of each baby.

The heart monitor BEEPS repeatedly.

They stop abruptly so the family can look at them. Pete
stares at the babies in amazement.

PETE

When can I see my daughter?

NURSE #1

She's being taken to postpartum.
She can see you in an hour.

PETE

Thank you.

The nurses walk down the corridor and out of view.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY - DAY

Jack and Pete sit alongside each other reading magazines. Sarah approaches holding two Styrofoam cups.

She hands one of them to Jack who looks up and smiles.

JACK

Thanks kiddo.

Sarah sits next to Jack, then looks at the other cup in her hand.

PETE

No thanks, I'm trying to quit.

INT. HOSPITAL COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Jack puts some tobacco into his mouth and wipes his hands on his jeans.

Pete contemplates his next move while he watches the creamer disappear into his coffee.

JACK

We sure could use some extra hands getting everything for the babies put together. You get a place to stay yet?

PETE

No, I came straight here.

JACK

You wanna bunk at my place?

PETE

Do I look like I need a chaperone?

JACK

I'm one of your few friends here, Pete. You got any better offers?

Pete smiles and sits back.

PETE

Once a good neighbor, always a good neighbor.

(a beat)

I thought you would have moved by now.

JACK

I haven't spent much time in the basement since Karen passed away, but I think the bed's still there.

Jack studies the cup before him. He continues quietly.

JACK

I don't know. Didn't feel right just packin' everything up. The kids are still in and out so much. Andrew and Lisa bunk there. When they don't want to drive all the way home. It's not like it sits empty or anything.

Pete takes a drink and leans toward Jack.

PETE

I hadn't planned on staying more than a day or two. Whenever I stay longer, things tend to get... complicated.

JACK

Once the babies stabilize...

PETE

Don't you mean "if"?

JACK

When the babies stabilize, she'll be home in a few days. Then you can be on your way.

PETE

I don't know, the babies look pretty small to me. Why do you all need my help?

Jack smirks.

JACK

We need to buy twice as much baby stuff and get it all put together before they come home.

PETE

What's Andrew doing?

JACK

Follow along, Grandpa. Andrew has to help with Lisa.

PETE
Why? Oh, right.

JACK
Sarah has to arrange to miss work
and I have a couple charters this
week. Speaking of which...

PETE
I'll get a hotel room. You want
to grab a bite to eat later?

JACK
What day is it? We try to do a
family dinner once a week.

Pete tilts his head as Jack stands.

JACK
Tonight's her place.

PETE
So, should I stop and get some wine?

Jack pushes his chair under the table, then pats Pete on the
shoulder.

JACK
It's not that kinda dinner.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY - DAY

Pete and Jack approach the waiting area. Pete's cell phone
RINGS. Pete hangs back and searches for his phone and
fumbles with it before he answers.

The attractive nurse who walks past does not go unnoticed.

KELLY (O.S.)
Hey, handsome. Are you bored yet?

PETE
Hi there. No, not exactly.
Where are you?

KELLY (O.S.)
I switched with Linda and took a
two day lay-over in Cabo. Get on
stand-by and come down. We can
celebrate.

Pete looks at his watch.

PETE

(groan)

I'd love to. I'd really love to.
I'm in Chicago with the kids. I
kinda need to stay put.

KELLY (O.S.)

Okay. Good luck. Call me if you
need to talk.

PETE

I may take you up on that.
Thanks, babe.

Pete closes the phone.

PETE

Damn.

INT. LISA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Pete and Sarah stand together while congratulating LISA
GREGG, who is the young woman from the ambulance.

Lisa is groggy and annoyed. She appears young for her age
with her long brown hair in a pony tail.

SARAH

How are you feeling? Do you want
to throw up?

Lisa scoots herself up in her bed to get comfortable.

LISA

No, I'm alright. When can I eat?

Lisa looks up and discovers her Dad who stands patiently.

LISA

Hey, I can't believe you came.

Pete leans in and gives her a cursory hug and kiss. He's
trying.

PETE

I broke about twenty traffic laws
getting here. You did a great job.

LISA

Thanks. Did you see them?

PETE

They look perfect, just like you did.

Lisa is unimpressed by his attempt at paternal attention,

LISA

The doctor just left. She said
the neonatologist took baby B off
the feeding tube already.

Lisa looks down at the sheet. She SNIFFS.

LISA

You should see Andrew with them.
He's so cute. He holds them like
little footballs.

Sarah takes Pete's arm and leads him toward the door.

SARAH

I'll find your nurse and tell
them you're hungry. It's a good
sign, honey. Get some rest and
I'll be back to check on you.

Lisa's voice quivers.

LISA

Mom?

SARAH

Yes?

LISA

My heart feels so full. I can't
even describe it. God trusted me
with two of them. Please tell me
they're gonna be okay.

Sarah hugs her and whispers in Lisa's ear. A tear falls
from Sarah's cheek.

SARAH

They'll both be fine. I love you.
Get some rest.

Lisa lays back and closes her eyes. Pete waves goodbye.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Pete closes Lisa's door.

Sarah grabs Pete's hand and looks at the ceiling.

She closes her eyes.

His eyes dart around the hallway.

PETE

What's --

SARAH

This is the moment that contains
all moments.

Sarah turns and gives him a hug.

They fumble around trying to find a place to put their arms.

Pete smells her hair. Sarah relaxes momentarily until

Sarah's eyes open and she steps back. She smooths the
front of her shirt.

PETE

She's a good kid. You just make
that up?

SARAH

C.S. Lewis. She just brought two
lives into the world. She's not
a kid anymore.

Pete pats his shirt and pants pockets for his keys.

PETE

I'm going to head back to Jack's.
Can I give you a lift home?

SARAH

No, thanks. I've got to check in
on the third floor so they know
about the babies. See you tomorrow.

Sarah disappears around the corner and Pete mocks Sarah's
last sentence.

PETE

See you tomorrow.

EXT.PETE DRIVES HOME MONTAGE - DAY

Pete drives from the hospital through what used to be his
home town. He looks up and around while he drives.

Pete watches as an older man and a little girl walk down the
sidewalk.

The little girl wears a pink backpack. She holds what
appears to be her grandfather's hand.

A grin creeps across Pete's face.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

The DESK CLERK acts like he might recognize him. Pete has trouble locating his credit card.

DESK CLERK
So you'll be staying?

PETE
Two nights.

DESK CLERK
There's a complimentary
continental breakfast from seven
to nine.

PETE
Two nights... Thanks.

Pete picks up his bag.

PETE
Maybe three..four.

Pete smiles and walks away.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Pete and Jack step up the three stairs into the kitchen.

PETE
Are you sure this is okay? Sarah
didn't invite me. I don't wanna
be a freeloader...

JACK
I invited you. Don't worry,
there'll be plenty.

PETE
She can probably feed the entire
neighborhood. That's not what
I'm worried about.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Pete knocks over some tennis ball cans lined along the stairs. He sets them upright and creeps into the kitchen.

Sarah and GRAHAM scurry about and prepare dinner. Pete scratches his head.

GRAHAM ELLIOT is in his mid-thirties, slim, impeccably dressed and handsome.

GRAHAM

Well, wonders never cease.

PETE

Oh, hi. Do you need any help?

Another young man, KURT, peeks from the dining room.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack pulls Pete toward the dining room.

JACK

You can help by stayin' out of
the way.

Pete backs into the dining room where KURT removes items from the table and arranges placemats, candles, and silverware.

Pete watches, frozen.

KURT MURPHY is Pete and Sarah's thirty-three year old son. With the exception of Kurt's choices in partners, he is a younger version of Pete.

Kurt and Pete nod then shake hands.

KURT

Dad.

PETE

Hi, son.

Graham rushes in, grabs Kurt and dips him suggestively.

Then he plants a juicy kiss on Kurt's lips.

Pete's eyes bulge at the display. He shakes his head.

PETE

Gimme a break, guys.

Graham pulls Kurt upright.

Graham turns toward Pete, smiles and makes an obscene tongue gesture.

PETE

Please, I'm about to have a meal
here.

Kurt spins around.

He YANKS Pete's elbow and STEERS Pete near the living room.

KURT

Listen to me. Graham has spent more time with us than you ever did. If you can't treat him like a member of this family, then you need to go. Right now.

PETE

Hey, if that's the way you choose to live your life...

Pete tries to pull away. Kurt holds onto his elbow and Pete yanks it back.

KURT

Yes it is and if you screw this up for me...

PETE

Relax. I'm obviously outnumbered.

Pete walks away from Kurt who looks disappointed he didn't get the fight he was looking for.

Graham winks at Pete.

SARAH

Where's Jack?

PETE

He's helping in the kitchen. Can I do anything?

SARAH

I, um, no. I just need to set an extra place. You're staying for dinner then?

PETE

Oh, no. I can grab something later, you all look...

A loud CRASH as a bowl drops from the cabinet to the floor.

GRAHAM (FROM THE KITCHEN)

Sorry.

Sarah's tone softens and she smiles at his polite retreat.

SARAH

No, no. Please, stay. It's no problem. You manage any sleep?

PETE

I slept so well, I forgot where I was.

SARAH

Occupational hazard.

Every bone in Pete's body is screaming for him to leave. Then

GRAHAM

Dinner's ready!

Pete makes his way toward a seat.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sarah DROPS a serving spoon into the sink.

JACK

What?

SARAH

You could have asked.

Jack steps close to Sarah and brushes her hair above her brow.

JACK

If there's gonna be a scene,
better here than at the hospital,
right?

Sarah shrugs and walks toward the dining room.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack walks behind Sarah in the door way.

Pete watches.

Jack whispers in her ear. Sarah smiles. Jack puts his hands on her hips as he slides behind her.

Pete looks down and scoots his chair up to the dinner table.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is seated around the dinner table. There are a few conversations going on simultaneously.

Pete listens and wants to contribute but he is overlooked.

Pete searches for the salt.

PETE

Where's the...I'll find it.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

He walks to the kitchen and reaches on top of the refrigerator to find the shakers. Several pictures hang by magnets on the side of the refrigerator.

He looks closely at an old PICTURE of Pete, Sarah, Jack and Karen dressed for an evening out. He removes the picture for a closer look.

Pete turns to watch Jack and Sarah laugh together with Kurt at the table.

Pete takes a deep breath and replaces the picture.

Nobody notices that he has left the table. After a moment of watching, Pete returns to his chair.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Graham and Sarah discuss a recipe for chili and Pete jumps in.

PETE

Do you add beer?

Graham has no idea what Pete is talking about.

GRAHAM

I don't think...no, I don't, do you?

PETE

That's what makes it taste so good the next day.

GRAHAM

A whole beer? Like a can of beer?

PETE

Depends on how much you're making.

SARAH

Mmm, I'd forgotten about your chili.

GRAHAM

You were good on the grill too, I suppose.

Pete looks at Graham and then at Sarah.

PETE

I don't know, what do you think?

SARAH

I think you did alright. You should make your chili while you're here, if you can.

GRAHAM

Come on, Grandpa, spend some quality time with the fam.

Graham pats Pete's back, then turns to speak to Kurt who is involved in another conversation.

Jack watches Pete engage Sarah.

PETE

I haven't had a home-cooked meal in...

SARAH

You're welcome. I'm glad for Lisa's sake you could make it on such short notice.

PETE

Me too. You were kind of hard on me today. Is there more where that came from?

SARAH

I don't know, maybe?

PETE

Look, I'm not here to ruffle anyone's feathers. Jack has asked me to help set things up, and I wanna see the babies, and the kids. Is it, if that's alright?

SARAH

Of course.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

After a few moments of silence, Sarah stands and takes Pete's plates and silverware and stacks them on top of hers.

SARAH

Probably ought to get started, or we'll be here all night.

Pete stands and walks around to Sarah's side of the table.

He scrapes the food from each plate onto one big platter.

He hands the cleared plate to Sarah to stack.

Sarah watches their hands as they work together in perfect harmony. She smiles but does not look at him.

Pete SPILLS a glass of water.

They both SCRAMBLE to grab napkins.

Their hands and arms touch.

PETE

That was a close one.

Pete takes all the plates in his arms. Sarah collects the silverware into a nearby glass.

Jack watches them.

PETE

Like Family Camp, remember?

Pete WHISTLES "The Lord is Good to Me."

SARAH

Now all we need to do is sing and bang on the tables.

Jack's eyes follow them into the kitchen.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

They both arrive at the sink at suspiciously the same time. Pete deposits his dishes into the sink then moves over to make room for Sarah to do the same.

Finished, Sarah steps back on top of Pete's toes.

SARAH

Sorry. Graceful as ever.

Pete reaches with his free hand to steady her.

Their eyes lock briefly.

Sarah pulls away quickly from the unexpected touch.

PETE

Got it?

SARAH

Yep.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Pete loads the dishes into the dishwasher after Sarah rinses each one in the sink.

Kurt sees this.

He coughs discretely.

Jack looks up. He sees them too.

Jack shakes his head in disapproval.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Graham walks through the kitchen holding an empty garbage bag box and continues toward the basement.

GRAHAM

I've never seen someone so eager
to do the dishes.

Pete rolls his eyes.

He closes the dishwasher, pulls the lever and pushes the button to start it. Pete stretches his back to one side.

He steals a quick look at the picture on the refrigerator.

Jack walks past everyone in the kitchen.

He makes a point to kiss Sarah goodbye. Pete leans over to get out of the way.

JACK

Thanks, kiddo. See ya tomorrow.

SARAH

Thanks yourself, you guys did
most of the work. Speaking of
work, can you two help me tomorrow?

Jack looks at Pete, then to Sarah and they both nod and agree. Pete follows Jack towards the door.

PETE

See ya tomorrow.

He winks at Sarah and she gives a little wave.

EXT. SARAH'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

The light from Sarah's kitchen barely illuminates the doorway. Pete and Jack walk across the driveway to Jack's house.

Sarah watches from a kitchen window.

A neighbor's dog BARKS.

Pete stops halfway and Jack peers back.

PETE

Are you that friendly with all
your neighbors?

Jack's relaxed manner disappears.

He whips around and points his finger in Pete's face.

Pete doesn't flinch.

JACK

You have no right.

PETE

I have every right. You're my
friend and she's my wife.

JACK

First of all, you forfeited that
right, friend, when you chose to
stay away. Secondly, she's your
ex-wife of like what, twenty
years now? 'Bout time you
stopped callin' her your wife.
And C, don't think that showin'
up for weddings and funerals
fulfills your obligations around
here.

PETE

And you're above reproach?

Jack turns and shrugs, pleased with his display of dominance.

JACK

What'd you expect? When Karen
died, Sarah and I..we both lost
someone we loved. Again.

PETE

I loved Karen too.

JACK

I know you did.

Jack walks into his house.

JACK

See you in the morning.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Kurt and Graham finish clearing the dining room table.

GRAHAM

He's such an easy target, it's laughable.

KURT

You're nearing the over-the-top threshold, sweetheart. Could you possibly BE any more flaming?

GRAHAM

Oh, come on. Where's your sense of adventure? He'll be gone in a day or two so let's pin-the-tail on the homophobe while we can.

Kurt smirks at the possibilities.

Sarah joins them.

SARAH

Is this all really necessary?

KURT

Please don't defend him again, Mom.

Her tone raises both their eyebrows.

SARAH

Stop right there. He's a man, Kurt, just like you.

KURT

You do this every time...your little stroll down memory lane together which inevitably leads to...

Graham gestures suggestively toward the bedroom.

KURT

(continuing)
Exactly.

SARAH

I mean it! Until you're willing to hold yourself to the same standard, I suggest you lower your lofty expectations to something more attainable...by a human being. If we want to
 (sarcastic)
 stroll down memory lane, whoopee for us. We were married for twenty years. That was the one thing that was always good between us. You got a problem with me having a good time?

The comment isn't lost on Graham and he chuckles and leads Kurt toward the kitchen.

GRAHAM

Good for you, sister...just use protection.

Sarah smiles and throws a napkin at him.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Pete sits next to his overnight bag on the bed. The bag appears full. He stares at his shoes.

PETE

Dammit!

Pete collapses back on the bed and stares at the ceiling.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - DAY

A cardinal lands on the window sill above the sink. It looks into the kitchen. Then flies away.

Pete drinks from a cup which reads LOCA MOCHA and leans against the kitchen counter.

Graham squeezes in from the side door. A fresh morning breeze follows him.

GRAHAM

Good morning. I've got some of this for you and some tea for Lisa. I'd rethink the flannel if I were you.

Graham hands Pete a small brown paper bag. Pete peers in the bag then at Graham.

PETE

Thanks.

(SNIFF)

Smells good.

GRAHAM

A gesture of good will to start
the day off on the right foot.
Oh, my, please tell me you have
other shoes with you.

Pete looks down then out the side door.

PETE

What's wrong with these?

GRAHAM

Let me put it this way, Grandpa.
In the 70's those were already
ten years out of date.

PETE

Sarah at church?

GRAHAM

Of course. Praying for us non-
repentant sinners.

Pete stuffs part of a muffin into his mouth and looks
confused. Graham wipes crumbs from Pete's muffin on the
counter.

GRAHAM

Come on, Paul Bunyun, you're
riding with me.

Pete swallows.

PETE

The ox and I can drive ourselves.

GRAHAM

We aren't going to march over
there one at a time. Besides, I
want to talk to you.

PETE

I thought I'd ride over with Jack?

GRAHAM

No, he's picking up Sarah.

Pete and Graham exchange glances.

PETE

I'll just go get my axe.

EXT. SARAH'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Pete and Graham walk toward Graham's piece of crap car. Pete trips and spills his hot coffee on his hand.

PETE

I'm glad we're on our way to a hospital so I can have my third degree burns treated.

GRAHAM

Don't be such a drama king, I want to talk you.

PETE

Haven't we covered this?

GRAHAM

No, no. I'm having a party.

A beat.

GRAHAM

It's my birthday this week and Kurt and I are throwing a party.

Another beat.

PETE

Are you...I don't know, I don't think..do you think it's a good idea? I don't want to intrude on your plans. Besides, Kurt...

GRAHAM

I know you two haven't had much to say over the last two, years. Maybe if you two shared in something other than death, misery and conflict you could patch things up.

PETE

I appreciate what you're trying to do. I just don't know how comfortable I am...

GRAHAM

It's just family and friends at this Cuban place downtown.

PETE

Oh. Is Sarah coming?

Delighted. Graham unlocks the car door. It SQUEEKS as Graham pries it open.

GRAHAM

She could be. And it's more than a restaurant. It has everything: a huge bar stocked with cute bartenders, big comfy couches perfect for stealing a kiss, and the band starts during dinner and doesn't stop until 2.

PETE

Would that be considered a date?

GRAHAM

Depends. How long were you married?

PETE

Well, let's see. Lisa was...no Kurt was twelve and Lisa was ten when I was relieved from duty.

GRAHAM

Has it been that long?

PETE

'Fraid so.

Graham rolls his eyes, bored with this line of questioning.

GRAHAM

Sounds like it's about time for another re-negotiation. Look, it's not binding, it's just a party.

PETE

We'll see.

Pete and Graham enter and sit down. The car slowly roars to life.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Jack and Kurt sit in the waiting room and look up as Graham and Pete arrive.

Jack chews on a toothpick.

The sunlight streams in between the blinds that adorn the windows.

Illuminated dust particles sprinkle throughout the waiting area.

JACK

They've asked us to go in one at a time.

PETE

Why?

JACK

Gotta roommate today. Andrew and Sarah should be out in a few minutes.

Graham takes a seat.

Pete tosses his coffee in a waste basket and stands by Kurt who peers up, his lips pursed.

PETE

Want to help me pick out something for the babies?

Kurt returns to his magazine.

KURT

I already got them a present, thanks.

PETE

I'm new at this. How about helping me pick something out?

Graham gives Kurt a nudge.

Kurt stands and follows Pete down the corridor.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

They walk together for a few moments.

KURT

Where are you off to next?

Pete has his hands in his front pockets and he shrugs and gives a puzzled look.

PETE

I just got here.

KURT

Since when does that make a difference?

Pete chuckles.

PETE

This must be what they mean by
quality time.

KURT

You don't have the slightest idea
what quality time is Dad so cut
the crap.

They stop in the middle of the corridor.

Several hospital staff members pass by but are undeterred
from their own conversations.

PETE

Can we just get through the next
few hours without having our
family history surround every
single conversation? This isn't
about you and me.

KURT

Did it occur to you that your
sudden appearance here might take
the focus off of Lisa and the babies?

PETE

I'm not here to get attention, Kurt.

KURT

Oh, okay, Dad.

Pete steps toward Kurt.

PETE

I just wanted to meet my
grandchildren. On their birthday.
If that's alright with you.

KURT

That's fine with me.

INT. LISA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Pete sits in a chair next to Lisa's bed.

Lisa feeds one of the babies. The baby is attached to a
heart monitor.

They are polite but distant.

PETE

How often do you have to feed them?

LISA

Right now every two hours, but hopefully that won't last long. Thanks for the little puppets for the girls. Their first official toys.

PETE

Your brother helped me pick them out.

LISA

Sounds promising.

PETE

I'm not sure what it was. That Graham's something else. I can't believe your brother's still with him.

LISA

You should give him a chance. He's made Kurt very happy. Maybe if you took the time to get to know him..

PETE

I think I've got him figured out, thanks.

Lisa situates her baby on her shoulder and pats her back.

The other baby whimpers.

After a few moments,

LISA

Could you hold her while I feed the other baby?

PETE

I don't know, I haven't washed my...

LISA

It's okay, you haven't been digging in any trash cans or anything have you?

Lisa leans toward Pete.

He stands and gingerly takes the baby from her.

Lisa catches herself smiling while she watches Pete grin from ear to ear.

He feeds the baby the remainder of the bottle.

PETE

Wow.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Pete closes Lisa's door behind him. Sarah appears from around the corner and crashes into Pete.

Sarah's purse and a chart explode onto the floor.

PETE

Is it just me or do you trip over every man in your life?

SARAH

No, just you I'm afraid.

They both stoop down and Pete helps her collect her things.

SARAH

Are you ready for our big shopping trip?

PETE

We're going shopping?

EXT. BABY'S ROOM - DAY

Pete, Sarah, and Jack stand in the doorway, paralyzed. They look at each other in disbelief.

Sarah yanks a cart from the line of them assembled outside the doorway. Jack and Pete fight for it. Jack is victorious. Pete climbs on the front. Sarah pulls a piece of paper from her purse.

SARAH

Here's the flight plan: we need supplies for another baby. We don't need toys, or breast pumps...

PETE

Who said anything about...

SARAH

We need diapers, size N; wipes; sleepers with the little feet in them, socks, and onesies.

PETE

What's a onesie?

JACK
It's one of those undershirts
with the snaps.

Jack motions toward his groin.

PETE
Sorry?

JACK
You know, with the wadaya call it,
snappy crotches.

A HA!

PETE
Babies wear those?

JACK
You have no idea.

Sarah softens.

SARAH
Oh, that reminds me.

JACK
Uh, oh.

SARAH
We need some A&D ointment.

PETE
What's that...

Jack holds up his hand.

JACK
Please.

SARAH
All right, gentlemen. You have
your instructions.

A newborn baby CRIES in the distance.

They stop in the airlock as Sarah continues ahead into the store. The previous night's discussion is but a distant memory.

PETE
Babies didn't used to need all
this stuff. This place is huge.

JACK

You just have to find your, what is it? Your zen place, while you're here. Think of it as a HOME DEPOT for pregnant ladies.

PETE

Give me a minute.

Pete stops and pretends to meditate. He shakes his head.

PETE

Still terrified. Have you been here before?

JACK

Yep, once.

Jack stands on his tip toes and reviews the clothing inventory.

JACK

Had nightmares ever since. Great. With the winter clothes in here, it looks even more enormous.

EXT. ANDREW AND LISA'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah instructs Pete and Jack where to unload their baby store purchases in the small, brick bungalow style home.

PETE

Don't any of you lock your doors?

After ten trips, Jack gives Sarah dirty looks and mumbles as he walks past her.

Pete observes this and is cheerful and eager to please, much to Jack's dismay.

Pete stops and reviews the yard where several layers of leaves obscure the driveway and grass.

SARAH

Andrew's been busy helping inside the house.

PETE

Is the rake in the garage?

She crosses her arms and smiles while Pete stretches his back.

SARAH

I don't know, you don't wanna hurt yourself there, Grandpa.

PETE

I'm here. I don't mind.

SARAH

Turn around for a sec.

Pete obliges and faces the house.

She places her hands on his shoulders and not so softly feels downward on his neck and spine.

She pauses and feels his St. Christopher necklace has turned around.

She smirks and reaches under the T-shirt collar and corrects this. Pete gets the shivers.

SARAH

He's not a saint anymore. You know that, right?

PETE

Happens to the best of us.

She continues tracing either side of his spine with her thumbs until she finds the spot.

Pete places one hand on the bricks to steady himself.

SARAH

You should have had this fixed a long time ago.

PETE

Yep, right there.

Sarah leans into his back with her elbow for deep tissue penetration.

He looks down and closes his eyes.

Her other hand is under his arm around his ribs steadying him while she leans.

Her eyebrows go up as she feels his muscles.

SARAH

Okay, stand up straight.

PETE

Yes, doctor.

She feels for the same spot on the other side using her thumb and forefinger, then leans in with her elbow.

SARAH

I'm sure the kids'll appreciate
the help.

Jack emerges from his last trip.

They both look at him.

Sarah steps back, smooths her blouse and walks toward her
mini van.

SARAH

I'm off to the grocery. You two
need anything?

Jack shoots Sarah a nasty look.

JACK

No, I'm all set.

Sarah enters her mini van, rolls down her window and leans out.

SARAH

Have fun tonight.

INT. LISA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jack and Andrew each hold a baby while Lisa towel-dries her
hair.

Andrew holds his baby like a football, tucked into his arm.

Kurt leans on the door jam and watches.

LISA

Why did you invite him to stay?

JACK

Come on guys, it's just for a few
days. He wants to see you and
the babies.

KURT

And Mom.

Jack looks up from his baby.

JACK

Don't worry about her.

ANDREW

You either, Dad.

Lisa stands up and shoots Andrew a look.

ANDREW

What? It's true.

JACK

Your Mom and I have an understanding and right now...

KURT

It's understood that you will step aside. While Petey dips his toe into the pond that is his family.

ANDREW

He can't win. He's a creep if he stays away, and he's a pain if he shows up. Hard to blame him really. You two moan and groan about "where's Dad, doesn't he care." Well here he is and what do you do? You treat him like he has no business being here.

Andrew steps toward Lisa and gives her a kiss on the forehead.

JACK

He's really making an effort this time. In his own way. If you keep snapping at him do you really expect him to stay?

LISA

He hasn't been here since Karen's funeral.

KURT

I'm not going to tip-toe around him.

ANDREW

No, you're gonna stomp all over him. Like always.

KURT

Don't you have enough to worry about?

JACK

All right, look. I'm not saying' you have to throw him a parade for doin' what's normal, but you could throw the ole' boy a bone once in a while. He's got some time now, give him a chance.

Kurt and Lisa exchange glances as she shuffles to the bed, slowly.

KURT (SINGING)
 Dysfunction junction, what's your
 function?

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Sarah talks on a pay telephone. She fidgets with the cord and looks around.

She opens the coin return and retrieves a quarter. What could it possibly mean?

SARAH
 I don't know, Meg. Something's
 different. Between us. He
 just...I don't even think he's
 trying. There's just something.

MEG (O.S.)
 What do you want to do?

SARAH
 I can handle it, it's just
 unnerving. Can we move up my
 appointment?

MEG (O.S.)
 Just stop in my office before
 your bible study and we can chat
 for a bit.

Sarah gives a sigh of relief as she steps toward her mini van.

INT. LISA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Sarah sits in a chair by Lisa's bed.

The babies sleep along the perimeter of the room.

Sarah finishes dictating a report into the telephone.

LISA
 I still can't believe I was
 carrying around twelve pounds of
 baby. They look just like the
 other babies here, not like premies.

SARAH
 Will they let you, well, all of
 you go home tonight or tomorrow?

LISA
 Oh, I'm going home as soon as
 possible.

Lisa spreads several baby outfits in front of her and examines them. She holds two coordinating outfits up for Sarah's approval.

Sarah nods.

LISA

How long do you think Dad will stay?

Sarah grabs a magazine.

SARAH

He retired yesterday so it's hard to say. Be patient though. You should have seen them shopping.

Lisa stares and doesn't reply until Sarah looks up from the magazine.

LISA

I've always been patient with him, Mom. I don't need reminding.

SARAH

He's trying very hard this time. Don't start.

Lisa starts to cry.

LISA

I'm sorry, this is all so crazy. I'm so happy one minute and then overwhelmed the next. How am I going to do this?

SARAH

You'll find a way to do it. I'll help you as much as I can.

And if that isn't enough to cry about,

LISA

I look like crap, Mom. Andrew probably thinks I'll never look normal again.

SARAH

Lisa...

LISA

At least before I was fat for a reason. Now, I'm just fat. Look at me. If my ankles got any bigger, they'd look like necks.

SARAH

Give yourself a chance to recover.
This is the most important thing
you have ever done and probably
will ever do.

LISA

I don't want him to think I'll
never look normal again.

SARAH

Andrew's madly in love with all
of you. Just because you married
the kid next door doesn't mean
you two aren't meant to be together.

LISA

You too, right Mom?

Sarah delivers a warning look.

Lisa sits back.

LISA

It's so obvious. You've dated
every other single man in the
area code. Why can't you and
Jack make it work?

SARAH

Honey...

LISA

Everything else about your
relationship works. Don't you
think Karen would want you to be
together? You all loved each
other anyway. Right?

SARAH

It's not that simple. Your
father and I shared twenty years
and two children. You were there,
until you were 11 things were...

LISA

Ten, Mom. Ten. Nice deflection,
by the way. Do you love Jack?

SARAH
 That's not the issue.
 (a beat)
 It's too complicated
 (a beat)
 and...it's none of your business.

Sarah returns to her magazine.

LISA
 What are they doing tonight?

SARAH
 The guys? I think they're out
 celebrating.

Lisa wipes her nose and stares at Sarah.

LISA
 Together?

INT. SMOKY TAVERN - NIGHT

Pete, Jack, Kurt, and Graham begin their boys night out.
 There is a jukebox, pool table, a bar, and several square
 tables.

Jack says hello to the eighty-year old BARTENDER who wears
 an eye patch, and orders the first round of beers.

KURT
 I'm going to put on some music.

Graham grabs Kurt's shirt sleeve and takes Pete's arm.

GRAHAM
 Call a truce for tonight.

Pete and Kurt give each other the icy stare. Graham doesn't
 give up.

GRAHAM
 Try again.

PETE
 I will if he will.

KURT
 I'm over it.

GRAHAM
 How convincing. Go on, I'll save
 you a seat.

Pete elbows Graham.

PETE

What are you, a UN peacekeeper?

GRAHAM

Your little family drama? Please.
All you two need to do is apologize.

Pete pauses to consider the simplicity, then leads Graham toward some tables.

INT. SMOKY TAVERN - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Jack distributes the beers.

Graham gets up and examines the pool table.

GRAHAM

Rack 'em up, Grandpa. That way
you two don't have to pretend to
enjoy each other's company.
Kenny Rogers should be here any
minute and I want to be all
warmed up.

Kurt and Pete share a smile, then raise a beer indicating an all clear.

KURT

He was a card player not a pool
player, remember? The Gambler.

GRAHAM

Of course. You would know that
wouldn't you.

The guys team up and begin their game.

Jack pulls Pete aside.

JACK

Can you give Sarah a hand with
the babies for a couple hours?

PETE

Sure, when?

JACK

Not sure yet. Tomorrow or the
next night. Andrew has a meeting
with a CFO he doesn't think he
can reschedule. I have a charter
coming in both nights.

PETE

Sure. Why didn't she ask me?

JACK

She wasn't sure you'd still be here. She wants to give Lisa a break but I don't want her by herself at night with the babies.

Pete puts his hands on his hips.

PETE

That's why I'm here isn't it?

JACK

Good.

Graham ducks between them.

GRAHAM

Don't forget about my party.

The bartender limps over and delivers another round of beers.

He reviews the teams.

BARTENDER

My money's on you, Jack.

He places the beers on the table.

Pete pays him and the bartender walks away shaking his head and mumbling.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jack leans against the counter while chewing a toothpick.

Sarah unloads the dishwasher.

He drinks his LOCA MOCHA coffee and stares at the floor.

SARAH

Already with the toothpick?

Sarah snatches the toothpick out of Jack's mouth. She throws it in the garbage under the sink.

JACK

Better than a cigarette.

SARAH

Not much.

JACK

Pete and Kurt patched things up.

SARAH

Really? Good for him.

JACK

You worried about tonight?

SARAH

No. Are you?

Sarah shoots Jack a warning look. Jack shuffles his feet and drinks his coffee.

JACK

You ever think about movin' back?

SARAH

I don't know. Sometimes. The work is here though, remember?

JACK

I could live without the work.

SARAH

What do you mean? You just got all set up. Karen would be so proud of you. I'm proud of you.

Sarah works her way around the kitchen.

His eyes follow her.

Her hand brushes his.

JACK

You shouldn't give him signals. It's not fair.

SARAH

You're laying it on pretty thick yourself, mister.

JACK

Let's not spend the mornin' mired in analysis. It was just an observation.

SARAH

One of these days, you're going to have to find someone else to worry about.

Sarah pinches his arm as she steps past him.

JACK
Most women would be grateful for
a rich man like me fawning over them.

SARAH
Who says I'm not?

Jack shoots her his own warning look.

JACK
It's okay, I've got the new widow
up the street on the hook.

SARAH
I'll tell her you come highly
recommended.

Jack slams his cup down in jest.

JACK
That's it. I can't tolerate any
more abuse.

Sarah takes Jack's hand just as he starts toward the door
and down one stair.

He stops and faces her.

Sarah glances down out the window then steps in and gently
kisses him.

Jack steers the kiss in a more passionate direction. Sarah
exhales and steps away.

Jack begins to speak and Sarah puts her fingers over his
lips. He stands tall and takes her into his arms for a
sweet, protective hug.

JACK
Be careful, kiddo.

SARAH
Will we see you tonight?

Jack gives her a quick squeeze then walks down the stairs
toward the side door.

JACK
Nope.

Jack waves as he walks out the door.

EXT. SARAH'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Jack pauses and looks down.

He licks his lips.

He shakes his head and walks toward the garage.

EXT. SARAH'S GARAGE - DAY

Pete BANGS around in Sarah's garage. Jack walks over to investigate. He chews another toothpick.

Pete kneels and fills the mower with gasoline.

JACK

What do you charge for big yards?

PETE

You going to the hanger?

Jack nods.

JACK

You should swing by.

PETE

Yea, when I get a chance.

JACK

Good luck tonight. I'd pay good money to be there.

PETE

I bet you would. We'll be fine.

EXT. SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah approaches the front yard and holds a bottle of GATORADE.

She is dressed in hospital scrubs and wears her hospital BADGE. She has noticeably increased her grooming practices.

Pete mows the last row in the front yard, then switches off the mower. His hair is ruffled, and he looks good wearing an old T-shirt which reads "St. Rita".

PETE

Perfect timing.

Pete takes the bottle Sarah offers and drinks.

Sarah watches as some of the Gatorade runs down his chin and neck.

SARAH

Should I write you a check or do you prefer cash?

PETE

You smell good. Hot date with a surgeon?

Sarah steps toward him and brushes away some grass that is stuck to his neck.

SARAH

No, not today. I have a few appointments this afternoon and some paperwork to catch up on.

Pete holds the bottle and steps closer to her. He exudes a macho vibe that Sarah didn't expect.

She steps back and smooths her top.

PETE

What time tonight? Eight?

SARAH

That's the plan. Don't worry, we can handle it.

He finishes the bottle.

PETE

I'm not worried. Are you going to the kids' party after?

SARAH

The party. Are you?

PETE

I was thinking about it.

SARAH

I guess we'll have to see how it goes, right?

PETE

Sure.

Killer smile. Sarah backs away from him and stumbles a bit.

SARAH

Thanks for the yard.

She turns and walks toward her mini van. Pete notices the faint outline of her panties through her scrubs.

PETE

You bet.

He unscrews the lid and drinks, then realizes he already finished the bottle. Sarah waves as she backs out past him.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Andrew puts on his coat and walks toward the front door.

ANDREW

Sarah's putting them down. Just keep them fed, warm and dry and you'll be fine.

Pete nods confidently while Sarah sneaks a peek.

PETE

Got it.

ANDREW

I'm glad you're still here. I know Dad likes it when you're around. It means a lot to Lisa. I hope you know that.

PETE

Thanks. I do now.

Andrew reaches out and shakes Pete's hand.

ANDREW

You're a good man, Pete.

PETE

So are you.

ANDREW

You probably had something to do with that.

PETE

Are you serious?

ANDREW

Heck, yea. Growin' up, you and Dad were heroes to me. I know you weren't always here but when you were, you'd always ask about school, baseball. It made me feel special.

PETE

Well, good.

ANDREW

I'll see you in a couple of hours.

Sarah slowly closes the bedroom door and walks toward Pete.

Sarah looks ten years younger in her short skirt and girly blouse. Pete and Andrew exchange looks.

Andrew smiles and steps out the door.

ANDREW

Have fun.

Pete shuts the door behind him.

SARAH

They're quiet. Can I get you a beer?

PETE

Maybe later.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Pete reviews the pictures on the wall, leaning in to focus on a few of the family at various events throughout the years. He is not in many of them, though there are two of Pete in scuba gear with Kurt and Lisa as young adults.

PETE

Mine are packed away in a crate somewhere.

SARAH

It's fascinating how everyone's hair has changed over the years.

Sarah does some dishes, clears the table, and makes a pot of coffee.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Pete sits at the dining room table.

Pete pretends to peruse the READER and covertly follows Sarah from around and above it.

He unknowingly flips to the personals advertising ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES.

Sarah sits next to him.

He SLAMS the paper shut.

A baby cries out and Pete jumps up.

SARAH

Wait a sec.

Pete sits and the baby quiets. He can't wait any longer.

PETE

Have you been going out much?

SARAH

Honestly, I'm busier than I would like. Jack says I have trouble saying no.

Pete raises his eyebrows and takes a drink of coffee.

PETE

Doesn't surprise me.

SARAH

The hospital's kept me pretty busy. Well, that and church. I loved the mission trips to South America. The medical team from church...hey, Kent Haney and his wife went. You remember them?

PETE

Cathy?

SARAH

Yea, we signed up to do another one next year. It's so beautiful. And the children. Miracles happen right before your eyes.

Sarah sits back. She's revealed too much.

SARAH

What about you, still flying the friendly skies?

PETE

Benefits has its privileges.

SARAH

How do you feel about being a grandfather? Will it cramp your style?

She's teasing him and he likes it.

PETE

Hadn't really thought about it.
Good I guess. It's time don't
you think?

SARAH

Yea, I was beginning to get
concerned.

PETE

I'm just going to think of it as
losing one title and gaining another.

SARAH

Nah, you'll always be a pilot.
Before I forget, the ottoman for
the rocker is still in your trunk.
Jack just brought in the cushion
and forgot the frame.

PETE

I'm bringing them lunch tomorrow,
is that okay. Or you can take it.

He leans back and stretches. Sarah opens a MEN'S JOURNAL
MAGAZINE and pretends to read. They each steal a peek at
different intervals during their small talk.

SARAH

You've helped out a lot this week,
thanks.

PETE

My pleasure.

SARAH

Have you been on any diving trips?

PETE

Yep. Just got back about a week
ago. I'm trying to find a place
on Cook.

SARAH

Don't tell anyone, the secret
will get out. Then there'll be
no place left un-exploited.

(a beat)

Jeesh, I haven't been scuba
diving, well, since the last time
I went with you. Must be easier now.

PETE

You miss it?

She smiles and looks at him.

SARAH

I do.

Pete stands and walks to the kitchen and pours another cup of coffee.

PETE

I was headed back down when this all happened. I thought we had a month or so.

Pete takes a drink of his coffee before he returns to the table.

PETE

Diving's one of the few things I can still do and not wake up sore the next morning.

SARAH

Would've been hard to reach you had you left. Good timing.

Pete leans towards her as he sits down next to her. Their legs brush together as he scoots under the table.

PETE

Yea, it was.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

The babies SCREAM. Pete rushes into the kitchen and prepares the bottles, but SPILLS formula due to a lid not being secure. He reaches for more formula from the refrigerator. Then he DROPS the lids and has to rinse them off.

Once he pours the formula into the bottles, one of them tips and half of it SPILLS onto the counter. He THROWS a towel onto the puddle, and finishes.

PETE

I'm coming!

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sarah changes one of the babies. There is a dirty diaper and a sleeper is soiled. The other baby SCREAMS in the middle of the bed. Sarah has trouble locating the diapers, wipes and A&D ointment.

She finishes with baby #1 when Pete enters the bedroom with two bottles and two small towels. Pete turns away from the exposed nether-regions of Sarah's baby.

PETE

Whoa.

His hair is messy.

His shirt is un-tucked.

A SWEAT BEAD rolls down his temple to his cheek.

Sarah gives Pete one baby and she sits down with the other. He puts one bottle under his chin and tosses the other on the bed for Sarah.

He sits down on the edge of the bed. The babies accept their bottles.

Pete catches his breath.

SARAH

I think we did pretty good for first timers?

Pete nods his head and wipes the sweat from his temple onto his shoulder. He kisses the baby's head.

Chaos turns to quiet.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Pete and Sarah burp the babies. Then continue to feed them.

PETE

I don't remember the kids smelling this good, do you?

SARAH

Mmm, it's nice isn't it.

PETE

How long does this usually take?

SARAH

I've no idea. Half an hour I suppose.

Pete props his feet on the bed and leans against the headboard. He takes inventory of the room.

The telephone RINGS and Sarah leaves the room to answer it. Pete whispers in his baby's ear.

PETE

Hi there. I'm your Grandpa. If you need anything -- money, free tickets, candy, you just ask Grandpa. You sure are small. Pretty, too.

Pete leans his head back and he slowly smiles, madly in love with another woman, yet again.

Pete HUMS a lullaby to the baby while Sarah finishes the call. Sarah stops short of the doorway to listen, then sits.

PETE

I didn't change many diapers did I?

SARAH

Or feedings, or baths. But, you contributed in other ways.

PETE

I worked my ass off.

SARAH

It's what people did...then. Nowadays dads have to pitch in and help.

PETE

I did what I could.

Sarah laughs sarcastically and puts the baby on her shoulder to burp her.

SARAH

You were the best dad you could be. Don't forget. You were either on your way in, or on your way out. We didn't get a lot of uninterrupted time with you. Unfortunately.

PETE

I think we did okay. Twenty years.

SARAH

You and I had twenty years. Lisa had you for

PETE

Eleven...

SARAH

Ten, and Kurt for twelve. It's not quite the same.

PETE

They were good, though.

Pete leans over to meet her eyes. Sarah looks up. Smiles.

SARAH

For the most part, yeah they were.

Burp, change, rock and they aren't sure what to do with the babies as they are still awake.

Sarah and Pete look at the bed.

Then each other.

INT. SARAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The babies lay side by side on the bed wearing only their diapers. They are awake and happy for the moment.

Pete and Sarah lay on either side of them with their heads propped up on their elbows.

They stretch each baby's legs and measure them.

SARAH

I think this one looks like you. Look, those are your ears.

PETE

Smaller though. This one has Andrew's nose.

SARAH

Aww, she does. Cutie.

Pete watches Sarah adjust the baby's diaper and kiss her belly.

PETE

I don't remember all the creases and...you know what I mean.

SARAH

You get used to it after a while. You did fine.

PETE

It's nice in here.

SARAH

There always was plenty of love.

Sarah searches for the socks under the bed, then watches Pete inspect his baby.

SARAH

You look really happy right now.

PETE

I should be, I'm surrounded by three beautiful women. You look pretty happy yourself.

SARAH

I am happy.

Pete leans toward Sarah for a kiss.

SARAH

Hey.

The front door opens.

ANDREW

Hello?

Pete and Sarah stand and dress the babies.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ANDREW

Looks like you two survived.

PETE

Piece of cake.

Pete hands Andrew one of the car seats.

ANDREW

Thanks again. Don't forget to meet the guys downtown at the restaurant.

PETE

Right. Which one?

ANDREW

I can't remember the name, it's on Strathmore just before the tracks. You should go.

Sarah glances quickly at Pete. She smoothes then pulls her shirt which has spit up on it.

Sarah retreats.

SARAH

I have to change my blouse.

Quickly before she changes her mind.

PETE

I probably ought to change too.
Why don't I pick you up in a few
minutes?

SARAH

You go on ahead, I want to help
Andrew get the seats in the car
and get the babies settled. I
won't be far behind you.

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Kurt struggles to help Pete walk toward Sarah's minivan.

Pete is sluggish and off-balance.

Aghast, Sarah walks around the car to meet them.

SARAH

What happened to him? What's
wrong with him?

Pete looks at Sarah and smiles as Kurt prevents Pete from
falling.

KURT

Dad got a spiked drink by mistake.

PETE AND SARAH

What?

Sarah stares at Kurt who grins, shrugs and chuckles. Pete
is fading fast.

KURT

I'm sorry, it was an accident.
He got the birthday drink meant
for Graham.

SARAH

Are you serious? You were gonna
give him drugs? For his birthday?
How old are you? What was it? LSD?

KURT

Nothing like that, Mom. He'll be fine.

SARAH

Thank God. I thought you gave him Ecstasy or something.

PETE

Feels more like agony to me.

SARAH

Am I going to have to pump his stomach?

Hmmm, that might be fun.

KURT

No, he'll sleep it off. Let me help you.

Kurt opens the door and puts Pete into the passenger seat.

SARAH

I think you've done enough to your father for one night. Call Jack. I'll need help getting him up to the house.

Kurt opens Sarah's door for her. He retrieves his cell phone from his pocket.

Sarah starts the minivan and pulls away.

KURT

Sorry Mom!

INT. SARAH'S MINIVAN - NIGHT

Sarah stops the minivan at a stop sign. She shifts into Park.

Pete leans against his door.

SARAH

Lemme look at you.

Pete leans toward Sarah and she reaches over and touches his face. She cradles it gently and looks into his eyes using a little purse flashlight.

She is slow and deliberate as she touches his face and check.

She smiles and rubs her thumb across his eyebrows then down around his cheek and chin. Pete closes his eyes.

SARAH
(continuing)
Let's get your seatbelt on.

She reaches across his lap. Pete's eyes open and he puts his hand on her back and sits back. Sarah pulls the seatbelt across and into the latch.

SARAH
(continuing)
This is not how I envisioned tonight.

PETE
Could be worse. They could've slipped me acid.

They both sit back and chuckle. Pete's eyes gently close, then open. Sarah shifts the car into Drive.

SARAH
I'm proud of you.

Sarah glances over. Pete stares out the window.

PETE
My head feels like it's full of helium? Can you hear that? Do you know what my doctor told me?

This is gonna be good.

SARAH
I can't imagine.

PETE
She said I have to wear sunscreen every day. All over. Even in the winter. I'm going to walk around smelling like the beach for the rest of my life. She's nice. You'd like her.

Pete leans in and puts his face near her shoulder.

PETE
Why do you always smell so good?

SARAH
Hard to say. Be careful. I want to get us home in one piece. Do you feel alright?

PETE

Honey, I feel great. Slide over here.

Pete tries to pull her toward him. When she resists, Pete settles for her hand and examines it carefully.

He kisses her palm.

He moves slowly up her arm.

PETE

MMmm. That's nice. You're nice.

He gazes up at her and she recognizes "the look".

He pulls her hand toward his heart.

RED LIGHT. Sarah giggles and pulls her hand back. Confident he will have no memory, she leans over and kisses him.

He slides his hand behind her head and scoots toward her.

EXT. SARAH'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Jack opens the passenger door and Pete rolls out.

Jack grabs him before he hits the curb.

Pete snores.

Sarah walks around the car and tries to help.

SARAH

Can we get him to the house?

Jack pulls him out of the car and drags him across the sidewalk.

JACK

Is this what you want after everything you've been through?

SARAH

What do you mean? I didn't do this. And I don't want anything. You know what, mind your own business.

JACK

This family is my business. I'm not gonna watch you let him do this to you again. He's a child, Sarah, a fifty-five year old child.

Pete awakens momentarily. His words are barely understandable.

PETE

Speak for yourself. Get out of my sweater.

Jack motions as if to say "see what I mean".

JACK

I no longer have the energy to pick up after him.

Sarah drops Pete's arm which forces Jack to complete the journey himself.

SARAH

No one's asking you to. We're all able to make our own decisions about Peter.

JACK

You don't know this part of him like I do.

SARAH

How original.

JACK

He's capable of a lot more than you know.

Sarah walks toward her car, then looks up.

SARAH

God, I hope so.

Jack slams the front door.

SARAH

Do you still want coffee? I'll call you tomorrow.

Sarah starts her minivan, revs the engine and drives onto her side of the driveway.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah hears Jack's car back into the street. She looks out the kitchen window above the sink.

SARAH

Damn, I knew I forgot something.

She throws the dish towel on the counter and looks at her watch.

INT. PB&J - DAY

Pete reviews the gift card selection. The CASHIER, a sunny, attractive woman in her forties with long blond hair, watches him struggle.

CASHIER

You finding everything alright, or -

Pete does a double take as he realizes she is quite pretty and that she is smiling at him.

PETE

I'm, Hi. I'm lost I think. I need a card for twins. My daughter just had twins.

The cashier slinks next to Pete, then motions farther down the aisle.

CASHIER

I just put out some new ones. Next to the photo albums. Congratulations, you must be very proud.

PETE

Yes, I am. Thank you. Is this your store?

She's delighted. The bell signals another customer has entered but she does not flinch.

CASHIER

Yes, I've been here for almost ten years. I'm surprised we haven't met.

PETE

I moved away a long time ago. My family's still here so I get back now and again.

CASHIER

I hope you're enjoying your stay.

PETE

Things are definitely improving.

She plays coy and turns away.

INT. PB&J - DAY

Pete smiles as he watches the cashier process his payment.

The cashier smiles as she knows he is watching her.

Pete takes his change and their hands touch when she gives him a small bag.

She reaches around the register to give him a BUSINESS CARD from the holder.

CASHIER

Thanks for stopping in. How about a cup of coffee before you head back home?

She's working it. Pete inspects the card and flashes the million dollar smile as he walks out.

PETE

Sure. I'll be in touch.

EXT. PB&J - DAY

Pete takes a few steps down the sidewalk. He stops to look at the card again. He considers the trash can conveniently located just a few steps away, then puts the card into his pocket.

Pete approaches the car and pats around his shirt and pants for his cell phone. He yanks it from his pocket and dials.

His eyes dart around the area for anyone familiar.

PETE

Hi, I was just in your store and. Yes. I'm sorry I didn't introduce myself. Ten minutes? Scooter's Deli. OK, see you there.

He closes his cell phone and gets into the car.

EXT. ANDREW AND LISA'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete rings Lisa and Andrew's doorbell. He holds two bags of take-out from SCOOTERS DELI.

He looks around and plays with the mailbox lid while he waits for the door to open.

He looks down to double check the zipper on his pants.

LISA (O.S.)

Just a sec.

Lisa opens the front door and gives him a warm smile.

LISA
Hey Dad, come on in.

PETE
Hi. The babies asleep? I didn't
wake them did I? Am I talking too
loud?

Pete hands her the card he just purchased. Lisa laughs and
coughs a little.

LISA
No, you're fine. I just put them
down. They'll be out for a bit.

INT. ANDREW AND LISA'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete and Lisa sit at the kitchen table. Lisa unwraps the
sandwich. Pete does not eat.

Andrew a pokes his head up from the basement.

ANDREW
Thanks for lunch. I don't mean
to be rude but I want to get this
put together.

PETE
You bet. Have at it.

Andrew BANGS around the basement, DROPS tools on the
concrete floor, and MOVES furniture around.

Pete stands and reviews the kitchen and the front part of
the house.

PETE
Have you gotten any sleep?

LISA
Not much. I couldn't imagine
having to do this by myself. The
last couple days are a blur.

PETE
Are you in any pain?

LISA
Yes. This is the part the
girlfriends don't tell you about
I guess. How about last night?

Pete sits down at the table with her.

PETE

Your Mom and I did pretty good.
Everybody lived. I enjoyed it.

LISA

Good. I'm sorry I missed out on
all the excitement.

PETE

What? Oh.

LISA

That's okay we don't have to talk
about it.

Pete avoids eye contact. Lisa smiles as she takes little bites.

PETE

Thanks.

LISA

Dad, how did you deal with being
away so much, before, you know,
you and Mom...

Pete's eyes widen and he taps his fingers on the table, then
plays with a napkin.

PETE

Well, it wasn't easy.

LISA

It looked like it was easy for you.

PETE

I took the best routes I could.
It took a long time to inherit
the good schedules. Every kid I
saw at an airport -- I always
thought of you and your brother.

LISA

I'd hate myself if I had a job
that kept me away from my family
that much.

PETE

Things were different back then.

Lisa wraps up most of her sandwich and puts it back into the
bag.

Pete ponders his next thought. He starts to pace and fidget
with objects around the kitchen.

PETE

Hey, you and your brother did some pretty spectacular skiing. The scuba trips and the Gobi desert, remember that one?

She nods.

LISA

We just wanted to be with you, Dad.

PETE

I did the best I could, Lisa. I really did.

Lisa's volume steadily increases as the length of her fuse decreases.

LISA

Even when you WERE home, your head and your heart were somewhere else. You were either asleep with jet lag or trying to patch things up with Mom. Or working with Kurt trying to make him more...butch. I hardly got any of you to myself.

PETE

Look...

LISA

Then after you and Mom...you know...you had those bimbos WITH us on those skiing and scuba trips. I was fifteen watching you rub suntan oil all over...

PETE

Patricia?

LISA

Louise! You can't even remember her name! But they were more important than me???

PETE

She told me to leave. I didn't want to go.

Lisa steps up.

LISA
You were sleeping with other
women! What did you expect??
You're lucky she didn't get her gun.

PETE
She has a gun?

LISA
Dad, when you cheated on Mom you
cheated on ALL of us.

PETE
This is none of your business.

LISA
Oh yes it is.

Andrew appears at the top of the basement stairs. He walks
to the counter and opens his bag.

ANDREW
This is great. Thanks Pete.
Have you seen the babies?

PETE
No, I didn't want to wake them.

ANDREW
You can take a peek. Go ahead.

Pete looks in on them, then walks toward the front door.

PETE
I should get going.

Lisa gets up and walks him to the door. She stops and
touches her side.

ANDREW
Why? Aren't you staying with Jack?

PETE
Just last night. The dog doesn't
like me. I'll see you later.

LISA
Thanks for lunch.

Lisa closes the door behind him and walks gingerly into the
kitchen.

LISA
Daisy died a year ago. Whatever.

EXT. PETE'S CAR - DAY

Pete stares at the steering wheel. He pats around his coat for his cell phone, opens it and squints while he dials.

KELLY (O.S.)

Hi, this is Kelly. I'll be out of the country until Friday. Please leave me a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

PETE

Shit.

Pete SLAMS shut his cell phone. Pete looks at his watch, starts the car and backs out of the driveway.

EXT. COUNTY AIRPORT - DAY

Jack and Pete inspect Jack's small jet. Jack points out the different perks and upgrades.

An airplane lands.

It is windy and overcast.

They both drink coffee from LOCA MOCHA and a disinterested Pete feels like crap.

JACK

How ya feelin', Slugger?

PETE

Did I get in a fight, too? Man, my head still feels like a punching bag.

JACK

You showed those kids a thing or two.

Pete scowls as he concentrates. Then he remembers.

JACK

Dave asked me to buy him out so he can go a different direction. I've had to refer charters elsewhere until I get someone else in.

Jack closes the lower ladder then fishes a toothpick from his pocket.

Pete's still a little slow.

PETE
It's nice. Good for you, you
deserve it.

Jack turns to Pete.

JACK
It could be good for you too.

PETE
What do you mean? Buy in?

JACK
Sure, why not. It'll keep you in
the air.

PETE
Actually, I was looking forward
to not flying.

JACK
Come on, you don't see that
happenin' do you? This was our
dream, remember? Sarah remembers.

PETE
How perfect for both of you.

JACK
You don't know what you're talkin'
about.

PETE
I know it's been pretty convenient
for you.

Jack turns to shut the upper door and mumbles.

PETE
What did you say?

JACK
You selfish prick.

Pete moves toward Jack. The wind picks up as a small plane
taxi. A light drizzle falls.

PETE
You think you know everything
about me.

JACK
I lived your life for you.

PETE

You just stepped right in, you
and Karen both.

Jack throws his coffee,

He points the toothpick at Pete's face.

Pete slaps his hand away.

JACK

Don't even think about pullin'
her into this. She was Sarah's
best friend. What'd you expect
us to do? You left so I took
your place. Yes I did.

PETE

Why?

JACK

Because we loved your kids.

PETE

She told me to leave. I never
wanted out. I never asked you or
Karen to do anything.

JACK

She caught you for the THIRD time.

PETE

She tell you that?

JACK

You took the first flight outta
here. When did the kids see you
after that? Once a month?

PETE

Don't tell me what it was like.
They're MY kids. She was MY wife
for twenty years. Did we have
problems, yes. But she gave up,
not me. After that, they had the
best of everything I could provide.

JACK

It takes a lot of effort to write
a check. You missed it, man. I
enjoyed every minute of being here.

PETE

That's not fair, you know how hard I worked. You wanna know why I took all those international flights?

JACK

I know why you took 'em. I sat next to you for plenty of them.

PETE

The only time, the ONLY time I've been happy after I left -- since she made me go -- was when I was flying. Even in another country, knowing I'm as far away from them as I could possibly be. And there's nothing I can do. Nothing. I'm out. Sarah wanted it that way Jack, not me.

JACK

Don't even try to suggest that you took those overseas flights to make more money to provide for your family. Even when you were here that didn't stop you from sleezin' around. Let's at least be honest about that.

PETE

Was that my biggest crime? Sleeping with a flight attendant in Thailand. And, and the one from the resort in Miami?

JACK

Miami?

PETE

Twenty years, and two affairs which didn't last longer than two or three weekends...each. I didn't deserve it.

He's not getting off that easy.

JACK

You had a choice. Clean up your act or get out. And, as usual, you took the easy way out. Don't give me your "she kicked me out" sob story. Please.

PETE

Yea, you've got it all figured out.

JACK

Why is it so hard for you to do
the right thing?

(a beat)

Don't you see your second chance
here?

Pete steps up.

PETE

You TOOK my second chance. Two
years Karen's gone and you move
on to Sarah. Didn't you think
I'd notice? And you expect me to
work with you? No, I get it. I
should thank you. Thank you for
taking such good care of my
family. And especially good care
of Sarah. Is that it?

JACK

Don't blame me for...

Pete leans close to Jack.

PETE

She's beautiful, isn't she? Could
you smell her? In the morning?
Did she give you that? Did she?

They stare and neither makes a move until

Pete walks toward the runway.

PETE

(continuing)

I've done a lot of shitty things.
But I'd never do that to you. Ever.

JACK

Gimme a break. Look, nothing
happened that we couldn't take back.

Just because he can.

JACK

Not that we didn't try.

PETE

I bet you did.

JACK

Ironically, we both felt like
we'd be cheatin' on you.

PETE

How poetic.

(a beat)

They don't need me, they have you.

JACK

Don't you get it? They want you.
They choose you every time. The
kids put on a tough front, but
all they want is you.

(a beat)

There was nothing better, Pete.
The kids, our wives, the
neighborhood. Ya know?

Pete softens.

JACK

You got someplace better to go? I
mean, come on. One thirty year
old hottie ain't no match for
your family, trust me.

PETE

She's got nothing to do with this.
She's the best thing...

JACK

Fair enough, but those babies
cracked open a door for you. You
man enough to open it and walk
through? You up for it?

Pete takes his keys out and walks toward the car. He stands
in the drizzle, wind in his face, and looks up at the small
plane as it takes off into the mist.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Pete enjoys a much needed nap.

The hotel telephone RINGS.

PETE

Hello?

SARAH (O.S.)

Hi, do you still have the ottoman
for the glider?

Pete reaches alongside the bed and feels in between the mattress and the box spring.

PETE

Yes. Oh, I was just there. I forgot.

He removes what appears to be a condom package.

SARAH (O.S.)

It's alright. I'm headed out and I can swing by and pick it up.

He realizes what it is, then quickly shoves it back under the mattress.

PETE

Sure come on by. Room 147. I'm sorry about last night. I hope I didn't...

SARAH (O.S.)

No, you were quite funny actually. It was the most memorable night out I've had in a while.

This perks him up.

PETE

Good. I was worried I said or did something.

SARAH (O.S.)

No, no. You were fine.

PETE

Good. See you in a bit.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah looks at herself in the mirror located next to the front door. She applies LIPSTICK, then presses her lips together.

SARAH

You can do this. When he invites you in, just politely decline. Get the thing in the van and drive away. Nothing to it.

She nods.

SARAH

No problem.

E/I. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Pete opens the door. He wears a fits-like-a-glove pressed shirt, and perfectly fitting jeans.

Sarah's eyes widen as she inhales. Great, he smells good too.

PETE

Hi. Wow. That was quick. Come on in.

Sarah turns and glances around the parking lot.

She gives Pete the once over.

SARAH

Okay, for a few minutes.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Sarah sits on a stool in the suite's kitchenette.

The hotel room is designed for extended business stays with the appropriate furnishings. There is a counter over the sink, a microwave and a refrigerator. The stairway leads to the loft style bedroom and bath.

Pete opens the refrigerator which reveals a bottle of champagne and a cup of yogurt.

PETE

You hungry?

Sarah leans to one side to review her choices.

SARAH

No, not really thanks.

PETE

I'd offer you a soda or something but I seem to be - hey, we can toast our grandchildren.

SARAH

Sure. We didn't quite get there last night did we.

Sarah glances away.

PETE

I know I toasted something but I can't remember.

SARAH
Graham's birthday.

They both laugh nervously. Pete POPS the champagne while Sarah sets up the two Styrofoam cups he puts out.

PETE
To our favorite grandchildren.
May they ever smell as sweet.

SARAH
Cheers.

PETE
You don't have to rush off do you?

SARAH
No, well, I do need to..no,
that's okay, it's fine.

He takes a drink, then inhales.

She smells good too.

PETE
Hot date with a surgeon?

SARAH
No, I've got a thing at church.
(a beat)
Guess I shouldn't drink any more.

Sarah taps her fingers on her cup.

He turns and searches for the window by the door facing the parking lot.

PETE
Why don't I put the ottoman into
your mini van.

SARAH
Good idea.

Pete holds the door and watches Sarah walk before him. His eyebrows go up as he notices the top strap of what must be the lace on her panties.

He runs his hand through his hair and imagines the possibilities.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Pete SLAMS the tailgate to Sarah's van. The sunset produces a purple and peach horizon which creeps inland from the lake. They stand for a moment.

SARAH

I love this time of day, don't you?

PETE

You should see it at thirty thousand feet.

They both look up.

SARAH

Mmmm. Nice.

PETE

I'll miss skies like this.

SARAH

I'm glad you and the kids could spend some extra time together. It always seems to whiz by.

PETE

Me too.

SARAH

I wasn't sure how we'd all get on, though. What about you?

Pete leans on the car across from Sarah's. The wind blows a small leaf onto her shoulder. He brushes it off for her.

PETE

I wasn't worried about it if that's what you mean.

Sarah accepts his flirty gesture. She crosses her arms and mocks him playfully.

SARAH

What are you worried about?

PETE

I'm worried the kids don't really want me here.

SARAH

Sure they do.

PETE

Maybe, but they don't trust me.

Pete leans on Sarah's mini van, facing her. He inches closer to her with every word.

SARAH

Should we trust you?

PETE

Absolutely.

SARAH

I think I've heard that before.

Pete offers his million dollar smile.

SARAH

I've seen that before too.

Pete reaches for the KEYS in her hand and pulls her close. She doesn't resist but her question interrupts his momentum.

SARAH

Are you sure you want to complicate things?

PETE

This isn't complicated.

He brings one of her hands to his lips. Sarah leans in and kisses him. Pete takes his time and enjoys the kiss as well.

When Sarah pulls away, Pete asserts his grip on her and re engages the kiss. After a few seconds, Sarah grins and pulls away completely.

Pete tilts his head in disbelief.

SARAH

I can't stay here with you.

Pete walks backward toward the hotel room and gently tugs her arm.

PETE

Come on, you can slink away in the dark of night with your panties in your purse.

SARAH

I beg your pardon?

He pulls her close with one arm.

She does not resist.

He wraps his other arm around her waist and runs his finger along the back waist of her slacks.

He touches the lace along the top of her panties.

PETE

Stay.

EXT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Pete pulls Sarah quickly up to the hotel room door. Pete struggles to get the key card from his pocket.

Pete drops the key card on the ground.

He slides the key card up and down repeatedly into the lock but it does not open.

Sarah smiles and crosses her arms while watching his frustration mount.

SARAH

I should probably --

PETE

NO!

The door finally opens.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Pete leads Sarah inside. He tosses the key card. Their arms are around each other before the door CLOSES.

He moves from her lips and kisses the curve of her neck. His hands skillfully find their way under her blouse. She's barely able to say the words

SARAH

Peter, I can not spend the night with you.

PETE

Okay.

Pete finds her lips.

Sarah DROPS her keys. She drapes her arms around his neck and over his shoulders while she melts into him.

Pete backs Sarah into the door. Their breathing is quicker and louder.

Pete's hand slides into the back of her slacks and he reaches down with his fingers. Sarah responds and leans into him as she rests her forehead against his heaving chest.

Sarah YANKS his shirt from the front of his jeans.

She UNBUCKLES his BELT, unfastens the metal button and
Lowers the ZIPPER.

Pete reaches down and lifts Sarah's knee up along his thigh and leans into her.

They both MOAN through their breath and kisses.

Pete maneuvers Sarah around.

SARAH
Where is it?

PETE
Wait.

He steals one more kiss.

SARAH
Where is it?

PETE
Upstairs.

Sarah reviews the distance and determines

SARAH
It's too far.

Pete steers them to the carpeted portion of the room and they disappear behind the couch.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Pete rolls over in the bed and opens his eyes. He discovers that Sarah has left some time early this morning. He scans the room for his clothes which are scattered.

He stands, struggling at first due to the soreness from the night previous. He glances toward the bathroom. Sarah has hung her panties from the mirror.

PETE
Oh, absolutely.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Soreness gone, he leaps out of bed. He scrambles around the bed and gathers his jeans. He hops into one leg and before he can get his other leg in, he falls back on the bed.

PETE

Ouch.

Pete wiggles into his jeans, sits up and throws on a sweatshirt, inside out. The lace on his sneaker SNAPS in two.

PETE

What the...

Pete notices the tag on the outside of the sweatshirt. He corrects this, then leaps toward the stairs.

He trips down three of the stairs.

PETE

Whoa!

He catches himself on the railing.

He stops and catches his breath. Then grabs his keys and hurries out the door.

EXT. PETE'S CAR - DAY

Pete speeds through each intersection. He would pay a thousand dollars for a green light.

He remembers last night.

INT.HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Pete slides on top of Sarah and kisses her while cradling her face. Their breathing slows and their bodies intertwine with ease.

Pete pulls Sarah's blouse over her head then lays his bare chest on her sheer, lace camisole.

Pete reaches under Sarah's bottom and pulls her to him.

EXT. PETE'S CAR - DAY

Pete weaves in and out of traffic, HONKING at slower, less motivated drivers.

The car SKIDS to a stop as rail road crossing barricades lower.

The rail road crossing signals CHIME.

PETE

You've got to be kidding me!

Just as the commuter train pulls away, a freight train sounds a warning WHISTLE and speeds past on the middle track heading in the opposite direction.

Pete leans his head against the steering wheel and waits.

INT.HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah rolls on top of Pete and kisses his face. She moves to his ear and whispers. He smiles and answers.

PETE

I never take it off.

Sarah kisses down his chest. She smiles and listens as his heart rate increases and his breathing becomes deeper.

He puts his hands behind his head and closes his eyes as she disappears.

Pete positions himself over Sarah.

She runs her fingers through his hair. She grabs the back of his neck.

Their eyes lock.

His thrust pushes her toward the headboard.

EXT.PETE'S CAR - DAY

Pete turns into Sarah's driveway. He parks between the two side doors.

As he leaps out, he glances toward Jack's empty garage.

Pete's car rolls backward.

He darts back, opens the door and pulls the emergency brake which stops the car.

INT.SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

Pete enters through the kitchen and walks to the bedroom where he sees Sarah asleep.

He feels his whiskers while he watches her for a moment, then walks around to the unoccupied side of the bed.

He pulls his sweatshirt over his head.

He scoots behind her, brushes her hair away, and kisses the back of her neck.

Sarah smiles but doesn't open her eyes.

SARAH
You need a shave.

PETE
Mmm, hmm. I didn't want to be late.

Sarah kisses his hand. Pete pushes away the spaghetti strap of her pajama top.

PETE
You're beautiful.

SARAH
Mmmmmmm.

PETE
Not too bad for a couple of senior citizens. Why did we ever stop doing this?

Sarah's eyes open and the smile vanishes. She rolls over and glares at him.

SARAH
Because you wouldn't stop doing it everywhere else.

PETE
What?

Sarah brushes her hair off of her face, sits up and pulls her knees close.

SARAH
Let me guess. You thought things were going along great, right.

PETE
Wait a minute. What is this?

SARAH
This is fun and I am definitely enjoying myself. Aren't you leaving today?

PETE
I don't know. I'm not thinking about anything other than being with you right now.

SARAH

I'm not surprised. What did you expect?

Pete moves to the edge of the bed and puts his sweatshirt on.

PETE

I didn't expect anything, Sarah.

SARAH

You expect us to carry on as if nothing was ever broken between us.

PETE

I'm not asking you to do that.

SARAH

You aren't prepared to deal with it though, ARE you?

Pete stands and pulls on his jeans.

PETE

You knew what our life was going to be like when you signed on. I'm a pilot, Sarah.

SARAH

I didn't sign on for everything else. And that's what ruined us. We worked so hard. The family, our home. Why'd you give up on us?

Pete spins around.

PETE

You gave up on me. While I was busting my ass to provide for this family --

SARAH

Please --

Pete points toward the window.

PETE

Jack was always your first phone call. You didn't call me, you called him.

SARAH

What was I supposed to do? He was here.

PETE

And when I was here?

SARAH

The kids and I didn't have time
to play catch-up with you Peter.
Life keeps moving.

PETE

Exactly. You engineered me out
of your life. Long before you
kicked me out of it.

Pete sits on the bed.

He picks up a shoe.

Sarah yanks his arm so he faces her.

SARAH

When we made love, that was my
piece of you that was just mine.

Her voice breaks as the pain that the anger masked rises to
the surface.

SARAH

Our intimacy wasn't yours to give
away, Peter. And you gave it away.
To strangers. For what?

Jack appears in the doorway with two LOCA MOCHA coffees in
his hand.

He glares at the two of them.

He turns around and walks back through the house.

PETE

Perfect.

Pete slips on his shoes while Sarah hugs her knees and
stares out the window.

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Pete walks to the kitchen then stops.

He looks at the ceiling.

She's right, he knows she's right.

He turns back around and walks to the bedroom doorway.

Tears stream down Sarah's cheeks. When she realizes he's returned, she wipes her face with the bed sheet.

SARAH
(SNIFF)

Pete takes a step toward the bed.

PETE
I'm sorry. For all of it.

Sarah nods but does not look at him.

EXT. SARAH'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jack offers Pete one of the coffees.

PETE
No, thanks.

JACK
Time to step up or step aside,
Pal. You up for it?

PETE
It's too late.

Jack pats him on the arm as he walks past him and into his house. Pete turns and enters his car.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Pete drops his clothes into his duffel bag. He does not take time to fold anything.

The toilet paper stuck to his chin reveals the cut from shaving. He tosses the bathroom kit into the bag.

The razor falls to the floor.

Pete stoops down, picks it up and examines it.

One of the blades has broken off and the screw is missing.

PETE
Perfect.

Pete THROWS the razor and it SMASHES against the wall.

He sits down and leans against the bed. After a moment, he reaches for the telephone.

He dials a long distance number.

Defeated.

PETE (INTO THE TELEPHONE)

Hi, Kel it's me. I'm on my way back. I...things got kind of crazy here. I'll fill you in later. This is the first chance I got to call.

Pete fiddles with the cheap bed spread, searching for what he wants to say.

PETE (INTO THE TELEPHONE)

I'll see you when I get back.
Have a safe flight.

Pete hangs up the telephone.

He grabs his bag, walks down the stairs and

Out the door.

He stops before the door completely shuts and tosses the key card onto the counter nearby.

EXT. COUNTY AIRPORT PARKING LOT - DAY

Pete watches the airplanes take off and land.

His arms are crossed and the temperature has dropped. He zips his leather flight jacket.

His cell phone RINGS and he pats around his coat and finds it after three rings.

He outstretches his arms to read the buttons.

PETE

Yea?

Sarah is yelling and it's difficult for Pete to understand her.

SARAH (V.O.)

Where's Jack? They're taking her to the hospital by ambulance. Lisa's been bleeding. Where are you?

PETE

What? He's in the air. I can't, I'm waiting for him at the airport.

SARAH (V.O.)

Oh my God. You have to go to the hospital right now. Andrew and I are fifteen minutes away stuck in traffic.

Pete opens the car door.

SARAH (V.O.)

Please hurry. She said her bed is full of blood and it sounds bad.

Pete throws the phone into the passenger seat and speeds away.

EXT. AMBULANCE - DAY

An ambulance careens through a residential neighborhood, red lights flashing.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

Lisa, hysterical and blood covered, struggles against the gurney straps. She screams into a cell phone while a PARAMEDIC attempts to insert an IV tube into her free arm.

LISA

I don't know Mom! I woke up covered in blood!

(pause)

Where are you? Are the girls okay?

(pause)

No, he's following us.

She strains to sit-up, winces in pain and looks out the back windows. Her eyes bulge and she drops the phone. She grabs the paramedic's arm and screeches.

LISA

I don't see him. He's not going to be able to keep up. Slow down so he can catch up!

PARAMEDIC

Calm down. I need you to be still. We'll make sure your husband can find you.

(to the driver)

Go hot!

The ambulance takes a corner too fast. The paramedic's thrown off-balance.

SIRENS wail and all the LIGHTS flash.

She SCREAMS, then collapses into the gurney.

The paramedic inserts the IV. She grits her teeth.

LISA

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
please protect me and my babies
in our time of
(screams in agony)
nnnnnnneeed!

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Pete grips the stretcher and helps push Lisa toward the ER stall.

PETE

Lisa, I'm here. Your Mom and
Andrew are right behind me.
You're going to be okay.

LISA

Dad? Daddy? Please don't leave.

PETE

Honey, everything's going to be
fine. I love you.

LISA

I love you too.

The PARAMEDIC wheels Lisa into a stall and pulls the curtain around the stretcher. Pete stares at the multiple shoes scurrying about behind the curtain.

PARAMEDIC

She's been bleeding out for
approximately twenty minutes.
She gave birth to twins 5 days ago.

ER DOC

Gimme a cbc with differential,
type and cross check; PT/PPT,
eighteen gauge IV with wide open
lactated ringer. Order two units.
Get the GYN consult stat and a
vaginal ultra sound stat. She'll
want a CT scan of the pelvis with
heavy contrast.

SLOW MOTION: Lisa's cell phone falls from the stretcher onto the floor and the battery pops off. Pete is frozen until the TRIAGE NURSE takes his arm.

TRIAGE NURSE

Sir, will you come with me? I
need you to help me get her
admitted. Please. Sir?

Pete walks with her but looks back at the curtain. The ER
desk area is crowded and noisy. There are several people in
the waiting area.

A small child is crying.

A woman is passed out in a corner.

Lights FLASH from the parking lot.

TRIAGE NURSE

Patient's name, date of birth,
and your relationship to the patient.

PETE

Lisa Gregg, she's thirty years
old, I'm her father.

TRIAGE NURSE

Date of birth please.

PETE

December 2, 1975. She just had
twins five days ago. Shouldn't I
be giving blood or something?
The doctor said she needed blood.

TRIAGE NURSE

Hospital policy prohibits
donations by family members in
the emergency department.

Pete inspects the door and the curtain repeatedly.

TRIAGE NURSE

Any known illnesses, diseases, or
allergies?

PETE

She's allergic to penicillin.

TRIAGE NURSE

You may wait over there sir. The
doctor will be out to speak with
you when she is stable.

Pete isn't going away that easily.

PETE

Why can't I see her, I want to see her. That's my daughter in there and I want to see her!

Sarah and Andrew dash through the sliding doors into the ER. Sarah stops and watches Pete yell at the nurse.

TRIAGE NURSE

Sir, you'll have to wait over there for the doctor. Hospital policy...

Pete sticks his head through the triage window and points in the nurses face.

PETE

I'm not going anywhere until I see my daughter.

Sarah rushes over and grabs Pete's elbow and spins him around. Andrew follows close behind her.

SARAH

Where is she? Where did they take her? Why aren't you in there with her? Why are you standing here yelling at the nurse when you should be...

PETE

What?

Sarah SLAPS Pete's face.

SARAH

What's the matter with you? She needs you!

Andrew pulls Pete away from the Sarah.

ANDREW

Why don't YOU go on back.
(TO PETE)
Let's go sit down.

Sarah yanks her badge out of her pocketbook and the lanyard flips wildly.

She disappears around the curtain.

INT. HOSPITAL ER WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Pete waits with his face in his hands. Graham and Kurt huddle on either side. Sarah and Andrew sit nearby.

The ER DOCTOR walks through the triage door.

ER DOC

Mr. Murphy?

Pete stands up and is next to the doctor in two huge steps.

PETE

Yes, I'm Pete Murphy. How is my daughter?

Andrew stands next to Pete.

ANDREW

When can I see her?

ER DOC

She's stable but she's lost a lot of blood. She is being taken to surgery to stop the bleeding from her uterus.

ANDREW

You're not going to have to...

ER DOC

No, we should be able to repair the area that separated.

SARAH

Is she conscious?

ER DOC

Like I said, she's lost a significant amount of blood. We are also concerned about an infection so we're taking every precaution.

PETE

How long will the surgery take?

ER DOC

She is being prepped now. Without any complications, she'll be in recovery in a few hours.

Pete runs his hand through his hair and turns away from everyone.

PETE

A few hours, Jesus.

ER DOC

If you'll excuse me, I have another family I need to speak with. Her surgeon will meet with you once she's in recovery.

The emergency room doctor walks away and everyone but Pete returns to their seat. Pete walks out the sliding doors into the parking lot.

EXT. HOSPITAL ER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A police car and an ambulance are in the drop-off area outside the emergency department. Lights are FLASHING and a few people are scurrying about.

Pete finds a column to lean against, puts his hands in his pockets and looks at his feet.

Snapshot images of the children, Jack and Sarah appear intercut with images of Pete as he shuffles around outside the ER entrance.

EXT. HOSPITAL ER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Kurt walks through the sliding door and searches in either direction.

KURT

Dad? Come on inside. Jeez, you've been out here for an hour. We can get something to drink.

Pete sits down on the sidewalk, defeated and broken.

He looks at Kurt and sees the sweet face of his little boy.

The parking lot LIGHT illuminates Kurt and Pete smiles.

PETE

I don't know, shouldn't we stay close?

KURT

Mom will come get us. She checked and it'll be a while longer.

PETE

You look like you did when you were five or six, with that light behind you.

Pete's eyes are red and bloodshot.

Kurt reaches his hand toward Pete and helps him stand.

Pete pulls Kurt toward him while still holding his hand.

They embrace.

After a moment, they pat each other's back and let go.

KURT

We don't have to solve everything
in one hug.

He touches Kurt's face.

Jack appears running from the parking lot.

JACK

Is she out yet?

PETE

Not yet.

Jack leans over and puts his hands on his knees, breathing hard. Jack sees that Pete is not doing very well.

JACK

You're not leavin'?

KURT

I was just asking Dad to come
inside. You want to get
something to drink?

PETE

No, you two go ahead. I want to
stay close.

Kurt and Jack walk to the door.

Jack steps back toward Pete and pats him on his back.

Pete grabs Jack's arm.

PETE

We had an argument. When I
brought lunch yesterday. She
said she was in pain. I think
it's my fault.

JACK

It's not your fault. Hang in
there, man. She's a tough kid.

PETE

She's not a kid anymore.

INT. HOSPITAL ER WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Pete and Sarah sit together.

Graham and Andrew are reading magazines.

Sarah SNIFFS and begins to cry. Sarah places her head on his shoulder. He looks over then puts his arm around her.

PETE

She'd never leave us with her
kids for more than a day or two.
She'll be okay.

Sarah smiles and reaches up for the hand Pete has around her and he squeezes her closer.

He looks at her and kisses her forehead.

Jack and Kurt return from the cafeteria. Jack nudges Kurt.

JACK

Look at that.

KURT

Whatever makes her happy.

INT. HOSPITAL ER WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

The tall, white-haired, and handsome ER surgeon, DR. GIBSON, walks through the triage door.

His tone and manner are calm, soothing.

Sarah spots him first.

She softens immediately.

Pete sits up as Sarah pulls away from him.

DR. GIBSON

Mr. Gregg?

ANDREW

Yes.

DR. GIBSON

Hi, I'm Dr. Gibson. Everything
looks good. Mrs. Gregg's in
recovery now and we'll get her to
a room within the hour.

They all stand and thank the doctor.

Pete is separated from the others on the opposite side of Dr. Gibson who turns to Sarah.

He extends his hand toward Sarah and holds hers longer.

DR. GIBSON

Sarah, I'm sorry you couldn't be in there with her. It's just not...

SARAH

I understand. My instincts just took over.

Pete watches this conversation back and forth.

DR. GIBSON

You could probably get back there now, but she's pretty wiped out.

SARAH

Thanks but I'll stay with the family. Oh, this is Lisa's father, Pete.

They shake hands.

Pete squeezes Dr. Gibson's hand hard and offers his best icy stare.

DR. GIBSON

Sarah, could I speak with you?

She looks at the others.

SARAH

Sure.

They step aside. Pete turns and walks through the sliding doors.

EXT. HOSPITAL ER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Pete stops just outside the doors and watches through the window as the doctor speaks to Sarah. His relief turns to shock.

They touch each other's arms repeatedly.

Sarah smiles at Dr. Gibson.

Dr. Gibson's gaze lingers upon Sarah.

Pete can't believe what he is seeing.

PETE

She is seeing a surgeon.

After a few moments, the doctor waves to the others and walks away.

PETE

This can't get more complicated.

Pete takes a step toward the sliding doors when

KELLY

Hey handsome. Who you talking to?

Pete freezes and stares, dumbfounded.

KELLY

Uh, oh. Are you okay? What's going on?

Pete steps toward her.

He hugs her tightly. He's never hugged her like this before. Kelly returns the squeeze.

KELLY

I could tell by your voice. Something's wrong isn't it? It's okay that I came, right?

Pete pulls away and kisses her cheek.

PETE

Of course. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.

He stands back and takes both her hands into his.

KELLY

What's going on?

PETE

Lisa's been in surgery. Her...she...was bleeding after having the twins. The doctor says she's going to be okay, but I don't know.

Kelly hugs Pete. Pete looks back through the window.

KELLY

Oh, thank God!
(a beat)
What about you?

PETE

I don't know. This week's been...

KELLY

I rented a car at the airport.
I'll go return it and you can
pick me up and we'll figure
everything out.

Kelly looks through the window at the family.

KELLY

Not now, I mean. You know...we
are leaving, aren't we?

Pete's gaze follows Kelly's, then he snaps out of it.

PETE

Of course. Yes. Yes.

Pete looks back through the window, then at Kelly who's
waiting -- patiently.

KELLY

Are you sure?

INT. HOSPITAL ER WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah watches through the window as Pete and Kelly talk.

Pete points into the waiting room.

Kelly looks through the window directly at Sarah.

Kelly shakes her head.

Pete hugs Kelly quickly.

Kelly disappears.

INT. HOSPITAL ER WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Pete walks through the sliding door.

He takes his keys out of his pocket.

He's done.

PETE

Guys, I'm, I need to get going.

Huh?

ANDREW

Are you sure? Where are you going?

Pete backs up slowly toward the doorway. He can't wait to escape.

PETE

I checked out today and I need to get back. Lisa's going to be fine so..you can reach me on my cell phone if you need to.

Kurt is the first to stand and shake his hand.

KURT

Thanks for coming, Dad. Take care.

Graham and Andrew follow, they both give him a quick hug.

Jack steps closer than the others.

He grabs Pete's arm while he shakes it.

JACK

You're really goin'.

PETE

It's time. Good luck with the charters.

JACK

You have a great family Pete.

He pulls Pete's shoulder so he can whisper.

JACK

Sorry you're not up for it.

PETE

You take care.

Sarah waits with her arms crossed.

She's resigned to let him go.

SARAH

I'll walk you out.

EXT. ER PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Pete and Sarah approach his car door.

PETE

Hey...

SARAH

Be careful driving, you know how you are. I'll call you tomorrow with an update.

Pete gives a half-hearted smile. He looks down and jiggles his keys. The fall to the ground. Pete stoops down and picks up the keys.

PETE

I get it now. I want you to know that. I was a fool to want to be somewhere else. I didn't know better Sarah, I really didn't. I would do it all over again so differently.

Sarah shuffles her feet.

SARAH

Yea, me too. You'd better get going. She's waiting for you.

PETE

Come on, you know what that is.

SARAH

Yes, I do. Do you?

INT. HOSPITAL ER WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack, Kurt, Graham, and Andrew monitor this conversation through the window.

They are lined up along the window.

Birds on a wire.

JACK

Fifty bucks says he splits.

GRAHAM

Look at him. His heart is thumping out of his chest. And she's got those doe eyes working over time. No way he's leaving.

KURT

He always leaves.

Graham and Jack look at Kurt. Truer words have never been spoken.

GRAHAM

Ugg, enough with the way we were.
If you had a woman like her
looking at you like that, would
you leave?

JACK

Good point.

EXT. ER PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Pete turns to put his keys into the door then turns back
toward her. Sarah starts toward the entrance.

PETE

Do I look different? To you I mean?

Sarah turns back, touches his face. She shakes her head.

SARAH

Same ole' Pete.

Pete steps toward her and grabs her arms.

PETE

I'm not the same! Don't you see?

Pete's eyes erase any remaining thought to the contrary.

Sarah reaches out and takes him into her arms. He rests his
head on her shoulder. He exhales and shuts his eyes.

PETE

What ever it was that I believed
before...I don't want to get in
my car and drive away again. But
it's the only thing I know how to
do. I'm tired.

A tear falls down Sarah's face. She finds his hand. Their
fingers intertwine.

SARAH

Why do you have to go anywhere?
Stay in one place, Peter. Take a
chance on your kids. Yes,
there's a lot of work to do. But
you've made a good start.

Pete averts Sarah's gaze.

SARAH

Hey, it's not easy being a family.
Let's forgive our mistakes. The
kids will come around, I promise.

PETE

What about this?

Pete squeezes her tightly. She grins as it's useless to resist.

SARAH

That? Well, I have no idea.

PETE

Good, then I can still surprise you.

He leans in and kisses her.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The entire family has gathered for dinner. A football game
is on the television. Everyone is talking and laughing.

Lisa and Andrew each feed a baby in the dining room.

The twins are noticeably older.

Graham flips through a photo album.

Jack returns from the bathroom.

JACK

Hey, can you give the ole' boy a
hand?. You're not the easiest
crowd to please, ya' know.

GRAHAM

Have you seen these pictures from
the trip?

INT. SARAH'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Pete stirs a huge pot of chili. Three of the four burners
are occupied.

The microwave BEEPS.

Sarah appears from the basement holding a large jar of hot
peppers. She stops behind him and puts her hand on his back.

SARAH

Did you ever get the statement
from the church?

Pete removes his wallet from his pocket.

PETE

Here, I wrote a check. Just be a few more minutes.

Sarah steps into the dining room and makes the announcement.

SARAH

Just be a few more minutes!

Everyone laughs.

Pete looks at his wallet.

He removes the business card of the woman from the boutique and examines it.

He smiles, then steps over to the sink and puts it in the garbage underneath.

INT. SARAH'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack sits at the head of the table. The family has their heads bowed. Everyone holds hands.

JACK

And please bless those who are less fortunate. Amen.

EVERYONE

Amen.

Pete passes the chili pot, and the others pass the cheese, sour cream, chives, and crackers.

Lisa and Andrew explain the feeding schedule to Jack, and Kurt and Graham laugh about a mutual friend.

Pete leans toward Sarah and puts his arm around her.

PETE

This is the moment that contains all moments.

Sarah leans in and kisses his cheek. They smile and return to their meal.

Sarah reaches underneath her chair and hands Pete a small box with a bow on it.

SARAH

I got this for you.

Perplexed, Pete wipes his mouth with his napkin. He opens the box revealing a modern-style razor.

SARAH

Give it a try?

Pete smiles, replaces the lid, and places the box on the table beside his plate. He kisses her hand.

PETE

Absolutely.

The camera PULLS BACK to the refrigerator which reveals a new family picture taken at the baptism of the twins.

It is hung prominently next to a current picture of Pete and Sarah taken on a boat in scuba gear.

FADE OUT.